

WILD BABIES  INCREDIBLE CROWS  PETS & WILDLIFE

kids speaking for animals Vol. 20 • No. 2

BCSPCA

Bark!



**GO WILD FOR
WILDLIFE!**

High Paws

KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



The Awesome Animals Academy at Brighthouse Elementary raised more than \$350 for the Richmond SPCA! For several months this dedicated group of animal lovers, led by teacher Ms. Monaghan, met once a week to design animal-themed buttons. They then made posters to promote their fundraiser. For one week over recess and lunch, the AAA sold their buttons to fellow students. Not only did the sale raise money, it also raised awareness for animals throughout the school.



For the "Month of Love" event at Lily's school, students were challenged to give up something they love to raise money for a charity of their choice. Lily chose the Kelowna SPCA! After delivering \$40 to the shelter, Lily took some time to meet Coconut the guinea pig – just one animal helped by donations like this!



Doodles by Jude Bean, 7, Ladner



Eleven-year-old **Heather** is a huge animal lover – and it shows. By collecting and recycling cans and bottles from neighbours, friends and family, Heather raised \$141.95 for the BC SPCA.



Email your art, letters and photos to us!
kids@spca.bc.ca
 We can't wait to see what you've been up to!

Pet Pals



Thanks for writing, Charlotte. That's wonderful that you want to be a vet. Yes! All animals who come to the BC SPCA receive a health-check by a veterinarian. If the animals are injured or sick they receive the treatment they need. That might include stitches for bad cuts or a cast for a broken bone. Say hi to Patrick and Gerry for us!

Brighthouse Awesome Animals Academy



Macy, Zoe and Erin teamed up to help animals. The terrific trio created gnomes for their school craft fair. The sale raised \$87.35 for the West Vancouver SPCA.



Devon, Eloise, Sophia, Andie, Lily, Rowan and Camellia — a group of friends from North Vancouver — held a bake sale for the BC SPCA. They raised \$564! They also visited the Vancouver SPCA and animal hospital for a tour, learning about the work of our staff and volunteers, and meeting some of the animals.



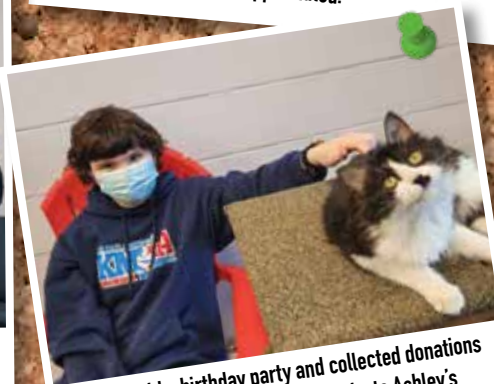
Eleven-year-old Delilah generously donated \$120 in birthday money to the Comox SPCA. High Paws!



Matea donated \$75 to the Comox SPCA, raised by asking for donations instead of birthday gifts. And it isn't the first time! It's a birthday tradition for Matea, and very much appreciated.



In celebration of turning nine, Livia asked for donations to the Victoria SPCA! This thoughtful request resulted in a \$155 donation to help care for the animals.



Ashley held a birthday party and collected donations instead of asking for gifts. Thanks to Ashley's generosity, the Kamloops SPCA received \$75 worth of cash donations, toys and food for the animals.



Five-year-old Adela's birthday party raised \$300 for the Kelowna SPCA. Wow! Adela and brother Zach visited the shelter where they met some animals — like Saturn the kitty — awaiting adoption.

Florence Nightingale Elementary hosted a "Pet Day" at their school to fundraise for the BC SPCA. The event was initiated by their Student Council and Ms. Wong's grade 4/5 class. They invited students to bring in photos of their past, present and future pets. A mural of pets was created on one of their school walls and people had the opportunity to remember, love and honour their pets. This event also taught students about empathy and the importance of how to care for living things. They helped to fundraise over \$450 for the BC SPCA.



Meet Millie, of "Millie's Muffins." Millie's bake sale collected \$131.20 for the Victoria SPCA. What a tasty way to make a difference!



