Happy Spring! In this issue, we'll learn about the myth of "teacup" pigs and what pet pigs need to be happy and healthy. We'll meet an amazing young woman who is making a difference for bunnies, and check in with two rescued tigers. We'll also explore some cool science facts about composting and learn how dog and cat tongues are different.

Looking for more ways to help your children build connection? Check out our empathy app, The Restricted Adventures of Raja, a bilingual, interactive series of book and game apps that includes questions and play-based learning that parents can use to help children practice the three steps needed for empathy.

Visit RedRover.org/empathyapp for more information.

* We are sad to learn that one of the tigers, Misty, passed away in January.

Did you know?
- Your local or school library can get a FREE single-copy subscription simply by visiting KindNews.org/subscribeme and entering promo code LIBFREE18!

Parent Guide

Teaching kindness while helping to instill good reading habits in children.

BOOK NOOK

The Unlikely Story of a Pig in the City by Jodi Kendall
Recommended for ages 8-12

A little pig in a big city leads to lots of trouble! Josie Shilling's family is too big, their cramped city house is too small, and she feels like no one's ever on her side. Then, on Thanksgiving Day, her older brother, Tom, brings home a pink, squirmy bundle wrapped in an old football jersey — a piglet he rescued from a nearby farm. Her name is Hamlet.

The minute Josie holds Hamlet, she feels an instant connection. But there's no room for Hamlet in the crowded Shilling household. And whoever heard of keeping a pig in the city? So it's up to Josie to find her a forever home.

The Unlikely Story of a Pig in the City is a heartwarming tale of family, belonging, and growing bigger when you've always felt small.

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Our mystery critter is the wood duck.

If you visit your local park, chances are you’ve seen wood ducks! They’re easily recognizable due to the distinct differences between the male and female bodies. The male’s green head and markings help him attract a mate, while the female’s brown and gray feathers help her blend in with her surroundings.

Wood ducks get their name from being “cavity-nesters,” nesting in tree cavities near water. Due to forest loss and being hunted, the wood duck almost became extinct around the turn of the 19th century. The population began to bounce back in the mid 1900s, after the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed. People also began building nest boxes to help mitigate the loss of the wood duck’s habitat.

Although we often see people feeding bread to wood ducks, this is a harmful practice. Bread is like junk food for ducks — it has very little nutritional value. When ducks get used to eating bread, they are less likely to forage for healthy food themselves. This can also cause a deformity called “angel wing,” a condition that results in ducks losing their flying abilities. When bread is easily available, it can increase duck populations drastically, which means there is less healthy food to go around. It’s best to allow ducks to stick to their natural diet.

What can you do to help wood ducks? Educate others about why ducks shouldn’t be given bread. If you have the space, consider building a nesting box. To learn how, visit nwf.org and search “duck nesting box.”

Where’s Raja?
Raja is hiding on page 8!