

CLIMATE QUIZ



PETIQUETTE



FIRE FIREWORKS

kids speaking for animals Vol. 19 • No. 1

BCSPCA

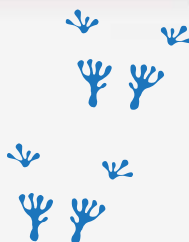
Bark!



WILDLIFE IN WINTER

High Paws

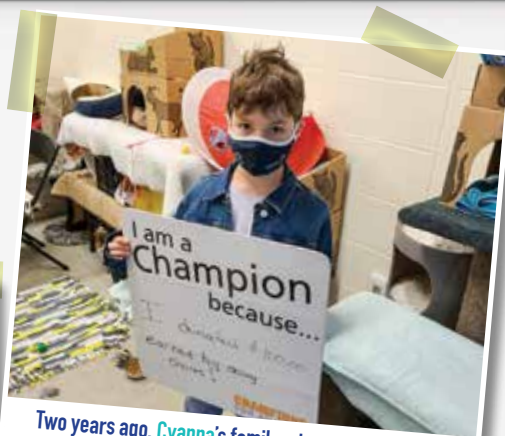
KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



Participants at **Cheam First Nation Summer Camp** organized a car wash for animals in need. Proceeds from the fundraiser, a total of \$170, were kindly donated to the Chilliwack SPCA. The group later spent some time visiting the shelter, too!



Sisters **Brooklyn** and **Clara** both asked friends to bring two toonies to their birthday party instead of presents. They each kept one toonie and donated the other. Together, Brooklyn and Clara delivered a total of \$38 to the Nanaimo SPCA, where they also took some time to play with the kittens.



Two years ago, **Cyanna's** family adopted two kittens. To help other animals still in need of homes, Cyanna decided to do everything she could to earn money doing chores. Cyanna worked hard and saved up for two months, then generously donated \$100 to the Castlegar SPCA.



A lifelong animal lover, **Amelia** decided to do something special for her 11th birthday. Amelia set up a BC SPCA Champions for Animals page, inviting friends and family to donate to help animals instead of giving her presents. Amelia exceeded her goal by more than double, raising an incredible \$470 for the Surrey SPCA.



Letterbox

(letters to the editor)

Dear BC SPCA,

I hope the cats like the cat toys I made on my birthday. There is also a money donation of \$150 that I hope you can use where it is needed most. I hope this helps you make many more happy endings like for my rescue kitten, Cindy Lou Who.

From Alya, 11, Lake Cowichan



Thank you, Alya!
How thoughtful of you to make toys for the cats! We are grateful for them, as well as your generous donation.



Quinlan, 9, from Burnaby shared this adorable photo of Ember. Thank you, Quinlan!

PET PALS

Do you have a photo of your pet to share? We'd love to see it and post it in Pet Pals!

Email us at kids@spca.bc.ca. Please include your pet's name, your name, age and city. (Litterbox letters and High Paws are meow-est welcome too!)



Check out CKC Enterprises! The CKC stands for Clinton, Kyle and Cheyanne, the awesome kids who raised \$237 for the Fort St. John SPCA through their lemonade and muffin sale. CKC's donation will help animals like Bart and Lisa, pictured here.



Foster and Weston teamed up for a lemonade stand, earning \$111 to donate to the Coquitlam SPCA. What a refreshing way to help animals!



Sometimes the ways we help can be simple, but make a big difference! Juniper sent in this thoughtful note and donation to the Campbell River SPCA.



When he turned six, Joey decided to do an online birthday fundraiser to celebrate! With the help of family and friends, Joey raised \$215 for the Maple Ridge SPCA.



Talk about taking action! Grade 3s and 4s from Langdale Elementary have formed a group called R.A.S.A.P. (Rescue and Save Animals Program). Together they have held playground meetings, made badges and brainstormed ways to help animals. R.A.S.A.P. has shown support for the Sunshine Coast SPCA with donations, cards, pins and pictures. High Paws!



For his ninth birthday, Keegan asked friends and family for donations to the Kamloops SPCA instead of presents. Together they collected \$245 plus food, toys and blankets for the cats and dogs.



Kids Club member Madeleine recently moved to Kelowna. She immediately took action for animals in her new community by holding a lemonade stand fundraiser. Madeleine is especially passionate about helping dogs. She plans to do more fundraising and join some BC SPCA youth workshops in the future.



