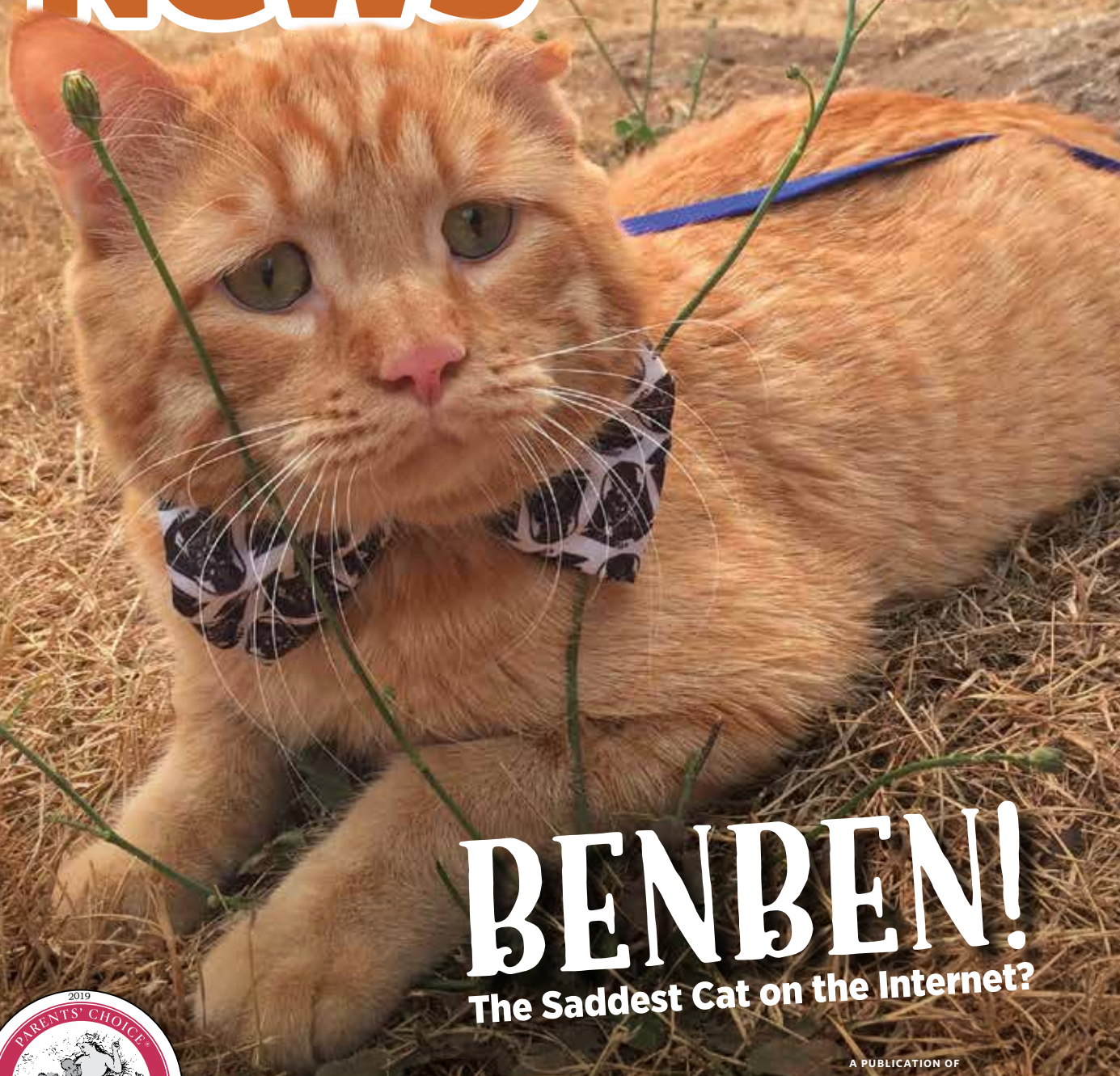


kind NEWS™

2019
NOV-DEC

Celebrity cat
BenBen!
p. 4

Rescuing
Lollipop
p. 8



BENBEN!

The Saddest Cat on the Internet?

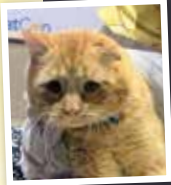


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inside **THIS ISSUE:**



4

BenBen, the Saddest Cat on the Internet?



6

The amazing world: Animals who bathe... in dust!



8

To the rescue: Meet Lollipop

3 Humane Hero: Sir Snazzy

7 DIY: Hide-a-treat

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



What do sad cats look like?

Cats do not move their mouths the way that people do, so how can we tell when they are sad? It is not easy! It may be easier to tell if a cat is sad or sick by their behavior. They may hide and not feel like eating. What do you think people should do if their cat is sad or doesn't feel well?



This cat may be sad. Her ears are back a little bit. Her eyes are looking down.