A longtime friend of the Victoria SPCA, Nate visited the shelter and brought along a huge donation of pet beds and supplies. Thanks to Nate's continued support, the animals at the shelter are kept comfortable.

Playing hopscotch habitats

As cities expand, nature and wild animals often get squeezed out. Yet, plants, trees and animals are part of a healthy city. Trees help to clean the air of pollution and keep our cities cool. They also absorb carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to global warming. Plus, having nature in our cities makes our neighbourhoods more interesting and enjoyable.

A home for the “wild”

In cities, so many buildings, roads and parking lots make it difficult to have a rich variety of species. Animals such as coyotes, skunks, squirrels, hawks, owls and many other birds and insects need large natural areas to find food, shelter and a safe place to raise their young.

Creating “hopscotch habitats” is a way we can help wildlife in our neighbourhoods. If animals, such as birds and bees, can “hop” from spot to spot they can find food and shelter. When small green spaces connect with larger parks, a thriving ecosystem is created. You can add to the “game” of hopscotch by planting native bushes and trees at your home and school.



Night flyers migrate through your yard and school



Did you know that every spring and fall, millions of songbirds migrate halfway around the world? Hummingbirds, swallows, sparrows and warblers are examples of songbirds that “hopscotch” across the globe. They fly south to warmer climates in the winter and back north for the summer. Most often they travel at night, so you don’t see them. Along the way they need to eat, drink and rest. That’s why creating and preserving green areas is so important.

Creating a refuge for wildlife

A “refuge” is a safe place where wildlife can stop for food, water and shelter. Here are some tips for making your backyard (or even your balcony) wildlife friendly:

- Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers – they’re better for animals. Trees such as mountain ash, hawthorn and crabapple, for example, have berries and fruit well into the winter.
 - Provide several types of year-round shelter to attract a variety of animals. Dense shrubs will offer homes for small birds. Stone walls or rock piles may attract snakes. Evergreen trees welcome squirrels, woodpeckers, crows and other high-nesters. Look for flowering plants such as phlox, clover, thistle, nettle, milkweed, goldenrod, vetch and sorrel. These plants provide nectar for butterflies and a place for them to lay their eggs.
 - Put out water. A simple pie pan with an inch or two of water will attract a variety of wildlife.
 - Use natural alternatives to pesticides and herbicides by pulling out weeds and pick off bugs by hand. Remember, spiders, ladybugs, snakes and dragonflies are your friends – they eat unwanted bugs.
 - Keep your cat indoors or in a safe, outdoor enclosure – a catio – to protect birds and other wildlife from cat attacks.
- 
- 

Bees and butterflies – our best friends!

Besides making honey, bees are the reason we have blueberries, strawberries, peaches, apples – to name a few! Almost all fruits and vegetables are because of bees. Bees, butterflies and even hummingbirds are pollinators. They help plants reproduce by transferring pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing the flowers. Once pollinated, fruit or vegetables can grow.



Your action!
Never harm a honeybee or bumblebee and protect their hives.

Avoid bird feeders

While seeing birds come to a feeder is captivating, it isn’t safe for them right now. There is a disease called avian flu that is extremely dangerous to birds. Avian flu can quickly spread from bird to bird. Feeders bring birds too close together and raise the risk they could infect each other. It is best to plant berries and seed plants so birds forage naturally for food and do not share the same food source.



Minibeast. *noun.* Any small animal that does not have a backbone.

Canadian mosquito.

MINIBEASTS

More than meets the eye

Mosquitoes, ants and slugs don't have the best reputations. Yet, these "minibeasts" play a very important role in the ecosystem.

Mosquitoes

Scientists believe that mosquitoes have been around for 226 million years! And they're still going strong – up to **110 trillion** in the world today.

It's true that mosquito bites give us itchy, red bumps. And, while not common in Canada, they also spread diseases such as malaria and West Nile virus.