In 2020, Maliah and Maya began making beaded lanyards and gifting them to teachers and frontline workers. They launched DoubleMdesigns20 where they make and sell beautiful gemstone jewelry, lanyards and more. Each month, they donate a portion of their proceeds to a local organization making a difference. They generously donated to the BC SPCA to support animals in need. With a parent's permission, check out DoubleMdesigns20 online!



When Yuffie celebrated her seventh birthday, instead of presents she asked her friends and family for donations to help animals. She raised \$150 and donated it to the Vancouver SPCA! What's more, Yuffie started an SPCA club at her school so together students can be a voice for animals.



Reeanne has been generously donating birthday money to the Penticton SPCA since 2017! Most recently, upon turning 11, she raised \$300 to help kittens like Thomas, pictured here.

Where do the animals go?



It's winter. If you visit the park, beach or trails now, you won't see as many people as in spring or summer. The same goes for animals. There are some, but not as many. But while you might find your friends hanging out at home or doing more indoor sports and activities, what about all the wildlife?

How long can you hold it?

Fact: Bears can go the whole winter without going to the bathroom!

But first, they eat a LOT in the fall to build up their fat stores. They can double their body weight in a matter of weeks!

Next, they need a den. Bears and dens are like kids and homework. Some get it done well in advance, while others prefer to wait until the last minute. Bears' dens can be anywhere safe and secure. Favourite spots include hollow trees and caves they find, or cozy spots they dig out in hillsides or under roots and brush piles.

Once settled in a den, bears enter a light hibernation. Their breathing and heart rate slow down dramatically. But unlike deep hibernators, their body temperature doesn't drop much. They can wake up easily if they are threatened. Pregnant bears can even wake up to give birth.



So how do bears hold off going to the bathroom for so long? First, their fat fuels their bodies, turning into food and water to keep them alive – no need to eat or drink during hibernation. Meanwhile, their waste is recycled into proteins to maintain their muscles and organs, allowing them to go months without a bathroom break.

Draw a line to match these animals to their wintery behaviours

Chickadees

Garter snakes

Beavers

Ladybugs

Shrews

1. Go into brumation* in underground dens. Each den can contain hundreds or even thousands!
2. Stay warm and dry inside their lodge, feeding on the buds and twigs of their favourite trees and shrubs they spent the rest of the year gathering and storing.
3. Travel around in tunnels in the subnivean (sub-niv-ee-an) space – the space between the ground and the snow where they can stay warm and protected from predators.
4. Don't migrate in the winter. Instead, they conserve energy by lowering their body temperature at night by about 10°C. The colder it is outside, the more energy they save.
5. Look for spots in rock crevices, under tree bark and in the nooks and crannies of houses. They then cuddle up in large groups to stay warm in diapause*.



*Hints... Diapause: the insect version of hibernation. Brumation: the reptile version of hibernation. Answers: Chickadees 4 Garter snakes 1 Beavers 2 Ladybugs 5 Shrews 3

Should I stay or should I go?

Fact: In B.C. alone, there are 15 different species of bats.

What do they do in the winter? It depends. A couple of them – the hoary bat and the red bat – **migrate** far south where it's warmer. Some go as far as Mexico or Central America! These bats stay active through the winter, hunting where more food is available, before heading north again in spring. Another species, the silver-haired bat, is considered a largely "migratory hibernator," often travelling to warmer climates before hunkering down to hibernate.

Most B.C. bats, however, stay in the same area and simply switch from their summer roosts to their winter *hibernacula* [hi-berr-nac-u-la] – the places where they **hibernate**. Some hibernate alone, others in small groups. Bats' *hibernacula* include old mines, caves and rock crevices. The big brown bat likes to hibernate in buildings.

Right now, bats are at risk. A deadly disease called white-nose syndrome has been spreading in hibernacula. Not a lot is known about the exact locations of hibernacula in B.C., so the BC Community Bat Program is asking the public for help. Any bat sightings in the winter should be reported to help researchers track the spread as they try to save the bats. Learn more at bcbats.ca.



Different croaks

Fact: Frogs have layers of bone – like rings of a tree – that scientists can use to determine their age.

