To the RESCUE!

Madison and Fannie make a good team!

Saving Fannie

When Ms. Smith first met the majestic, chestnut brown horse, it wasn't the flash of white on her nose that caught her attention. It was the dull, helpless look in her eyes, and how low she hung her head. Sadly, she was at a facility that gathered unwanted horses for auction.* She didn't have a name, just a number and a weight. She was very thin.

"Horses in bad situations look sad, like 'How did we end up here; What did we do?'" says Ms. Smith, director of Omega Horse Rescue in Airville, Pennsylvania. "You can tell by their facial expression or body language that they've given up or don't understand why they're there."

After naming the teenaged horse Fannie and getting her back to her normal weight, Ms. Smith realized that she had been trained. Dr. Scherrer, a volunteer veterinarian, started showing Fannie to potential adopters. Soon, a 10-year-old girl named Madison was at the barn with her grandmother to have a look.

"She was a nice rider and just clicked with the horse," says Dr. Scherrer about Madison, who now competes in shows with Fannie.

Thinking back to the day when Fannie was known only as a number, Ms. Smith says, "Gosh, it couldn't have turned out any better."

*When horses are unwanted, they do not usually end up at an animal shelter the way that dogs or cats do. Often they end up at an auction. Sometimes these horses are bought by people who can sell them for meat in other countries. But some horses, like Fannie, are bought by rescues! Horse slaughter is illegal in the United States, but horses can be shipped to other countries where they can be killed for food.

Kind Questions ?

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

- 1. After reading all the articles in this magazine, write about something you can learn about animals by observing, or watching, them and thinking from their point of view.
- 2. In the beginning of the article, "Saving Fannie," Fannie was described as looking sad, like she had given up. But by the end of the article, Fannie is competing in horse shows with Madison. What do you think the people who rescued Fannie and cared for her did to help her go from looking ready to give up to becoming a great companion for Madison? Have you ever felt like giving up on something? Did anyone help you keep trying? If so, what did that feel like?

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You can bring *Kind News* to a child's classroom or a whole school! **Visit KindNews.org** to learn more.





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? Where's Raja? Find Raja, from The Restricted Adventures of Raja app, hidden in Kind News.

For more, visit KindNews.org



Syourdog Cool?

The warm months are upon us, and that means more time out and about with our friends—the two- and four-legged kind!

Dogs love to be part of our activities, and that often includes jumping in the car with us. Our cars can become very dangerous to pets, though, when left unattended in the warm months. We can sweat through skin covering our whole bodies to cool down, but dogs handle heat much differently. They cool off only by panting and sweating through the pads of their paws.

Some people make the mistake of running into a store, thinking they will only be a few minutes, but the temperature in a car can rise 20°F in 10 minutes, even with windows cracked! On a summer day, that can be deadly to a beloved pet who

can't control her temperature like we can.

In warm months, avoid leaving your dog by herself in the car. And make sure she can access shade and fresh water all the time.

You can learn more and take the Cool Dog Pledge at mydogiscool.com.

many things, and he got his start early. Shon was just three when he begged his aunts

Rapper. Superhero. Cat caretaker. Shon Griffin is

SUPERPOWERS CHIN SCRATCH

Shon was just three when he begged his aunts, Kris Papiernik and Kia Griffin, to let him accompany them on their cat-caretaking rounds. His aunts run a group called Kolony Kats that cares for stray and feral cats around the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Feral cats are those who are afraid of people and live outside in groups known as colonies.

Shon's aunts thought a rambunctious threeyear-old may be too much for the skittish cats they were trying to help. But he convinced them to let him tag along, and that's how he discovered his superpower.

One particularly scared cat was Bug. He would run from Shon's aunts. But when Shon arrived, Bug came out and rubbed against his legs. Kolony Kats was then able to give Bug his shots and other care he needed.

Now at age five, Shon considers cat caretaking a regular extracurricular activity, and one that makes him feel like a superhero. "I like to make them happy!" he says. "When they are happy, I'm happy! I make them happy by giving them treats and chin scratches!" Shon even created a rap song in which he sings about his superpower, the chin scratch.