But did you know that mosquitoes are also pollinators? They feed on flower nectar more than blood, transferring pollen between flowers. **The pollen helps plants reproduce.** Only female mosquitoes feed on blood – and only when they lay eggs and need the protein that blood provides.

Mosquitoes are also important members of the food web. Animals that eat mosquitoes include **dragonflies, bats, turtles** and **birds**.

Ants

Ants are everywhere. Seriously – **2.5 million ants per human on earth!** And scientists say that humans couldn't live without them.

When ants build nests and tunnel in the ground, they help the soil. **Their digging shifts around nutrients.** It also allows more air and water to get in. Ants also carry and disperse seeds from plants, helping more grow. When they bring food (plants and animal remains) to their nests, it speeds up their decomposition into soil. This entire process recycles nutrients through the ecosystem.

Ants also play a big role as a predator of other insects, keeping populations low. Their diet can include aphids, ticks and termites.



Slugs

Slugs are gastropods, meaning "stomach foot." The foot on their stomach is how they move around. They can eat up to **40 per cent of their weight in a day**. No wonder they munch through backyard gardens so quickly!

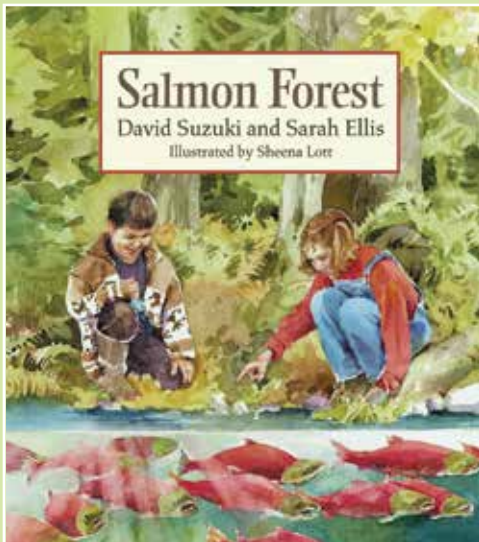
Yes, slugs chomp on flowers, fruits and vegetables in our gardens. Yet, despite this damage, slugs play an important role in breaking down rotting debris (think dead leaves). They turn it into fertilizer for soil, much like earthworms.

Slugs, in turn, become food for other animals such as **toads, birds, frogs, snakes** and **beetles** – all animals that are also important to the ecosystem.



TINA REILHAN





WILD READS

Getting out into nature is one of the best ways to learn about it. Another great way? Settling into your favourite reading spot at home! Get ready to explore the fascinating lives of two keystone species in B.C. – salmon and wolves – through these two beautiful books.

Salmon Forest by David Suzuki and Sarah Ellis, illustrated by Sheena Lott, Greystone Books

What is a salmon forest?

Following a river through the forest, Kate and her dad see salmon travelling from the ocean back to freshwater. The salmon are swimming hard up the river to return to the place they were born – the place where they will lay their eggs.

But then Kate also notices something else: dead salmon who have floated back down the river. And others who have been caught by animals to eat. Seeing the dead fish makes Kate sad... but what else might it lead her to learn?

With *Salmon Forest*, you'll get an up-close look at the life cycle of salmon, their relationship with all the other plants and animals of the forest, and their relationship to humans as well. It may just give you a new perspective on your next trip into nature!

The Wolf Mother by Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson), illustrated by Natasha Donovan, Highwater Press

Follow along on the journey of one wolf!

This story begins with a new pup, following her as she grows and learns to hunt. Eventually, she leaves to find her own new pack. Will she one day have pups of her own and be the leader of her pack? Will she become Nox Gibuu, the wolf mother?

The Wolf Mother lets you experience part of the life cycle of a grey wolf and see the role wolves play in their ecosystem. Through language, art and storytelling, it also teaches about the Indigenous peoples of the Gitksan Nation. What ways are animals, humans and the environment all connected to each other, and to Gitksan traditions?

The Wolf Mother is part of the *Mothers of Xsan* series. Look for the other books including *The Sockeye Mother* and *The Eagle Mother*.



