Hi! My name is Raja, and I live on a different planet. I traveled through a portal to get to Earth to help a boy. When I got to Earth, I turned into a cat and didn’t know what to do! Turns out sometimes heroes need a lot of help.

You can join my adventure. Help my friends and I try to save planet Earth. Ask your parents to download and read my books to you! Learn more at: RedRover.org/EmpathyApp.

The real world is full of heroes. What do you think makes a hero?

Patrick McDonnell is a cartoonist who created his own comic strip, MUTTS. The star of MUTTS is McDonnell’s real-life dog, Earl. The other main character is a black-and-white cat named Mooch. Mooch has a pink sock toy and his own way of talking (he says “Yesh” instead of “Yes”).

McDonnell created a special version of MUTTS called “Shelter Stories” to inspire people to adopt pets from animal shelters.

“Whenever you do something nice for someone else, it makes you feel good, too,” says McDonnell. “It makes the world a better place for everyone in it.”

His advice to kids who want to be a cartoonist? “Three things: draw, draw, and draw. The more you draw the better you will get. And one other thing—have fun.”

Tell us how you’ve been helping animals!

Send photos and details to KindNews@RedRover.org or to:
HUMANE HEROES c/o Kind News, RedRover
PO Box 188890, Sacramento, CA 95818
What games or sports do you like to play? People and animals like to play, and games are a good way to learn.

Animals that are predators (those who hunt for food) like to practice hunting moves. They like games where they can chase and pounce on objects. Animals that are prey—animals who are the ones hunted—are curious and like to explore. They like different games.

Games to play with a CAT!

1. Crumple up a piece of paper. Then bat it around in front of a cat.
2. Tie a piece of string to a stick. Then, pull the string slowly away from the cat.
3. Lay a paper bag on the floor. If the cat goes inside, scratch the outside of the bag.

Games to play with a BUNNY!

1. Set up lightweight toys, like plastic bowling pins, for your bunny to knock over.
2. Make a cardboard house for your bunny to dash in and out of.
3. Hide bunny treats in boxes or under straw for them to find.

Is an animal ready to play?

Is the pet hungry, tired or scared? If the answer is yes, leave them alone. They won’t be in a mood to play.

Is the pet bored or scratching, chewing up stuff or digging? Is the pet following you around, attacking your feet, crawling up your leg or barking excitedly? If yes, then see if the pet wants to play!
Curiosity Corner

What are you curious about? Kids asked these questions about animals.

What’s the difference between a turtle and a tortoise?
Tortoises live only on land. Their feet are made for walking in deserts and rainforests. Turtles have webbed feet for swimming.

How many different types of fur or hair do mammals have?
Three. Underhair is the soft, fluffy hair that keeps an animal warm. Guard hairs are darker and longer hairs that give protection from snow and rain. Vibrissae are stiff hairs on the face, such as whiskers. They help animals sense what is around them.

Why are dogs’ noses wet?
A dog’s sense of smell is very important, and a wet nose helps a dog smell better! When a dog’s nose gets wet from mucus, sweating, or licking, more scents in the air can “stick.”

Do you have a question about animals?
Send your questions to:
KindNews@RedRover.org or mail to
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CRITTER CLUES
WHAT ANIMAL AM I?

1. I am olive-colored with a yellow stripe down the middle of my back
2. I have a great sense of direction. I use the sun as a guide.
3. I can grow as long as four and a half feet.
4. I can have 40 babies at a time!
5. I bask in the sun during the day and hibernate in the winter.
6. Gardeners like me because I eat insects.

ACROSS
3. to watch carefully
6. feeling scared or worried
7. like a wild animal
8. to break down

DOWN
1. an animal that is hunted
2. a place an animal defends
4. feeling ready to attack
5. hunts for food

Word List:
Predator Territory
Prey Degrade
Feral Nervous
Aggressive
Observe

Draw a cat and bird

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Saving Hank

As a young pig, Hank lived in a city in California. Hank was in trouble there. He was kept in a junkyard with dogs. Natural predators, like dogs, can be dangerous to prey animals, like pigs. The dogs were biting at Hank’s ankles. Hank wasn’t getting enough food.

Thankfully, some people found out about Hank and got him to a safe place called Love Creek Farms and Sanctuary. Now, he roams 12 acres with other farm animals. There are pear, fig, and apple trees. “In the summer, Hank rolls around and gets all muddy,” says Garth Brooks, the sanctuary’s Executive Director. “The mud protects him from the sun and helps him stay cool in the summer.”

Now Hank’s ankles have healed. He loves belly rubs! He has gained 75 pounds from grazing in the pastures, digging up grubs and roots, and enjoying the fruit from the trees. “I’ll go over and shake a tree limb, and the apples fall,” says Brooks. “Hank knows which trees have fruit. He’ll sit and wait for me to come and shake the tree.”

There are laws that help protect animals from harm. Animal control officers used those laws to rescue Hank.

Kind Questions

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

1. How do you think Hank felt when he was living in the junkyard?

2. What does the word sanctuary mean? How do you think Hank feels now living at Love Creek Farms and Sanctuary?