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NAME THAT Emotion!

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Have you ever gotten a reward for doing something well, like a “Super” sticker on a school paper? You may have wanted to do it again to get another one. This is called positive reinforcement, and it’s a powerful tool for training dogs. Here’s how to use it:

1. Start with easy things like “Sit.” Asking a dog to “Sit” comes in handy when a dog is going after your food or jumping on a visitor.

2. Use a treat to get your dog’s attention. Ask her to “Sit,” and stand with a treat until your dog decides to take a rest and sit. You can try lifting your hand with the treat slowly up, and if the dog’s eyes and head follow the treat, this sometimes makes a dog naturally sit.

3. Reward right away. Timing is important. As soon as the dog’s bottom hits the ground, give a treat. Show your happiness with a kind word in a high-pitched voice. Sometimes this is more of a reward for a dog than a treat! You can do this with housetraining, too, asking your dog to “Go potty,” and rewarding as soon as she finishes going to the bathroom outside.

4. Be consistent. That means everyone in the family should follow the same rules and commands, every time.

Share these tips with your family. Use them with other behaviors like “Stay” and “Down.” Have fun with it, and soon all your positive reinforcement will add up to a lot of good behavior!
Last May, brave fire, police, and emergency medical workers pulled seven Labrador Retrievers out of a house fire in Indiana. They had breathed in smoke and needed life-saving oxygen from special masks made just for dogs.

Aubrey Brosnan’s California town didn’t have this equipment for her dog Marley and other pets—yet. She decided to dedicate her Bat Mitzvah—a Jewish celebration when she turned 13—to raise money for six pet oxygen mask sets for her local fire stations. Each $70 set includes three different size masks.

To raise the funds, Aubrey set out baking cupcakes, brownies, and bread. She asked friends, family, and neighbors for donations. “People were very supportive of my bake sales,” she says. “Almost everyone I encountered helped out, and everyone told me how awesome it was that I was helping out the community.”

When she totaled the funds, it was enough to buy ten mask sets! Aubrey delivered them herself. “The firemen and women were so ecstatic,” she says. “They even gave me and my family a tour of the engines. It was super cool.”

What does she say to other young people who want to help animals? “Talk to your parents and family about it. Doing things with other people is much easier and more fun than being alone. Make a goal you want to set for yourself, think about what you want to achieve and the steps you need to take to make it happen. Anyone can spark change.”

Tell us how you’ve been helping animals!
Most scientists agree that animals experience basic emotions like happiness, sadness, fear, and anger or aggression, but we all know emotions are not that simple. For example, there are lots of happy emotions, from peaceful to excited.

Not all human emotions show up clearly in our facial expressions; sometimes people can express them better through words. Animals of course can’t talk, so they can’t tell us how they feel. Do you think animals feel all these kinds of happy emotions? Circle the ones you think would be hard or nearly impossible to tell if an animal is feeling.

How Emotion-Wise Are You?

- Interested
- Curious
- Successful
- Confident
- Amused
- Joyful
- Ecstatic
- Excited
- Eager
- Energetic
- Creative
- Accepted
- Valued
- Respected
- Fulfilled
- Courageous
- Powerful
- Proud
- Peaceful
- Content
- Loving
- Hopeful
- Trusting
- Thankful
- Playful
- Open
- Sensitive
- Optimistic
- Inspired
- Free

How did you do? / 30

**26-30: Emotion Ace:** When it comes to recognizing positive emotions, you’re a star! Being able to identify emotions in yourself and others is an important first step to feeling empathy for others.

**20-25: Positive Pal:** You are well on your way to recognizing positive emotions! Keep working hard to learn new emotion words and identify when you’re feeling them.

**10-19: Eager to Learn:** You can identify a few positive emotions, but there are a lot more you can learn about! Underline the words you want to learn about the most and talk to a trusted friend or adult about what they mean and what it’s like to feel that way.

**Below 10: Ready to Start:** Even though you don’t recognize many of these emotion words yet, you are on the right track by taking this quiz and learning about them! Take some time to look up these words in the dictionary, and underline the ones that you have questions about. Ask a trusted adult or friend what they mean and what it’s like to feel that way.
Unscramble each emotion word for clues to solve the puzzle below.

Double Puzzle!

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to these cells with the same numbers.
Many animals, including humans, have cells in their eyes that sense light. **Cone cells** are responsible for color and day vision. **Rod cells** are for night vision, and they help eyes see motion.

Cats have great night vision because they have six to eight times more rods in their eyes than people have. They also have a pupil with an elliptical shape that allows it to change shape faster than human pupils. This means cats’ eyes can adjust to a bright or dark room much more quickly than us! Dogs also have more rod cells in their eyes, and both cats and dogs are better at detecting fast motion than people.

There’s a connection between animals’ vision and survival in their habitats. Camels have three eyelids to protect their eyes from sand in the desert. Eagles can see eight times as far as humans, allowing them to focus on prey up to two miles away!

Humans have a fovea with lots of cone cells that many other animals do not have. The fovea helps eyes focus, so people see detail better and can do things like read a book!
The short answer is yes. But because they don’t have as many cones in their eyes as people, cats likely can’t see color the way most humans do. This may be because the human retina, the back part of the eye, has about 10 times more cone cells, the cells that pick up bright light. But we don’t know for sure what color looks like for cats! Some scientists believe that cats can only see blues, grays, and maybe some green; others think the colors may just not be as bright.
Plastic trash can end up in the ocean and around the necks of marine animals, like Cesky the sea lion!

Meet Cesky

When The Marine Mammal Center got a call about a sea lion lying helplessly on a California beach, they sent volunteers right away. A plastic packing strap from a shipping box clung tightly around her neck. She also had scars from being tangled in fishing line.

The volunteers brought the sea lion back to The Center’s hospital in Sausalito. Veterinarians did an operation to remove the packing strap. They gave her medicine to help her wounds heal, and fed her plenty of fish to get her to a normal weight. They named her Cesky. After three and a half weeks, she was ready to go back home to the sea!

“Cesky was a fighter,” says Adam Ratner, The Center’s Guest Experience Manager. “We’re so excited we could give her a second chance and get her back to the ocean happy and healthy.” The Center gave her a tag so that if she is found again, they’ll know it’s her. “We’re hoping we don’t see her again,” says Adam, “or if we do, it’s a report of her looking really good on a beach somewhere on the California coast.”

Kind Questions

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

1. The less plastic people use—bags, bottles, and plastic straws—the less that can get into the ocean and endanger sea lions like Cesky! Ask your family, “How can we use less plastic?” Make a list of the ideas and post in your home!

2. Adam Ratner, The Center’s Guest Experience Manager, says they were so excited to get her back to the ocean and, “We’re hoping we don’t see her again.” Why do you think he feels this way? What are the emotions you would feel if you saw Cesky on the beach, nursed her back to health, and then released her back to her home in the wild?

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