Keep songbirds singing!

How cat lovers can help protect songbirds

Sadly, songbirds are disappearing across North America. One of the reasons? **Cats.**

Yes, our furry, four-legged family members. The good news? **There are ways you can protect birds.**

Why do cats hurt birds?

Cats have a natural instinct to hunt. Even well-fed cats may try to catch birds and other animals. Birds are especially vulnerable in the springtime, when flightless baby birds can't escape hunting cats. Tragically, even a small cat scratch can kill a bird, due to infection from bacteria in cats' mouths and claws. Birds hurt by cats need special treatment.

If you find an injured bird, call the BC SPCA Animal Helpline at 1-855-622-7722.



This injured cedar waxwing received treatment at Wild ARC, the BC SPCA's wildlife rehabilitation centre.

What we can do

Keeping cats indoors is one way to keep birds (and your cats) safe. Food

puzzles and toys that mimic the movements of birds and mice allow them to express natural behaviours while keeping real animals safe. Scratching posts and cat trees are other ways to offer indoor cats more outdoor-like enrichment.

If cats do go outside, supervise them and confine them to your yard. Many people build outdoor fenced enclosures, called **catios**. Others teach their cat to walk on a leash like a dog! Both are good ways of balancing the needs of cats with protecting wildlife.

A bell or a bib?

Well-meaning people sometimes put a bell on their cat's collar. The hope is the jingling sound will alert birds or other animals before the cat can attack. But the truth is, cats learn to hunt very quietly! By the time the bird notices the bell, it's too late.



CatBibs, on the other hand, have been shown to work! A CatBib attaches to the cat's collar and hangs loosely. It gently interferes with the timing and coordination a cat needs to catch birds. The bib still allows them to do everything else cats love to do, including running, jumping, climbing and scratching. CatBibs have been shown to stop 94 per cent of cats from catching birds.

A word on bird feeders

Think twice about having a

bird feeder, especially if there are outdoor cats nearby. Bird

feeders attract cats. Seed spilling on the ground leaves foraging birds open to attack. **See more about bird feeders in *Hopscotch Habitats* [page 5].**





Dogs and wildlife don't mix!

While it's fun to take our dogs into nature, it's important to remember we are entering the homes of the wild animals living there. As visitors, we must respect the rules and laws around keeping dogs on-leash and away from important wildlife habitats.

Wildlife rehabilitation centres all-too-often treat wildlife injured by off-leash dogs, including birds, squirrels, seal pups and deer fawns. Wild animals are also affected in ways that aren't so easy to see.

Let nesting birds rest

We often think of birds building nests in trees. But did you know that plenty of them nest on the ground? During nesting season in B.C. (March to the end of June), thousands of waterfowl build nests in tall grasses along waterways. Dogs running through these areas can scare off birds simply trying to protect their eggs. Dogs may even accidentally step on the nests, putting the survival of the eggs at risk. Not only is it a kind choice to not disturb the nests of migratory birds – it is also the law.

Keep salmon safe

B.C. is full of creeks and rivers where salmon spawn. *Spawning* is when fish lay their eggs in river gravel beds. Unfortunately, dogs crossing and playing in streams can disturb the gravel beds where the eggs are laid. The fragile eggs are crushed or swept away by moving water. Disturbed dirt and silt can also settle on the eggs, preventing them from hatching. Now, imagine what happens if many folks allow their dogs to run free through the creek?



Protect migratory shorebirds

The west coast of North America is a vital highway for migrating shorebirds. Flocks of dowitchers, yellowlegs and sandpipers hungrily feast on insects, worms, clams, and slime on the shorelines and tidal flats. There are only a few places the birds can eat and rest along their long migration route.

Sometimes off-leash dogs can be seen rousing the birds. It's a game for the dogs, who rarely directly harm the birds. But it's life or death for the shorebirds. The circling birds use precious energy to avoid the dogs instead of eating. If they don't build their energy reserves before flying to their next feeding ground, they could perish in flight. This is why dogs are restricted from running free on most beaches either year-round or during the migration periods. Every person who follows these rules makes a difference.