A new layer is added every year during hibernation. That's right – frogs hibernate! Where and how depends on the type. Here are just three examples:

1. Aquatic frogs, like bullfrogs and leopard frogs, hibernate underwater at the muddy bottom of a lake. They don't bury themselves, though. These frogs breathe through their skin and need oxygen from the water. Instead, they might rest only partly buried or on top of the mud. They might even slowly swim around!
2. Tree frogs spend the winter hiding out and hibernating in tree hollows or under leaf litter. It's helpful when a human has raked up their leaves but left a few piles to choose from!
3. Wood frogs settle in close to the soil's surface, under rocks or logs, to "chill out." How chill? Very! Wood frogs nearly freeze solid while hibernating. Their breathing and heartbeat stop completely! Luckily, they have special sugars in their blood that keep them from freezing to death – their very own "antifreeze." When hibernation is over, they thaw out and carry on.

Dear Bark!,
Sometimes I see people letting their dogs run around outside the designated off-leash dog park. One person said it's fine because their dog is friendly. Is it?
Signed, Dazed at the Dog Park

Dear DAZED: Dogs love off-leash time. Guardians often have their dogs' welfare in mind when they let Fido go for a frolic. But there are things people should remember before unhooking the leash.

- Parks and other public areas have designated off-leash areas to give dogs somewhere to play freely with each other. If a public space is not marked as off-leash, it means dogs should be on a leash under the control of a person.



- Yelling, "Don't worry, she's friendly!" may mean nothing to a small child, someone who is nervous around dogs, or a fearful dog on leash whose guardian is trying to avoid this kind of meeting.
- Even within an off-leash area, does the dog know how to meet other dogs appropriately? Does her guardian know how to read body language in case trouble arises? And can she reliably come when called?

Dogs must be kept on a lead

Learn more from BC SPCA-accredited Animal Kind trainers at spca.bc.ca/dog-park-etiquette.

If approached by an off-leash dog, remember to first **"stand like a tree"** with your arms at your sides. If the dog jumps on you, **"lie like a log"** face down with your hands protecting the back of your neck.

PETIQUETTE

Your pet etiquette questions answered



Dear Bark!,
When I tried to show my rats, Bob, Ed and Fred, to my friend, he got really upset! I explained that they won't hurt him but he asked to leave. I don't want to lose my friend. How can I help him be okay around my rats?
Signed, Rodent Problems

Dear RODENT: While we think they make great pets, too, your friend may have a fear of rats. You could ask him – without your rats around – how he'd feel about meeting them again. Maybe he'd like to try looking at them in their cage before meeting them up close. But if he says no, tell him that's fine. Say you'd love it if he would come over again, and assure him that you will make sure Bob, Ed and Fred stay in a different room.



Etiquette (et-i-ket) is rules of how to properly behave among members of a group. When we talk about pet etiquette – or “**petiquette**” – we mean to think about others, and act in the kindest way possible.



Dear Bark!

I love my dog, but I HATE picking up poop. If my dog poops out of the way, not on the sidewalk or trail, can I leave it to decompose or wash away in the rain?

Signed, Pooped Out

Dear POOPED: No one likes picking up their pet's poop. But it's part of the job. If your dog poops off the path, it's still stinky and someone might step in it. It can take a year to break down, or else wash down the drain and contaminate lakes and rivers. Parasites and bacteria in dog waste (and the soil and water it pollutes) can cause severe illness in people and pets. So, always bring poop bags (biodegradable is best) and clean up. Then, get that baggie to a garbage can. Leaving it on the ground for someone else to deal with is bad *petiquette*, too.

A note for cat lovers: Cats poop too! Be mindful of your neighbours. Consider keeping Fluffy inside with a litter box, or at least supervised or on a leash where you can pick up the poop yourself (and keep your kitty safer).



Do you have a pet etiquette question for us or a pet peeve – something that bothers you? Ask away at kids@spca.bc.ca, with the subject line **Petiquette**. We may answer your question in a future issue of **Bark!**



WILD TALES

The BC SPCA's mission is to *protect and enhance the quality of life for companion, farm and **wild** animals in B.C.* One of the ways we help wildlife is through our **Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre – Wild ARC.**

Wild ARC cares for sick, injured and orphaned animals. In 2021, **Wild ARC** cared for more than 3,000 animals, big and small. From bald eagles to hummingbirds, black-tailed deer to deer mice and river otters to garter snakes, plus many others in between.