Raja comes to Earth to help this boy, AJ, but when he arrives he transforms from a human-like warrior to a regular cat! Look closely at the illustration above. How do you think Raja feels? How can you tell? To read the story and learn more about animal emotions, download the Raja Book 1, 2 and 3 apps!



Raja, from *The Restricted Adventures of Raja* book and game apps, had the chance to meet the celebrity cat BenBen at CatCon earlier this year. BenBen became famous on Instagram because of his story and his sad-looking face. Raja was fascinated by how BenBen could look sad when he really wasn't sad. Read this issue's feature story starting on page 4 to learn more about BenBen!

MUTTS

by
Patrick McDonnell

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SIR Snazzy

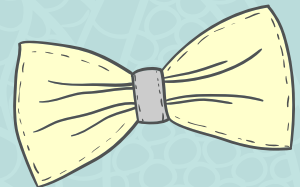
A small piece of fabric can have a big impact on a homeless dog.

Darius Brown learned that lesson after he started making bow ties at age eight with a sewing machine his sister used for hair bows. He wore them himself, but as a huge dog lover who couldn't have a dog himself, he began gifting them with his creations.

"Bow ties make you look dapper, distinguished and professional," he says. They help a dog get noticed—and get a home. He started his own business, Beaux and Paws by Sir Darius Brown (pronounced "Bows" in French, meaning "beautiful" or "good-looking"). "I wanted [it] to represent both dogs and cats and guys who liked to dress with style and class."

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas in 2017, many shelter animals were brought to the Northeast. Darius learned about overcrowding in shelters across the United States. The news stories moved him to use his business to help the influx of pets to his area in New Jersey. "It really hurt me so bad to know that dogs have to die just because they did not get adopted," he says. "I thought if I just use my passion, I can make bow ties for dogs to wear in the shelter so they could look snazzy and get adopted faster to loving, forever homes."

Now 12, Darius has donated hundreds of bow ties to shelters around the country, often stopping by and watching visitors' reactions. "They say the dogs look so cute, adorable, and handsome," he says. "They just fall in love."



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

RIDDLE RAT!

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO RABBITS LIKE BEST?
(answer on p. 7)

Nov/Dec 2019 | 3



BENBEN: THE “SADDEST”



BenBen, “the Saddest Cat on the Internet,” went from being a scared, injured stray to sleeping on soft pillows. He uses his big personality to spread the word about adopting pets with disabilities to 422,000 followers on Instagram. *Kind News* met him at CatCon, a popular event for cat lovers. CatCon attendees bought tickets just to meet BenBen and other celebrity cats! BenBen got help from his people, Sandy and Adam, to tell his story:

Kind News: Why do you look sad, and what happened to your ear?

BenBen: I used to look sadder. This is my happy face! I had an infection, likely from ear mites, that caused me to shake my head so hard that my ear collapsed. It’s still there, it’s just small and folded over.

Kind News: Do you still have pain or disabilities?

BenBen: My deformed spine can cause nerve pain and limit my **mobility**, or how I move around. My people give me medication to keep me comfortable. I need stools to get onto the couch and bed, and all my scratching devices must be on the ground as I cannot stand on my back legs to scratch standing up.

CAT

Kind News: What's your typical day like?

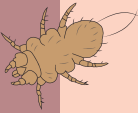
BenBen: I start by waking up my people by stepping on their heads; they must feed me breakfast! Then it's time to zoom around the apartment and chase my brother Norman. Once we are tired out, we sit in the window and watch for birds, bugs, and the mailman. I like to take a walk with my people at night, or snuggle and watch a movie. The best spot to sleep is on one of their pillows; I keep them safe while they sleep.

Kind News: We heard that you're so well known for shenanigans that your people call them "Benanigans." What kinds of mischief do you get into?

BenBen: One of my toys is a giant orange tunnel. I love to run through it over and over, falling over and attacking it. My favorite Benanigan is playing in boxes; no matter what box Norman is in, I want to be in that box.



THE MIGHTY MITE



Mites are part of a group of animals called arthropods. They are so small, people have a hard time seeing them. They are sometimes **parasites**, animals that depend on another for food and other things needed to live. As parasites, they can cause harm to both people and animals like BenBen!

You can keep away mites and other parasites with a flea and tick preventative. If you see these symptoms in a cat or dog, it is important to seek treatment:

- Head shaking
- Scratches on the ear & head
- Odor
- Intense itching
- Black crusty stuff that looks like coffee grounds in the ear



HELP FOR PETS WITH DISABILITIES

There are many ways pets with disabilities can live happy, healthy lives. According to Veterinary Clinics of America, medicine is just one way to fight pain that comes with many disabilities. Changes to a pet's diet, physical therapy, and even massage and other therapies help relieve the ouchies!

Getting around is an issue for pets with birth defects or injuries that affect the legs. For cats and small dogs, some guardians use infant slings to carry them. Larger dogs can be pulled in a wagon. Pets who can't use their rear legs can learn how to use a wheelchair that they pull behind them.

BATHING IN...DIRT?

