

kind News™

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Animals Helping People

People Helping Animals



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Find Raja, from *The
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Pet Corner

Are pet fish happy?

Recent discoveries in science have shown us that fish are really smart! On certain memory and puzzle tests, some species of fish scored higher than **primate** species, like orangutans and chimpanzees. Some fish can even recognize themselves in the mirror and use tools to **forage** (search) for food!

Fish are **sentient** animals, which means they are able to **perceive** or feel things. Scientists have demonstrated that fish feel pain. Pain is necessary for survival—it tells us when there is danger. Just like us, a fish's nervous system can detect pain, and their **behavior**, or how they act, changes in response to that pain. Think back to a time when you bumped your knee on something. How did your body react? What did your face do? What did you feel? Fish are capable of feeling pain, similar to you. They just don't show it on their face.

Knowing fish feel pain and are smarter than people previously thought, what are some things we might need to think about before we commit to adopting one as a pet?

What might our pet fish at home need in order to be happy, healthy and safe?

Can you find the 7 differences?



MUTTS

by
Patrick McDonnell

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MILLIE THE Magnificent

In March of 2019, a devastating tornado tore through Lee County in southeast Alabama. Several people and pets lost their homes.

When 9-year-old Millie heard about it, she knew she had to do something. Hailing from a small, rural town in Alabama, she rallied the whole town to help. She contacted family, friends, local businesses, and community members asking for pet food and supplies. By the end of the donation drive, they gathered almost 800 pounds of pet food and supplies to donate. She and her mom drove about three hours to deliver it to Opelika Animal Hospital, where they housed the animals free of charge.

"It took us a very long time to get to the animal hospital, but I felt happy to donate all the food," she said.

Millie was born with a brain condition that can make it hard for her to understand speech, but that has never stopped her from wanting to help animals. "I've always loved animals," she said. She has eight pets total, including a rabbit named Onyx. When Millie and her family first rescued Onyx, she was injured and afraid of people. Millie, however, quickly earned the bunny's trust and helped nurse her back to health.

Millie wants to continue helping animals. One day, she and her best friend Ellen plan to build their own animal rescue center on a farm so they can help animals of all kinds.



How do you think this cat feels?

How can you tell? To read an adventure story and play more of the game Jarbo's Jinx, download all three *The Restricted Adventures of Raja* book apps!

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Corbin & Zane:

a SPECIAL Friendsh

It's a fact: Pets put smiles on our faces. But did you know that dogs, cats, rabbits, and even miniature horses help people with everything from turning off the lights to getting through tough medical treatments?

Zane is 11 years old and won a Young Writer's Award for this story about his best friend, Corbin. For more animal stories, visit [RedRover.org/news](https://www.redrover.org/news).

Corbin is the best friend a guy could have. He has shiny black hair, sad brown eyes, and is fourteen years old. He has a loud voice but can't sing a lick. When he tries, he sounds like a cat being forced to take a bath. Our preacher won't even let him sing in church.

On a sunny day, he likes to play baseball with my family in the backyard. Climbing up on a diving board, he enjoys plunging into the crystal, clear water making a giant splash; he swims to the other end, and then, he repeats it. When we have a pool party, Dad likes to barbecue on the patio. Waiting anxiously for food, Corbin hovers by the grill for a juicy hamburger with extra cheese. He always wants seconds, and I even have to share my burger with him, too.

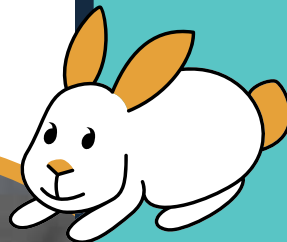
Last summer, we went to Largo, Florida, to visit family, and Corbin went with us. His favorite things at the Busch Gardens were the rides. On the Roaring Rapids, some kids got on the twisting, turning ride

with us. While they got soaked, Corbin and I remained perfectly dry. He also went with us to Tennessee to attend the Lee University Honor Band performance to watch my brother play percussion. Corbin wore a black suit and bowtie, and I wore a vest with a tie; we looked pretty snazzy. After the concert, my parents took us to ride the Polar Express, which is a train that takes the passengers to the North Pole. On the way there, we looked at the wintry countryside and sipped hot cocoa.

Corbin and I share a love of food. Besides bacon and steak, my buddy's favorite snack is cookies. When my brother and I want a cookie, we have to spell it out because Corbin comes running. Besides eating, he likes to watch television shows about dogs, and he likes to be read to. His choice of books include: *Old Yeller*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and *Shiloh*.

Although Corbin is awesome, he has his share of faults. He does not like to take a bath or brush his

ip



Therapy animals are brought to places like hospitals to visit with patients. It's proven that therapy dogs help with patients' pain and mood during treatments. 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 their guardians around danger and open doors for them.

teeth. Most days, Corbin stays home and sleeps since he is not enrolled in school. When he gets out toys, he never puts them away, mostly leaving them scattered around the house. He leaves hair all over the place and sometimes gets fleas. Although I love him, he licks himself, and then, tries to gives me kisses.

Corbin is a black lab and is my service dog. He acts as my legs when I can't walk. When I stumble and waddle through the house due to the pain, Corbin steadies me and helps my balance. If I become sick with a fever, Corbin gets me on the floor and cools me down. During my chemotherapy infusions, he sits with me, holds my hand, and takes my mind off of the pain. His ears are always willing to listen, and he never plays "don't touch him you will get sick" like the kids on the playground. Corbin is more than a friend; he's more like a brother. Even with his faults, more people should be like Corbin.