While in care, animals receive specialized rehabilitation plans. Their habitats, diets and medical care are all designed to bring them back to health, to prepare them for release back into the wild.

SECOND CHANCE FOR SNOW GOOSE

This past fall, a snow goose was spotted alone on a lawn. He was weak and unable to fly. The goose was admitted into care at Wild ARC. Staff examined the bird and found he was underweight with weak muscle tone. Thankfully, he had no other health problems or injuries. While the snow goose was staying at Wild ARC, he needed a special diet to help him gain the weight and strength needed to fly again.

After some much-needed time in care to eat, rest and recover, this beautiful goose was successfully released back into the wild! After first spending some time swimming in a local lake, he eventually flew off to rejoin his migratory flight path.



Right and above: The snow goose recovered at Wild ARC and is ready for take-off!



BC SPCA's Wild ARC (above) is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre on southern Vancouver Island.



A majestic bald eagle has fully recovered and is about to take flight in the wild where he belongs.



There is nothing more rewarding than releasing an animal back into the wild, such as this great blue heron, to live freely once again!



A TALE OF TWO MINK

In summer 2021, a member of the public heard an animal crying out. When they went to investigate, they found a lone baby mink so young her eyes were still closed. Concerned for the mink, they contacted Wild ARC. After discussing with staff, it was decided it would be best to bring the mink to the centre.

Once the mink's health was stabilized, members of the Wild ARC team went to try to find the den where the baby came from. It's always the best case scenario to try to reunite a baby with her mother. Unfortunately, no den could be located. So staff developed a care plan to rehabilitate the young mink at Wild ARC.

Meanwhile, just by chance another orphaned mink came into the care of another wildlife rehab centre. At this young age, mink in the wild would still be living with their mom and littermates. So the decision was made to transfer the other single mink to Wild ARC so the two could be together. After a careful introduction, the two mink quickly became friends.

The mink spent a couple of months growing up together at Wild ARC. Their habitat included many of the natural features they would encounter in the wild. Things like tunnels, a pool, open spaces, branches and vegetation. Finally, the time came to introduce them back to their natural environment. After a successful release to the area near where they were found, the mink were off to their second chance at life in the wild!



With a parent's permission, visit facebook.com/mcspca.wildarc or scan this QR code to see a video of the two mink at Wild ARC. In it the mink are exploring their enclosure and playing together.

BEAVER RECOVERY

More than 80 per cent of the animals at Wild ARC end up there because they have been impacted by human activity. This could include an animal who got tangled up in discarded trash. Or perhaps was hit by a car. Or even was poisoned or shot.

Sadly, this was the case for one beaver who was brought to Wild ARC after being found shot multiple times. With the kind help of a local veterinarian, the beaver had surgery to repair her injuries. After her surgery, she spent time at Wild ARC recovering and being rehabilitated. As she got stronger, she especially enjoyed playing in her pool at the centre.

Happily, during her time at Wild ARC the beaver recovered from her injuries and was released back into nature to live wild and free once again!





Terrifying blasts!

Fireworks are dangerous. Every year people and animals are injured because of exploding fireworks. The blasts can be especially terrifying for animals. For example, more than half of all dogs are fearful of fireworks. In Canada, that's nearly three million dogs!

Panicked cats and dogs can bust through door screens or even windows to escape the random blasts. Many are injured. They just can't make sense of these booming sounds, so they panic and run or hide. At the BC SPCA, reports of lost pets increase dramatically after fireworks displays.

In one case this past New Year's Eve, a fireworks blast spooked some horses on a farm in Nova Scotia. The horses bolted through a fence with one horse, Navar, getting so badly injured he had to be put down. Fireworks celebrations result in many panicked farm animals suffering cuts, sprains and broken legs.

Wildlife woes

Fireworks also frighten, disorient and disturb wild animals.



When scared from dens and roosting sites, wildlife can run into busy streets or fly into buildings. Fireworks can also interrupt their natural feeding and breeding behaviours. They can even cause them to abandon their young.



Forgotten farm animals

Many people don't think about how fireworks can affect farm animals. Frightened cows, horses and other farm animals can panic and bolt through fences. Many animals are often seriously injured in their attempts to escape the explosions.