SHARON SHEPHERD

Oh, deer!

What would you do if you found a baby deer alone in the wild? Like many people who care about animals, you might think they need to be rescued. But most often, that isn't the case.

Where's mom?

Every May and June, the BC SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC) gets calls about "orphaned" deer fawns hiding alone in backyards, parks or meadows. Their mothers seem to have disappeared. Sometimes people

even skip calling and bring the fawns straight to Wild ARC, thinking they are rescuing them. But these fawns are almost always not orphans – and they didn't need help at all.

For the first two weeks of life, fawns are unable to follow their mothers. It is normal for mom to leave her baby to quietly hide from predators while she looks for food. She returns only a few times a day to nurse her baby and expects her fawn to be there when she gets back.

If you are worried that a fawn has been orphaned, don't disturb them. Fawns are only cat-sized when born so they may look small and weak – that's okay. If they aren't obviously injured, let them be and check on them from a distance over the next 24 hours (binoculars work great!). The mother will likely return and move the baby to a new spot.

B.C. IS HOME TO SEVERAL NATIVE SPECIES OF DEER. BLACK-TAILED DEER LIVE MOSTLY ALONG THE COAST; MULE DEER (SHOWN HERE) AND WHITE-TAILED DEER LIVE INLAND. PHOTO: DON WHITE



When to take action

There are some cases where a baby deer actually is in trouble. To prevent accidental "fawn-napping," know the signs when help might be needed:

- Hasn't moved from their hiding spot in 24 hours
- Crying continuously
- Wandering aimlessly
- Looks injured
- Following you
- In an unsafe location

If you see any of these signs, call the [BC SPCA Animal Helpline at 1-855-622-7722](tel:1-855-622-7722). They can give you advice and help find a wildlife rehabilitator if needed.

KATHY LAMB





In the meantime, be sure to stay back and keep others, including pets, away. Do not attempt to touch, move or care for the baby yourself. The less contact a wild animal has with humans, the better. Not to mention, it is illegal to keep wildlife without a permit in B.C.

Happy reunions

The best days for wildlife rehabilitators are when baby animals stay with their mothers in the wild. Other happy days include reunions. Last year, Wild ARC successfully reunited 68 wild babies with their moms, including birds, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits and, yes, deer.

In one case, a fawn had been found alone in a backyard. A deceased deer, believed to be the mother, was reported nearby. When it turned out the adult deer was actually a male, Wild ARC staff took action. They immediately brought the fawn back home to the wild. Mom soon came looking for her baby, and the two were happily reunited.

Spread the word

It's wonderful to see a happy reunion. But even better? Not needing a reunion in the first place. Successfully reuniting a fawn with their mother takes planning, coordination and monitoring.

Scan the QR code to see a short clip of fawn and mother deer reuniting.



The situation is disruptive and stressful for both the baby and mother – especially if nothing was wrong in the first place.

Sometimes the best help we can give to wild animals is to know when they actually need help – and when they don't. Learn the difference between a healthy fawn and a fawn in need, and share these facts with your friends! You just might prevent an accidental fawn-napping.

What about seal pups?

Like deer, seal mothers leave their babies on the beach while looking for food. During this time, pups practice their swimming and hunting skills in the water and spend time resting on the beach. It's normal for them to be alone!

If you see a seal pup, don't approach or try to coax or push them into the water. Your presence will stress them, and

could scare off mom from returning. Instead, leave the area and check back (preferably from a distance using binoculars) in a few hours. Only take action if you see that the pup is:

- Visibly injured
- Alone for more than several hours with no parent in sight
- Seriously underweight or premature
- Distressed or non-responsive



If you see any of these signs, or aren't sure, call the **BC SPCA Animal Helpline** at **1-855-622-7722** for advice. You can also contact the **Marine Mammal Rescue Centre (MMR)** directly at **1-604-258-7325**.



DISCOVER WHO LIVES IN THE FOREST

Hey, Mom, we'll take the lower trail and meet you at the big tree.