Bats: Spooky OR Spectacular?



You might see more bats on Halloween decorations than the real ones who come out at night.

“People are fearful because they don’t understand,” says Mary Jean “Corky” Quirk, founder of the rescue organization Northern California Bats. She explains that bats have a low rate of rabies and aren’t really interested in us. “As long as we leave them alone and let them live their life, we benefit from having them around.”

Most bats feed on insects. Many of those insects would damage farm crops or “bug” us. The Little Brown Bat can eat more than 1,200 mosquitoes in one hour! Other bats eat the nectar of flowering plants, spreading pollen to help seeds and fruit grow.

Quirk’s message to young people? “You can help bats by telling somebody else about why they’re important.”

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CRITTER CLUES

- 1 I have poor eyesight, 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 **crepuscular**, which means I am most active at dusk and dawn, just before it gets dark outside and as soon as the sun starts to appear.
- 6 I can be as short as 2 inches and as long as 13 inches in the wild!
- 7 My **incisors**, or front teeth, never stop growing, so I need to chew on things to keep them from getting too long.

WHAT AM I?



For fun animal videos made by kids, follow the RedRover Reporters YouTube Channel!

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 rely on echoes of sound waves bouncing off objects to help them navigate and locate their prey in very **precise**, or exact, ways. Bats have a super sense of hearing! Using sounds, they can detect obstacles as fine as a human hair.



Mammals

AMAZING ANIMALS

Across

- 4 how one acts
- 8 animals that spend part of their lives in water and part on land
- 11 when a message is sent to the brain that something is hurt or not right
- 12 animals that have scales and breathe with lungs



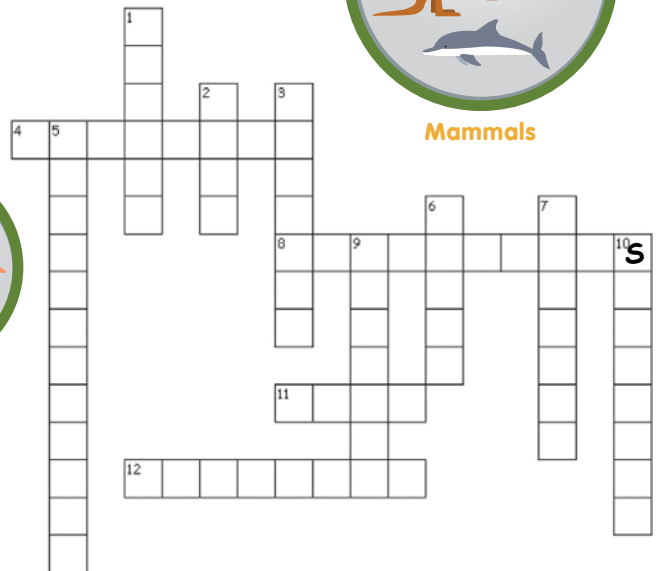
Birds

Down

- 1 to search for food
- 2 animals that have fins to move, gills to breathe, and they live in water
- 3 any mammal of the group that includes the lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes, and humans
- 5 a way of “seeing” that senses things by sending and receiving sound waves
- 6 animals that have feathers and wings
- 7 animals that have fur or hair
- 9 exact
- 10 ability to feel

Hint:

The 12 words you need to solve this puzzle are hidden here! Find more clues in **BOLD** throughout this issue of *Kind News*.



C Y F F O G S B R P T A C O E
T K P E O L C E J F U H Q L T
Q X K A A R P E C I V R E S A
B B D M R T A B P D X N V C M
Y E M P I E I G Q K O S K N I
F A H L V R H R E I I E L N R
M U E A D U U T T Q M N X A P
F S Y S V F L A C Y I T Z E I
W R Q O J I C O Y T T I S P P
Y J M X M O O M D G V E O A P
T P Q K L J C R P P C N F N M
H I U O N O N I A P O T A I L
D S H A M P H I B I A N S M X
C C I D V Z P R E C I S E A N
E Y F F U T T X I X H G Z L N



To the
RESCUE!

First day at
Nick's Nursery!

Last day at
Nick's Nursery!



Meet Plum

Heat. Cars. Disease. These are a few of the dangers that three tiny, 5-week-old kittens faced living on the streets of Hartford, Connecticut, last summer. They sneezed with runny, squinty eyes. They had roundworms, parasites of a cat's intestines.

The kittens needed help, but they were feral and shy of people. Thankfully, a kind woman caught them with a humane trap—a cage with a door that snaps closed when an animal steps inside for food. Soon they were all heading up the highway to Nick's Nursery at Dakin Humane Society in Springfield, Massachusetts. Lucky for them, New England's first kitten intensive care unit was just 30 minutes away.

As the technicians and volunteers examined the little black and white female with the markings of a

tuxedo, they got excited. She was the nursery's 1,000th patient! They named her Plum. With food, water, medicine, and lots of love, Plum and her siblings improved. A few weeks later, they moved into the adoption room to find their families. Plum's family includes a 13-year-old boy who saw right away the star she is. "He's bonkers about her," said Lee Chambers, Dakin's media and public relations manager, "and has really bonded with her in a big way!"

Kind Questions ?

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," Zane tells us that the kids on his playground play a game called "don't touch him you will get sick." Why do you think the kids do this? Have you seen anything happen like this at your school? Then Zane says, "Even with his faults, more people should be like Corbin." In what ways do you think Zane means that people should be more like Corbin? Do you think it is possible for people to be more like Corbin? Why or why not?

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