YOUR ACTION! HERE ARE SOME FIREWORKS ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:



1. **Sign** the petition asking the Canadian government to change the laws around the use of fireworks. Hurry, the petition closes February 25th. Go to spca.bc.ca/fireworks.



2. **Don't** set off fireworks, and encourage your friends and family to avoid them too.



3. **Tell** your neighbours that your animals are spooked by fireworks. Ask if they'd be willing to do without them and celebrate in a different way.



4. **Make sure** your pets are kept indoors on nights with fireworks. Your pets should have up-to-date identification, just in case they go missing. This should include a collar with a tag and a microchip.

COW POWER

Providing for cattle on the winter range

Cattle who graze on grass can have a tough time in winter. Temperatures dip well below zero in most parts of Canada. By mid-winter, snow covers much of their grazing lands. This means cattle farmers must be very careful to supply their animals with extra hay and grain to help them get enough food and fight the cold.

But what about getting fresh water? When temperatures dip below zero, water troughs and other water supplies like lakes, ponds and creeks can quickly freeze over.

Where do thirsty cows get water? Some cattle farmers rely on their cows eating snow to get the water they need. But this is not great for the cows.

Eating snow lowers a cow's body temperature because it takes more energy (calories) to melt the snow in their stomachs. Young cows and nursing moms suffer the most from eating snow.

Many ranchers install pumps and heaters to keep water running in winter, but this is a major energy cost to the farmer. Some ranchers use solar energy to power the pumps. But this relies on sunlight to power the pump,

and there is less sunlight in the winter.

One day, Alberta cattle rancher Jim Anderson got an idea.

What if the cows pumped their own water?



So he invented a simple tool called the **Frostfree Nosepump**.

The nose pump works by cows pushing a lever that sits in a collector tank. The lever connects to a pump below the ground to a well of fresh water. As the cow pushes her head forward, water rushes into the collector. She pauses to drink, then pumps some more to refill the collector. Nose pumps save energy costs, and provide an ice-free way for cattle to get fresh water. "What is entertaining to us," says Jim, "is the animals seem so proud of themselves that they can pump that thing!"

COURTESY: PROMOLD MARKETING INC.



Learn more about how to meet the needs of animals by reading *What Animals Want: The Five Freedoms in Action*. The book has lots of examples of how people are providing for both the physical and emotional needs of animals. Get your copy at shop.sPCA.bc.ca, your school or public library, or where you buy books.



Your Climate Action Plan

From tornados and floods to forest fires and droughts, climate change affects everyone. Below are ways we can help reduce our impact on climate change.

See how you score in our five climate change categories. Then use these ideas (and others you think of) to create your own climate action plan.

1 How do you score on plastic use?

Not only does plastic pollute the planet and hurt ocean animals, it contributes to climate change. Here's how: Plastic is made from fossil fuels that add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Also, as plastic breaks down, it releases harmful gases.

- ☐ Our family never uses plastic grocery bags. Instead we use reusable shopping bags. **[1 point]**
- ☐ I refuse to use plastic straws. **[1 point]** BONUS: I carry a reusable straw. **[2 points]**
- ☐ I always use a reusable water bottle. **[2 points]** BONUS: Our family never buys water in plastic bottles. **[2 points]**
- ☐ When I buy stuff, I look for items with the least amount of plastic packaging. **[2 points]**
- ☐ Now that I know plastic adds to climate change, I'll try to use less plastic. **[1 point]**

2 What we eat affects climate change

Raising farm animals for food is a huge contributor to climate gases. For example, beef cattle, sheep and dairy cows are the largest producers of methane gas. Methane is a very harmful greenhouse gas that enters the air through their belches and breathing. Growing crops for the animals adds even more carbon to the atmosphere. Also, transporting food by truck, plane or ship produces climate-changing gases.

- ☐ Our family composts (or uses green bins) to recycle food waste. **[1 point]**
- ☐ I eat meat, but I seldom eat beef or dairy products like milk and cheese. **[2 points]**
- ☐ Our family has meatless meals once or twice a week (or more). **[3 points]**
- ☐ We buy locally grown fruits and vegetables as much as possible. **[1 point]** BONUS: We grow some of our own vegetables. **[2 points]**
- ☐ I usually order plant-based meals such as veggie burgers at restaurants. **[2 points]**
- ☐ I haven't really thought about how the food I eat adds to climate change. But I will now! **[1 point]**

3 Think outside the car

Fossil fuels (gas and diesel) that power vehicles are huge contributors to greenhouse gases. In Canada we seem to drive everywhere. Driving less often means fewer cars on the road, and fewer cars stuck idling in traffic jams. How is your family reducing car carbon emissions?

