Meet Summer

When Hurricane Harvey came to Texas in August, people and pets left their homes for dry land. Not all of the shelters would take pets. Animals went to the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) of Texas. RedRover helped take care of them.

One of the dogs was a little terrier mix named Summer. At the shelter, Summer missed her family. She was also nervous to be away from home. When Summer finally saw her family coming back for her, she wagged her tail hard and fast. “Mama came, and Summer was so happy,” says RedRover volunteer Janette Freeman.

Kind Questions

Now that you’ve read Kind News, challenge yourself with these questions.

1. Why do you think Summer feels nervous?
2. When do you feel this way? What does it feel like in your body?
3. How does Janette know that Summer is happy when she sees her “Mom”?

ANIMAL EMOTIONS

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Dogs, cats, and other pets need different care. Before making animals part of your family, it’s important to make sure you’re ready. Here are some questions to answer with your family:

1. Do you have the time to play with them and give them exercise every day?
2. Are you ready to clean up after them?
3. Do you have enough money for food, supplies, and visits to the veterinarian?
4. Are you ready to care for them for their whole life? That can mean 20 years for cats!

Across
2. pouncing
4. tail wagging

Down
1. eyes closing
3. growling

Word List:
Happy
Excited
Sad
Playful
Sleepy
Relaxed
Fearful
Nervous

What Pet Should You Get?

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Animal Emotions
In animals it is often called aggression. Aggression is how ready an animal is to attack. If you watch an animal closely, you can tell when he or she might attack.

Many times, animals feel other emotions before anger. The emotion of fear sometimes comes before anger or aggression. If cats feel like someone might hurt them, they may feel they need to attack.

Sometimes an animal’s aggression comes from feeling like they have to protect where they live, or their territory.

Other times aggression comes from wanting to hunt. Cats are predators, so you may see cats attack because they are hunting.

It can be hard to tell when a cat is aggressive or just being playful. A playful cat may “attack” you or your shoe, but true aggression has signs.

- Hissing
- Growling
- Arching back like a Halloween cat
- Hairs standing straight up on the back
- Fluffy tail
- Flicking tail
Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?

Look closely at these animals. What do you notice about their eyes? Where are the eyes located on their head? Which animals have eyes most like your eyes?

Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?

Letter ideas

Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?

The amazing world!

Tell pets you love them this Valentine’s Day with some homemade treats!

Pumpkin & Peanut Butter Dog Treats

1 cup whole wheat flour or crushed oats
1/3 cup canned pumpkin (just pumpkin)
1/4 cup peanut butter without sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 300°F (150°C).
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. If using rolled oats, use a food processor to grind the oats into a flour.
4. Add the pumpkin and peanut butter to the flour and blend until a sticky dough is formed.
5. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface.
6. Cut out cookies using a small dog bone or heart cookie cutter for Valentine’s Day or just cut into squares with a knife.
7. Bake cookies for 25 to 30 minutes, until the treats are dry and hard.

Visit RedRover’s Pinterest page for more recipe ideas, including treats for cats. No pets in your home? Before making treats, call your animal shelter. Ask if you can donate homemade treats for the animals!

Visit RedRover.org/Readers to learn more about RedRover Readers, where kids listen and talk about books like Freckles and Willie and practice the skills needed for empathy.

Read the book Freckles and Willie by Margery Cuyler. This book is about a boy who makes a valentine for his dog!

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