Let's see if we can find clues about what animals live in the forest.

Yuck! Some dog pooped right on the path.

Wait a minute. It looks like a long fur ball. I bet that's coyote scat.

Hey, Fin, I found some brown fur on this thorn bush. I wonder what animal it belongs to.

It's too high for a raccoon or a coyote. I bet it's deer fur.

You can recognize coyote scat (the scientific name for poop) by all the undigested hair, small bones, seeds and sometimes bits of plastic in it. Coyotes also tend to poop in the middle of pathways and sidewalks to mark their territory. Dogs usually poop off to the side of trails.



Deer move almost silently through forests, making narrow trails that connect to grassy areas. If scared, deer will jump through hedges or brambles, leaving fur on the thorns. Deer like to graze in open meadows and seek shelter in the forest.

Hey, someone has been chopping down these trees!

And that someone is a beaver.



Living in lakes, marshes and creeks, beavers gnaw down trees with their huge teeth. Beavers fall the trees toward the water. Then they chew the trunk and branches into smaller pieces. Beavers are well known for building dams out of branches. Look for a beaver's lodge (house) – a large dome made out of sticks.

JACQUIE PEARCE



Whoa! Look at those deep scratches on that tree!

It must have been something big and strong. A bear?

Bears will bite, leave claw marks and rub their fur on trees to signal other bears. If you see scratches and strands of black fur on a tree, you're in bear country. Time to head out!



Not so fast, Fin. Those are coyote tracks! See how they are in a tight row.

Kat's right. A coyote walks by placing its hind feet in the footprints left by their front feet. This makes the set of tracks narrow. Dogs put their feet beside their last track, making wider, overlapping tracks. With dog tracks, you can see all four paw marks. With coyotes, it looks like they have only two feet like a person.

Look at these hair balls. They look like huge butterfly cocoons.

And I think I know who they belong to!

OK, Kat, I recognize these tracks. A dog ran through the mud along the creek.



Owls perch in tall trees to survey their surroundings. What Kat found are "owl pellets." Owls cough up these hair-covered pellets which are full of bones of prey. If you find owl pellets, look up. You might see an owl staring down at you.

Mom, you'll never guess all the animals we found on our trek.

Yeah, bears have been passing through!

That's odd. We never saw any wildlife.



Where are the crows going?

They **cāw** at you from rooftops and telephone poles. They **steal** food from your dog. They pick up garbage off busy roads. And, they have **fun** skysurfing on windy days.

Crows are black, noisy, daring and smart. And, at the same time each day (just before sunset), masses of crows all take to the sky. One after the other, they fly like spokes in a wheel, all heading to the same hub – their nighttime home.



Crow rookeries

Like humans, crows are social animals. Most live in family groups during the spring nesting season. Grown-up crows will even hang around their parent's nest, helping take care of new chicks. Once fall arrives, all the crow family members join their communal roost. Called a rookery, all the adult and teenage crows from all around the area spend their nights together.

Crows leave the rookery early in the mornings to spend their days scavenging for food on their own or in small groups. Then some mysterious signal (that experts haven't yet identified) causes them to stop whatever they're doing and join the flying parade back to the rookery.

Most towns and cities have a crow rookery. Near bigger rookeries, like the one in central Burnaby, thousands of crows blacken the sky as they gather each night. By sundown, they settle into the trees of the roost. Up to 10,000 have been counted at the Burnaby rookery.

Why do they do it? Maybe for safety. Possibly for warmth. Or perhaps they just like the company. Who knows what stories the old crows tell about their adventures, close-calls and jokes played on humans and dogs earlier in the day.

Bird brains

Crows are smart – among the most intelligent birds in the world. They can mimic the sounds of other animals. They can figure out problems (like how to get at food that is hard to reach). Crows work together to get food out of places like dumpsters. They can even use tools, a skill scientists once thought that only humans and a few other primates could do.

For example, crows can often be seen dropping nuts onto roads so passing cars crack them open. Crows also use sticks to pry food out of cracks. Some even whittle hooks so they can grab bugs and other food that is hard to reach.