- ☐ I walk, bike, carpool or use public transit as often as possible. **[2 points]**
- ☐ Our family is very careful to plan outings to reduce car trips. **[2 points]**
- ☐ We have planted trees to help absorb carbon gases. **[3 points]**
BONUS: We planted fruit trees and berry bushes like blueberries, which provide food. **[4 points]**
- ☐ We never idle our car when parked. **[1 point]**
- ☐ Instead of flying for a holiday, we take local vacations. **[3 points]**
- ☐ Our family is planning to buy (or has) an electric or hybrid car. **[2 points]**
- ☐ Our family hasn't thought about driving less, but I will suggest it. **[1 point]**

4 Being energy aware at home

Energy use – cooking, heating and water use – contributes to climate change. Small actions around the house can reduce wasted energy. See how you are doing.

- ☐ I always (mostly) remember to turn out the lights as I leave a room. **[1 point]**
- ☐ At my house, we try to recycle as much as possible. **[1 point]**
- ☐ I wash and re-use glass jars and plastic containers to store things. **[2 points]**
- ☐ We switched to energy-saving LED light bulbs. **[2 points]**
- ☐ Our family washes clothes in cold water. **[2 points]** BONUS: We use concentrated detergent rather than big jugs of liquid laundry soap (less water means less fossil fuels used in shipping). **[3 points]**
- ☐ We keep our thermostat low to save energy and turn it down at night. **[2 points]** BONUS: We wear sweaters from a thrift store to keep us warm. **[3 points]**
- ☐ I haven't really thought about lowering energy use, but it's one more thing my family and I can do to help. **[1 point]**



What is climate change?

Climate change is the result of the planet warming which causes more extreme weather than in the past. Carbon dioxide, methane and other gases from human activities are the major cause of climate change. Methane is the worst — 80 times worse than carbon dioxide gas.

These gases act like a blanket in the atmosphere trapping heat. This is why they are called "greenhouse" gases — because greenhouses are warm.

5 Think before you buy

You've heard of fast food, but have you ever heard of fast fashion? Companies tempt you to buy more with trendy, cheap clothing that quickly goes out of style. Discarded clothing fills landfills. The cycle of fashion trends contributes greatly to climate change. So does too much shopping in general.

- ☐ I only get new clothes when I really need them. **[1 point]**
- ☐ I try to shop for clothes and other items from second-hand stores or garage sales. **[3 points]**
- ☐ Overall, my family buys less "stuff." We ask ourselves, do we really need it, or just want it? **[2 points]**
- ☐ I didn't realize what I buy contributes to climate change, but now I will give more thought to what I purchase. **[1 point]**



Your climate action score

1-10 points: You're just getting started. These ideas should inspire you to take more action.

11-25 points: You're on your way! See what else you can do to boost your score.

26-40 points: Yes! You're making a huge difference. Can you do even better?

41+ points: You're a climate action star! We bet you're influencing your family and friends to be climate crusaders.



Look for cruelty-free products

What do animals have to do with hair shampoo, laundry detergent and sunscreen? Sadly, many animals are used each year in research and testing of products like these before they go to market. Thankfully, more and more companies are making safe products without animal testing. Here's how to find them.



Why test on animals?

Many companies test household products and cosmetics on animals to find out if they are safe for people to use. Animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits are commonly used. But very often, these tests are not necessary and cause major suffering for the animals. There is no law in Canada saying companies must test products on animals. Companies do animal testing to protect themselves from lawsuits in case someone is harmed using their product.

tests or only using ingredients known to be safe for people. So how do we know which products are not tested on animals?

