Animals Helping People
People Helping Animals
Pet Corner

Are pet fish happy?

Scientists have found that fish are smart! Fish do really well on tests where they have to remember things. Fish also play and use tools to forage, or search for food!

Fish are sentient animals, which means they can feel things like pain. Think back to a time when you bumped your knee. What did your body do? What did your face do? Do fish do this? No, but they do move away from things that hurt them.

What are some things to think about before deciding to adopt a fish as a pet? What do pet fish need to be happy, healthy and safe?
Why is Millie magnificent? Because she did something great! She helped pets and people who had to leave their homes because of a tornado that hit the ground in Alabama. When Millie, who is 9 years old, heard about the tornado, she asked family, friends and stores to give pet food and other things to help!

Millie helped get 800 pounds of pet food and more for people and pets who needed help!

CURIOSITY CORNER

Have you heard the saying, “Blind as a bat?”

ARE BATS REALLY BLIND?

No! Research shows that bats can “see” just as well, if not better, than most humans. Most species of bats hunt in the dark using their ears to help them **echolocate**, meaning they use sound that bounces off objects to help them find food and find their way around things. Bats have a super sense of hearing! Using sounds, they can “feel” things as **fine** or thin as a human hair.

WHAT IS A SNAKE’S FAVORITE SUBJECT? (answer on p. 7)
Eleven-year-old Zane has Behcet’s disease. This disease causes pain and makes walking hard. Corbin is Zane’s service dog who helps with things like stairs, medicine, and comfort. Zane tells us more here.

**Kind News:** How does Corbin know when you need him?

**Zane:** Corbin can smell when my body changes. I have a different smell when I am sicker. That is how he knows I need more medication.

**Kind News:** Do you get to have fun together, too?

**Zane:** [Yes.] We swim in the pool. He swims beside my kayak in the lake. We visit museums and amusement parks.

**Kind News:** Is Corbin more your pet or nurse? How do you introduce him to people?

**Zane:** Corbin is my best friend. He is a nurse, and he is my pet. I love him, and he loves me.
Pets make us smile. But did you know they can help people turn off the lights and feel better in the hospital?

Therapy animals are brought to places like hospitals to visit with patients. Therapy dogs help with patients’ pain and get them in a better mood. Cats and rabbits have also cheered up and calmed patients.

Assistance or service animals are trained to live with and help people with disabilities and illnesses. Dogs and miniature horses are trained to lead people around danger and open doors for them.
You might see more fake bats on Halloween than the ones who come out at bedtime.

Mary Jean Quirk at Northern California Bats explains that real bats are not interested in people, but help us in many ways. Most bats feed on insects who would hurt farm crops or “bug” us. The Little Brown Bat can eat more than 1,200 mosquitoes in one hour! Other bats spread pollen to help seeds and fruit grow.

What does Ms. Quirk want kids to know? “You can help bats by telling somebody else about why they are important.”

1. I cannot see well, so I use my sense of smell to find my way around.
2. I can be gray, white, brown, red, yellow, black, grey, honey-colored, or a mix of all of these colors!
3. I am an omnivore, so I eat fruit, vegetables, seeds, and sometimes insects.
4. To avoid predators that eat other animals, I will often store food in my cheeks and move to a safe space to eat it.
5. I am most active just before it gets dark and as soon as the sun starts to come up.
6. I can be as short as 2 inches and as long as 13 inches in the wild!
7. My front teeth never stop growing, so I need to chew on things to keep them from getting too long.

For fun animal videos made by kids, follow the RedRover Reporters YouTube Channel!
AMAZING ANIMALS
(Use the word list below.)

Across
4 how one acts
3 animals that spend part of their lives in water and part on land
8 animals that have scales and breathe with lungs

Down
1 to search for food
2 animals that have fins to move, gills to breathe, and they live in water
5 a way of "seeing" that uses sound bouncing off things
6 animals that have feathers and wings
7 animals that have fur or hair

Now, can you find the words?

AMPHIBIANS
BEHAVIOR
BIRDS
ECHOLOCATION
FISH
FORAGE
MAMMALS
REPTILES

Answer: (HISSTORY!)
Meet Plum

Cars raced by the tiny, sick kitten living on the city streets.

Thankfully, a kind woman caught her with a special trap. Soon she was on her way to a hospital just for kittens. The workers there were excited. She was the hospital’s 1,000th patient! They named her Plum.

With food, water, medicine, and lots of love, Plum got better. A few weeks later, she was adopted by a family with a 13-year-old boy. “He is bonkers about her,” said Lee Chambers, someone who works at the hospital, “and has really bonded with her in a big way!”

KindQuestions

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

1. After reading “Bats: Spooky or Spectacular,” do you think bats are animals to be afraid of, or do you think bats are cool?

2. In the article, “A Special Friendship,” how is Corbin a friend to Zane? How does he help him? Can you think of or imagine a person or animal who helps you? What do they do that makes you feel better?

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