



Meet Misty and Pouncer

When Misty and Pouncer were tiny tiger cubs, they lived in a house in Southern California. It is dangerous and against the law to have tigers as pets. They were moved to the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary.

At the zoo sanctuary, the tigers get what they need to be happy and healthy. They get fresh water. They get fresh meat. They get a quiet place to hide. They get things to climb on. They play with pumpkins and pizza boxes that hang from the ceiling. They even like to play with paint! Their paintings are sold to help other animals in need.

A zookeeper named Amy has taken care of Misty and Pouncer for their whole lives. She does not see taking care of them as a job. “They are like family,” she says.

Kind Questions ?

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

1. After reading “The Truth Behind Teacup Pigs,” what do you think about having pigs as pets? What should people think about before bringing a pig into their family?
2. “Way to Go, Worms!” explains how worms and other animals help with composting. They are also helped by it. Is there something you help with in your community (school, town/city, etc.)? In what ways does your community help you? Make a list of projects you would like your class to help with.

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kind News JR.

2020
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nature recycle!
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“SOME
PIG!”



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To the rescue: Misty and Pouncer

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



Curiosity Corner



Have you ever been licked by a cat? Have you ever been licked by a dog? Did their tongues feel different?

Cat tongues are rough and scratchy. Dog tongues are smooth. Have you ever wondered why? Cat tongues have tiny spikes. The spikes act like brushes to help cats stay clean. Cats hunt alone. They use their tongues to get extra clean so other animals do not smell them. A long time ago dogs hunted in groups, or **packs**. Dogs did not need to sneak up on their **prey**, animals they hunted. So they likely did not need to stay as clean as cats.

More Fun Facts

1. Dogs have more taste buds on their tongues than cats.
2. Cats cannot taste sweet things!
3. Dogs can taste things that are salty, bitter, sweet, and sour.

WAY TO GO WORMS!

Did you know worms help plants grow? Worms eat stuff on the ground. They eat dead leaves. They eat grass. Then they make worm poop! Worm poop and other broken-down pieces of plants make healthy soil for growing plants. Plants take food from the soil through their roots. This helps them grow and make more leaves, fruit, and seeds.

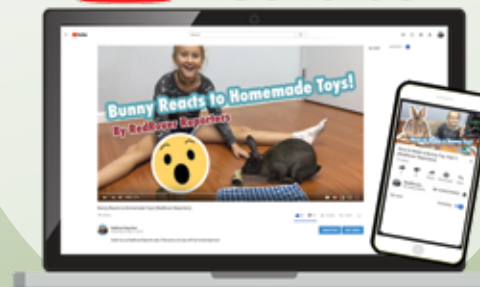
We recycle paper and plastics. Nature recycles leaves and plants! This is called **composting**. The broken-down material is called **compost**.

Other animals besides worms help make compost, too. When birds and rabbits scratch and dig at the dirt

looking for food, they help mix the compost into the soil. Healthy soil helps people grow all kinds of healthy fruits and vegetables!

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The truth about “teacup” pigs

You can see photos of cute, tiny piglets all over the Internet. You can see them in teacups. You can see them on dollhouse furniture. They are called “teacup pigs.” Calling them “teacup” pigs makes it sound like they will stay tiny forever. But they do not stay tiny forever.

Walter was one of these piglets. “His first family thought he would stay small,” said Crystal Porter, president of Willowbrook Farms Animal Sanctuary near Bloomfield, Indiana. “As he grew, they knew their home would not have enough space for him.” Walter weighs 100 pounds now! Walter will get a lot bigger!



More and more people are buying pigs like Walter. More and more people are trying to find new homes for pigs like Walter when they get too big. Special farms, called **sanctuaries**,

care for pigs like Walter. Farms like Willowbrook Farms take care of pigs like Walter. Lollypop Farm in Fairport, New York, is another farm sanctuary. People brought 29 pigs to Lollypop Farm last fall! This is more pigs than Lollypop Farm had ever cared for before.

Can you adopt a pig as a pet? Yes! There are potbellied pigs that can grow up to 180 pounds. Potbellied pigs will not fit in a teacup, but they will not grow to 1,000 pounds like some pigs raised for meat. Having a pig as a pet is a BIG responsibility! Learn all that you can about pigs before you adopt one as a pet.

Are You Pig-Prepared?

If you love pigs, potbellied pigs might be the pet for you! But pigs need very special care. Before searching adoption websites like Petfinder.com, think about these facts:

- 🐷 Most towns do not allow pigs in apartments or neighborhoods without permission.
- 🐷 Potbellied pigs live 12 to 15 years. They need pig doctors, or **veterinarians**, and people to trim their hooves.
- 🐷 Pigs need a lot of outdoor space to roam, dig, and **root**, or explore the ground with their snouts. They do not like stairs or slippery floors.
- 🐷 As **herd** animals, animals that live in groups, pigs do best with another pig. If they become lonely or bored, they may destroy things in a home.
- 🐷 As **prey**, or hunted animals, pigs get nervous around barking dogs and human visitors.



Pig Pile of Books



Look for more book ideas at RedRover.org/Books!

COMPOST Scavenger Hunt!

Explore your backyard, neighborhood, or school looking for things to compost with an adult.

1 Find a jar or bucket you can put your compost in.

2 Look for the things on this list. Only pick up loose things off the ground, not living plants!

- ☐ Leaves
- ☐ Grass
- ☐ Dirt
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Sticks
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Cardboard

3 Ask an adult to help turn what you found into compost. Keep your compost outside in a sunny spot away from pets. Add a little bit of water if needed. Stir it up every week and watch to see what happens!



ANSWER: THEY USE INVISIBLE OINK.

CRITTER CLUES



1 As a **male**, or boy of my species, I look different than the **female**, or girl. I have a green head.

2 I live in swamps, marshes, shallow lakes, and ponds.

3 When I walk, my head goes back and forth like a penguin!

4 My short, wide wings help me fly through woods.

5 I am a “cavity-nester,” building my nests inside trees.



WHAT AM I?



SORT IT OUT!

Directions: Cut and paste pictures in the correct column.



RECYCLE

COMPOST