Check the label: Before you buy, look at a product's packaging for

The good news

There are new testing methods that have been developed that don't involve animals. For example, studying 3D human cell and tissue models in the lab, or using high-tech computer models. And that's just the beginning. With the latest technology, non-animal experiments often lead to more accurate scientific results. Ready for more good news? More than 40 countries around the world have passed laws to limit or ban animal testing for cosmetic products! In 2015, Canada introduced the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act (Bill S-214). Unfortunately, the bill didn't pass because an election was called in 2019. So for now, cosmetics testing is still allowed in Canada.

Help bring an end to animal testing

You can help end product testing on animals by buying cruelty-free products. Many companies make products either using non-animal



a message or logo that says it is cruelty free. You can often find this on the back or on the bottom of a package or container.

Companies use different terms and logos to tell shoppers that animals were not harmed when they made their products. For example, “**cruelty free**,” “**against animal testing**,” “**only tested on humans**” or “**not tested on animals**.” While this can be a great place to start, it still helps to do some research. These messages may not all mean the same thing.

The sure bet: There are useful websites and apps to find verified information about whether a product is tested on animals. For example, check out Leaping Bunny (leapingbunny.org). Here you can find a huge database of certified cruelty-free companies. They also have an app for looking up or scanning products right at the store.

Another reliable source is Cruelty Free International (crueltyfreeinternational.org). They are committed to ending animal testing world wide.



Make your own cleaning products: With a grown-up’s help, go online to find recipes for making your own natural cleaning products. Ingredients like lemon, baking soda and vinegar can make great cruelty-free cleaners. And they are environmentally friendly, too!

What if there is no cruelty-free label? If a product doesn’t say it is “cruelty free” or “not tested on animals” then assume it (or some ingredients) was tested on animals.

Make your voice heard: Go to the Humane Canada website at humanecanada.ca/cruelty-free-cosmetics-act to send a message to your local Member of Parliament. Let them know it’s time to bring back the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act to end animal testing in Canada.

What about dissection?

Did you know millions of animals are used in science programs in schools and universities across Canada? Many are used for dissection, such as frogs. Yet, excellent digital alternatives are available.

To help end the use of animals in science, the **BC SPCA** partners with the **Canadian Society for Humane Science (SHS)**. SHS works to educate the public about the use of animals in science. They promote reducing and replacing the use of animals in research, testing and dissection. This leads to better science without using animals. Visit forhumanescience.org to learn more.



A victory for mink

In the summer 2021 issue of *Bark!* we asked, "Is it time to end mink farming?" We discussed how **mink suffer on farms, crammed in small wire cages and unable to do natural behaviours** like swimming, running and climbing. We also talked about mink and COVID-19, and how the virus easily infects and spreads among mink, leading to even more suffering. Finally, with the **BC SPCA campaigning for the end of mink farming**, we asked *Bark!* readers to write to the government to voice your concerns.

And now, a good news update! In November, the B.C. government announced an end to mink farming. While the total ban on mink of farms won't come until 2023, with a full shut-down of the industry by 2025, after this winter the breeding of mink will no longer be allowed.



BC SPCA Kids Club members, along with thousands of British Columbians, spoke up through letters and petitions to end mink farming in B.C. The COVID-19 risk is the biggest reason the government gave for this decision, but concerned citizens also made clear that the suffering caused by mink farming practices is not acceptable.

Together, we CAN make a difference for animals!

If you're not already a BC SPCA Kids Club member, what are you waiting for?

The Kids Club unites youth like **YOU** who **LOVE ANIMALS**.

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Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Birth Date: _____

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Bark! • KIDS SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS WINTER 2022/ VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1
ART DIRECTOR **Laurel Ettinger** / BC SPCA CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Pamela Bean,**
Gillian Ickert Plett, Craig Naherniak / COVER PHOTO **Byrdyak / iStock**
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR **Scot Ritchie** / ELECTRONIC IMAGING **Mandy Lau**
PRODUCTION & STUDIO MANAGER **Landon Spenrath**

Bark! is published for the BC SPCA by Canada Wide Media Limited, 230 - 4321 Still Creek Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5C 6S7. Telephone 604.299.7311. We welcome your comments on *Bark!* magazine. Please write to us. Send change-of-address notices and covers of undeliverable copies to: BC SPCA, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1, or e-mail: kids@spca.bc.ca. Web site: spca.bc.ca/youth. Telephone: 604.681.7271. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. To receive a copy of *Bark!* call 604.681.7271. Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 10065475 ©BC SPCA. Printed on recycled paper.