CRAIG NAHERIAK



Crows across the world

Many different cultures have stories about **crows** and **ravens**. In ancient Greece, the raven was celebrated as the sacred bird of Apollo, god of healing, prophecy and the sun. In Norse mythology, ravens brought news each night to Odin, the father of the gods (often news of battles).

In west coast First Nations myths, Raven created the first humans. In both China and Japan there are stories about a crow in the sun. It's said that

the Japanese sun goddess sent a three-legged crow to guide the first emperor when he was lost. Today, the three-legged crow is an emblem of Japanese royalty. It is also the symbol of the Japanese national soccer team.



Like you, crows play!

Crows like to have fun. If you're lucky, you might see them playing tag, barrel-rolling through the sky, surfing the wind, or dropping things on the heads of unsuspecting humans or dogs.

Murder and mobs

Crows cooperate to defend their territory against enemies such as owls and large hawks. They gang up to pester and "mob" the enemy until they leave the area. Humans, however, are the largest threat to crows.

Did you know a group of crows is called a "murder?" This comes

from an old folk belief that crows will hold a kind of court and sentence "criminal" crows to death (murder them). While crows don't actually do this, they have been known to kill a dying crow who doesn't belong in their territory. Sometimes they feed on the bodies of dead animals. Crows also like to hang out around cemeteries and battlefields.

Ask this to your friends:

If you call a group of three or more crows a murder, what do you call two crows hanging out?



Don't Let them go!



Red-eared slider turtles that have been released by humans are an invasive species in B.C. They are known to carry diseases that are harmful to native wildlife.

Think a turtle, snake or parrot would make a cool pet? These and other “exotic” animals have many interesting behaviours, but that doesn’t make them ideal companions.

Even born in captivity, exotic animals aren’t “domesticated.” They have the same needs as in the wild. Can we really provide for those needs?

Not usually. People often get exotic pets then realize later it’s not what they’d hoped. Caring for the animal properly is costly and often complicated. They live longer – or grow bigger! – than expected. If you no longer want your pet you may find it difficult to find a new home. Zoos and most animal shelters won’t take them. Exotic animal sanctuaries are typically full already. Some people consider releasing the animal into the wild.

Before you get any pet, you should know:

- How long they can live
- How big they can get
- Exactly what care and costs it takes to provide best possible welfare

But wait! Exotic wild animals are different from B.C. native wild animals – they’re from totally different places. Releasing exotics in the wild can harm both the animals and the ecosystem. Many will die of starvation, predation or exposure. Others may thrive, but put native species and habitats at risk. Invading animals often spread disease, compete for precious food resources or become predators themselves.

The bottom line? Think twice before getting an exotic pet. And if you have one, commit to giving them the best care possible – and NEVER release them in the wild.



Goldfish released into the wild put native fish at risk by spreading disease and competing for food and space. Some are growing as large as footballs!

Did you know? The release of exotic animals into the wild is illegal in B.C. (So is keeping a native wild animal – like a garter snake, deer or raccoon – as a pet.)

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

The Kids Club unites youth (13 and under) who **LOVE ANIMALS**. Sign up today!
spca.bc.ca/kidsclub.



You’ll get **Bark!** magazine delivered to your door four times a year, monthly e-Kids **Mews!** letters, a welcome package and more.

BCSPCA



CANADA WIDE
MEDIA LIMITED



MIX
Paper | Supporting
responsible forestry
FSC® C011267

WHO IS SHELL-EBRATING SPRING:

Bark! • KIDS SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS SPRING 2023 / VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2
ART DIRECTOR **Laurel Ettinger** / BC SPCA CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Pamela Bean, Gillian Ickert Plett, Craig Naherniak, Jacqueline Pearce**
COVER PHOTO **Greg Peterson** / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR **Scot Ritchie**
ELECTRONIC IMAGING **Mandy Lau** / INTERIM PRODUCTION MANAGER **Kim McLane**
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. Website: 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.