For a video of dustbathing in action, go to
[youtube.com/RedRoverReporters!](https://www.youtube.com/RedRoverReporters/)

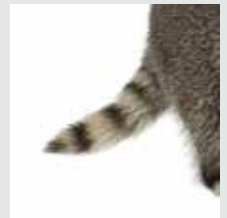
Unlike cats, who use their tongues to wash themselves, or animals that bathe in water, lots of birds and mammals roll in dust or dirt to bathe! The dirt soaks up extra oil and captures **parasites**, living things that feed on a host to survive (like fleas and mites), that would otherwise make animals sick.

For chickens, dust-bathing is also a time to relax and be social with other chickens. Watching them do this behavior can be a lot of fun. They scratch and kick up loose soil over their back and fluff up their feathers. The dirt rolls down to the **shafts**, or bases, of their feathers. Then they stand up, shake off, and **preen**, which further cleans the feathers and puts them back into place.

Most commercial hens raised for eggs live in small cages, often without space or material to dust-bathe. They are so driven to do this behavior that they will sometimes do the motions in their cages even without the dust. People who raise chickens in their backyard can make sure they have enough space and fresh, dry dirt to do this ritual. Chickens who are given the space and material to dust-bathe are more likely to be healthy (and happy!).

- ❶ I have highly **dexterous** front paws, so am very skilled at opening lids and hunting using my sense of touch.
- ❷ I am about the size of a large cat but am more closely related to bears!
- ❸ I am **nocturnal**, which means I am more active at night and usually sleep during the day.
- ❹ You can find me in woodlands, farmlands, suburban, and urban areas!
- ❺ In cities, I **scavenge**, or search for discarded items, around garbage bins and will eat scraps of food and other trash found there.
- ❻ To prepare for cold winters, I pack on extra body fat during the fall months to provide myself with energy when it's too cold to search for food.
- ❼ I have **plantigrade** feet, meaning both my heel and sole touch the floor so I am able to sit on my hind legs.

WHAT AM I?



Diy HIDE-A-TREAT FOR CATS

MATERIALS:

- 2 empty toilet paper rolls
- Scissors
- Small cat treats



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut one of the toilet paper rolls into rings about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick.
2. Crumble and stuff a few of the rings into one end of the second toilet paper roll.
3. Place one or two cat treats inside the roll.
4. Stuff the rest of the rings into the other end, so the treats can't fall out easily.
5. The more rings you put in, the trickier it is for your cat to get to the treats. The fewer rings you put in, the easier it will be for your kitty!

Watch a video on how to make the hide-a-treat on the "RedRover Reporters" YouTube channel! Send us your own videos of your DIY pet projects at kindnews@redrover.org for a chance to be featured on our channel.

STEP 1



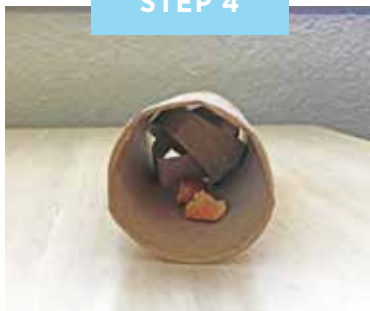
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



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ask an adult if you can subscribe!
[youtube.com/RedRoverReporters](https://www.youtube.com/RedRoverReporters)

ANSWER: **HIP HOP!**



To the **RESCUE!**

RedRover staff member, Devon, with Lollipop...
“the cutest little fluff of love.”



Meet Lollipop

When the people at RedRover, an organization that helps animals in emergencies, received a call to help more than 150 dogs who were sick with the canine influenza virus, also known as the dog flu, they rushed to East Bay SPCA in Oakland, California to help. The dogs were sick with a virus, tiny particles that cause diseases. The virus that causes dog flu is similar to the virus that causes the flu in people, but people can't get the dog flu.

Since the flu is very **contagious**, or could spread easily to other dogs, the workers had to be careful with the dogs. They helped **quarantine** them, or keep them separate from each other, and gave them daily walks, food and cuddles. They also made sure they were getting plenty of water, rest, and medicine if they needed it. There were hundreds of dogs infected, but one dog stuck out from the rest.

Lollipop was hard to miss!
RedRover staff member, Devon,

said, “She was the cutest little fluff of love; she looked like a stuffed animal that belonged on TV.” The staff and volunteers pampered her all week. She even developed a taste for their lunches, enjoying snacking on eggs and turkey. “Lucky for Lollipop, she had a loving owner waiting for her!” said Devon. “As soon as she was healthy and no longer had a contagious cold, she was off to her new life.”

Kind Questions ?

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

1. How did this issue's Humane Hero, Darius, turn his sadness at seeing the animals affected by Hurricane Harvey into something positive? Have you or someone you know ever been sad about something and taken action to make things better? If so, how?
2. Chickens really seem to like dust bathing and will go out of their way to do this behavior. What are your favorite activities? How would you feel if you were prevented from doing these activities? Interview a friend or family member about what their favorite activities are.