His message to other kids who want to help feral cats in their community? "Be kind to them. Don't scare them or touch them, and ask your parents to help you find ways to care for [them]."



Now, young children can learn about Bug and the life of a feral cat through a book written by Shon's aunts, *Be Kind to Kats*, which is available on Amazon.

MUTTS

by
Patrick McDonnell

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muttscomics.com







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



If you have played a game of chase with a dog or wiggled a piece of string for a cat, you know cats and dogs like to play, but did you know playful behavior is common throughout the animal kingdom?

Many mammals, like dogs, cats, horses and people play; but birds, reptiles and even fish and insects show signs that they do, too!

Horses gallop, playfully chasing and circling each other. Birds will play with objects. Young ravens play with all kinds of objects they find: leaves, pebbles, bottle caps and pieces of glass. When fish feel safe, they seem to enjoy jumping over everything from twigs to turtles, and ants pretend to fight!

WHY DO ANIMALS PLAY? The easy answer is that play is fun! But it appears that play is also good for the brain. Exploring objects and practicing movements like running, twisting and jumping may help animals when they come across something new and unexpected. They may feel less scared or are less likely to be caught off-balance. Learning rules and dealing with conflict when feeling safe during play may also make us treat others more fairly in real situations. Play may even impact how well we learn and remember things. Bottom line: play is important, and it is not just kids' stuff.

4 kind news

HOW CAN YOU TELL ANIMALS WANT TO PLAY?

If you want to play with an animal of a different species, you'll need to recognize how they play and learn their rules. If not, they may not understand that you want to play. And just like people, animals won't play unless their basic needs—like food—are met first. They need to feel safe and comfortable.

Dogs obey clear rules when they play with each other, and a play bow is a clear sign that play is what they want. Dogs also like a good game of chase. Scientists in one study found that people who "gave chase" to dogs received a playful response 100% of the time!

If you were this dog, how would you feel in response to seeing this person at the park? Circle all that you would feel.



the amazing **WORLD!**

TRASH

Marine Animals

When our plastic trash gets dropped on the ground or blows away, it may be the last time we see it. But it's far from the end of the story for sea animals.

The trash can be moved by rainwater and wind into storm drains that empty into streams and rivers. The next stop is the ocean.

What makes plastic a problem is that unlike food and paper trash, it doesn't **degrade**, or break down. Instead, it stays in the ocean where whales, seals and other animals can get tangled in it or even eat it! For example, a sea turtle can mistake a plastic bag or balloon for a jellyfish.

Many people are working to fix the problem. One teacher in

Oregon created the

Washed Ashore project.
Volunteers collect trash that's been removed from beaches and create sculptures of sea animals with it.
They then display the art to teach people the impact of trash on animals.



CLEANUP CLEANUP



1 First, see if you can join a cleanup planned in your area.

Do an internet search for "community cleanup
[YOUR TOWN'S NAME]."

2 If there isn't one planned this summer, organize one yourself! Choose a location where people and wildlife frequent, such as a beach or park.

3 Ask a parent or guardian to help you spread the word on social media and by phone. The more people, the more trash you'll collect!

4 Track your progress as you load the trash bags. OceanConservancy.org has tools to help you chart your success, including an app to document what you collect.

Make bird feeders or a sculpture of local wildlife with the plastics you collect. At back to school time, you can ask about displaying your project in your lunch room with a sign about keeping your community clean.

Take photos of your project. We may feature them in a future issue of *Kind News*!

Send high resolution photos and details to KindNews@RedRover.org or mail to: Kind News c/o RedRover PO Box 188890 Sacramento, CA 95818

CRITTER CLUES

Turn trash you find

into art or something

useful, like this bird

feeder made from a

plastic bottle.

WHAT ANIMAL AM I?

- 1 I can swim at birth and dive for as long as two minutes at just a couple days old.
- 2 I have ears, but the only part you'll see on my body are small holes.
- 3 As an adult, I can stay underwater for up to 28 minutes!
- 4 I have a snout like a dog.
- 5 I can live as long as 35 years.
- On land, I look like a banana when I'm resting, and I move like a caterpillar.
- 7 I can grow to 290 pounds and 6 feet long.



ANSWER: