



Hello B.C.S.P.L.A!

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Lots of Lots (Fot the animals) Alle transmiss





Me (my name is stella) my sister (savannah) and an Priend Ully raised 1918 typi at a lemonate/control brack toke stella Pan Ullinum

DE ANIMALS!



Or send us a Litterbox letter! What are you and your pet up to this summer?



Dear SPCA!!!
I really like your super good service, and the fact that it is so quick.

Your help and speed of service has saved my cat's life, and many others!

When I walk through the door, I see all sorts of animals, and I love that!

It means that you are helping them! The time, effort and stress that goes into your job is incredible, and you all work so hard! I appreciate that you dedicate your life to this job! It has helped all the animals that are in need!

Maxwell, Vancouver



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The SPCA Club at Queen Margaret's School held a freezie sale and raised \$327 for the Cowichan SPCA!



Check out this amazing poster! Anneke visited the Campbell River SPCA to donate ALL the money from her piggy bank as well as this artwork made with love for the animals.



Emily and Elise both chose to use their birthday money to help animals! Instead of presents, these amazing kids collected pet food and toys for the Kelowna SPCA.



Nine-year-old
Jaxson generously
donated \$85 in
birthday money to
the Maple Ridge
SPCA! Here is Jaxson
pictured with his
family and dog,
Lucky.





Kate made a thoughtful donation to the Nanaimo SPCA, giving her birthday money to help care for the animals.



Siblings Marlowe
and Klein set up
an iced tea stand
and sold enough
refreshments to
each donate \$17
in proceeds to the
Kelowna SPCA!



Girl Guides Becca and Natalie donated \$50 worth of dog and cat toys to the West Vancouver SPCA. They made some of the toys along with fellow Girl Guides and Embers.



BCSPCA March 11 2023

Victoria SPCA 5 61.20

Sixty-one dollars and Eusely cents.

Paige and I ela

Isla and Paige did a passion project all about cats for school. Not only did they focus on a subject they love, but they also raised \$61.20 for the Victoria SPCA!



Animal lover Gemma wants to become a vet when she's older!
Gemma held a fundraiser at her last birthday party and raised \$65 for the Vancouver SPCA.



Lennon, 5, donated \$81.40 to the gathet SPCA (pronounced "KA-thet"), in Powell River. She raised the money by collecting and returning bottles and cans.



Eva and Bodhi sold bracelets by donation to the West Kootenay SPCA. They raised \$48.90 for the animals.



Maddie organized a bottle drive for the Victoria SPCA! Maddie's neighbourhood fundraiser collected enough empties for a \$100 donation.



BCSPCA May 27 2023

PART BC SPCR Victoria \$ 20.00

MINISTRUCTURE FROM CENST FROM T

Alivia got crafty for animals in need, donating \$20 from a craft fair to the Victoria SPCA.

Furry Friend Finance\$

Have you ever seen a sign offering a "free kitten?" It sounds too good to be true!

That is because a free pet is never really free. Pets need a lot of things, like food and a bowl to put it in!

If your family is planning to adopt an animal companion, an important first step is to learn about what your pet of choice needs to be happy and healthy. Whether you are planning to adopt a hamster or a Great Dane, they all need their Five Freedoms (see spca.bc.ca/fivefreedoms).



Time to research!

earn everything you can about the animal you would like to bring into your family. What kind of food do they need? Think about leashes, bowls and beds. Don't forget trips to the veterinarian. Did you know there is a shortage of





veterinarians in B.C.? Before you get a pet, check to make sure there are veterinarians who can treat them in your community.

There are lots of things we can provide for our pets to ensure they have the freedom to do their natural behaviours. Giving them

that freedom is not always free! Cats need to scratch, so a scratching post will save your furniture. Wand toys and stuffed mice will help satisfy their natural hunting instincts.

Speaking of time...

our pets are part of the family, so they need more than just things. They need love, attention and time. If your family is busy with work, school and activities, you also need to make time to care for your pet every day. Any animal you adopt will need you to spend time with them. But you will also have to do things like scooping poop or exercising your pet.

A dog needs regular walks, playtime and chill time. They can't take themselves out to the bathroom, either! All companion animals need humans to be companions to them in return.



Pets pay us back. Really!

A s you add up all the things companion animals need, you will see no pet is ever free. Since animals don't have wallets or money, that means humans need to take care of their costs. Pets can't pay their own way but there is one thing they always have to give: LOVE! And that is worth more than anything.



Care cost challenge

What does it cost to care for a pet in the first year?

1.	Choose an animal to	learn
	more about:	



My pet choice is a:

2. Next, guess how much you think it costs to care for your chosen pet in the first year.

My care cost guess is: \$ ____

Now do your research! Use websites, flyers or pet-supply stores to find out how much items actually cost!

- 3. Calculate the one-time costs. These are things you pay for once, like an adoption fee, microchip ID, spay/neuter or food and water bowls.
- 4. Next, calculate yearly costs. These include items such as food, vet care, grooming or yearly dog licenses.

Hint: remember to multiply if you need more than one of something a year, like new toys 4 times a year.

 Add it up! Fill in the chart to see what being a pet guardian really costs. How close was your guess?

One-time costs	Ongoing items/needs	Monthly cost	Costs per year
Dog spay \$300	Dog example: 1 bag dry dog food each month	\$50	\$600 (\$50 x 12 months)
Total:			Total:

One-time costs: \$	+ Ongoing costs: S	\$= \$
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Can't have a pet of your own? It doesn't mean you love animals any less than those who do! Here are just a few great ways to connect with animals, even without a furry friend at home.

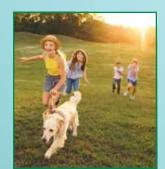
COME TO CAMP!

BC SPCA summer camps, as well as workshops throughout the school year, include hands-on "animal time." This usually means about 40 minutes per day where you can interact with animals. Find out more at spca.bc.ca/camp.



Redefine "family pet"

Do you have extended family members with pets? Enjoy time with your grandparents' dog or uncle's cat whenever you can! By caring for them like vour own, vou will feel more connected to the animals already in your life.



Join in on dog walks

Don't wait until your friend has walked their dog to hang out - ask if you can join! Visit the dog park together or invite them and their pup to go on a hike with your family this summer. Not only will you get to spend time with your pal, but you might make a new four-legged friend too.



Foster an animal

The BC SPCA and other animal rescue organizations often need volunteer foster families to care for animals until they go to a permanent home. To learn more, visit spca.bc.ca/foster.



Become a pet sitter

Many pet guardians need caring people to look after their animals when they go on vacation. If it's ok with your parents, see if any

friends or neighbours need someone to pet-sit their cat, dog or small animal while they're away.



Go on a nature scavenger hunt or try bird watching this summer! Taking time to look for wildlife is another way to appreciate animals and the incredible world we live in.



Read with Rover

Some public libraries offer programs where kids can spend time reading

to a therapy dog. Visit your local library's website to see if they offer this program!



Send your photos!

If you don't have a pet of your own, what are ways that you **bond with animals** in your life? Send photos to kids@spca.bc.ca and you could be featured in Bark!, e-Kids newsletter or on BC SPCA social media. Include your name, the names of the animal(s) and anything you'd like us to know about them!





"It was late November 2022, and the weather had just turned bitter cold. One night, my security camera caught a cat scooting across the driveway."

In that moment, Laura Meshen began her quest to help a stray cat. She wouldn't know until later the impact her kindness would have on her own life.

The next morning, Laura set out food and water in her shed. She checked the food three

times a day. It was being eaten - but the cat stayed out of sight.

"After a week, I went out to top up the food, and this little meow came out from the wood pile! The kitty took a few tentative steps toward the food and was all over it as

soon as the bowl was out of my hand."

A few days later, the cat - who Laura now called Spicy - followed her into the house. Laura took photos and shared them on social media to try finding Spicy's owner. No luck.

Next, Laura says, "I took Spicy to the vet to get a check up and see if, with a bit of luck, she had a microchip."

And she did! The chip number was registered with the

> Registry. Within an hour of reporting she'd found Spicy, Laura was dropping her off at home.

Spicy - known to her guardian, Penny, as Miss Kay – lived across the river, four kilometres away!

Miss Kay had been missing for two months.



The BC SPCA has a province-wide pet identification program called the BC Pet Registry. It helps re-unite lost pets with their guardians.

If you find a stray animal, someone may be desperate to have them home. With an adult, follow these steps:

- Look for an ID tag with phone number.
- Take the pet to a vet or animal shelter to scan for a microchip or read an ear tattoo.
- No ID? Report to your local shelter or animal control, post on social media, put up posters.

Visit bcpetregistry.ca for more tips.





Laura felt relieved. "I am so thankful she was chipped so I could get her back to Penny."

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS STORY

During her time as a stray, Miss Kay contracted feline leukemia, which is very contagious. Penny didn't want her other two young cats to catch it, but worried about Miss Kay's quality of life if she had to be isolated. Penny's new friend Laura had a solution: she offered her home as a foster, where Miss Kay (aka Spicy) now "lives a luxurious life as a spoiled little housecat."



When you feel the HEAT, you better believe your pet does, too! The next time your furry friend needs to chill out, try these cool ideas.



WATER, WATER, WATER Provide your pet with lots of water to stay hydrated. For some cats, a fun fountain water bowl can encourage them to drink more. Add a few ice cubes to bring the temperature – down! – to the next level. And remember to bring water on dog walks. A collapsible bowl can hook right on to the leash!





SPEAKING OF WALKS...

Try to keep walks to the early mornings and evenings. Your pet will be more comfortable exercising when it's cooler outside, and their paws will be safe from too-hot pavement in the middle of the day.





KEEP REST

Look for spots in your home that are out of direct sunlight. Does one side or floor stay cooler than others? Make a chill place for your pet to relax or sleep. Consider leaving a fan on for your pet when you leave the house and they're staying home.





FILL UP WITH FROZEN

Make snack time refreshing and fun! Homemade frozen treats can keep your pet's brain busy as they work to get every morsel. Check out some recipes on the next page. \rightarrow





CONSIDER THIS COOL STUFF Did you know there are cooling mats for pets? They are filled with non-toxic cooling gel that activates when your pet lies down!

For dogs, a cooling bandana or vest can be a great way to stay comfortable. All you do is soak in cold water, ring it out and put it on! The special fabric cools your dog as the water evaporates.

BEAT THE HEAT CHALLENGE

How are you and your pets beating the heat?

Send photos to kids@spca.bc.ca with the subject line

Beat the Heat. Your picture could be featured in
the August issue of e-Kids newsletter or on the
BC SPCA social media pages! Include your name,
pet's name, and anything we should know about

the story behind your picture.







FEATHER-FRIENDLY ART

Up to 42 MILLION birds are injured or killed by flying into windows each year in Canada. You can help change this sad statistic.

During the day, windows reflect the sky, trees and landscape, making them invisible to birds. There are special decals or tape that can be put on the **outside** of windows to break up reflections. Look for these at **shop.spca.bc.ca** or **featherfriendly.com**.

Another great option – especially for you artists out there – is to draw right on your windows (with permission, of course)! Use window markers

Help birds at night by going dark! Close blinds or turn off lights while watching a movie.

(You'll save energy too!)





or a bar of wetted soap to make your masterpiece. The more space you cover, the less likely birds will be to collide with the window.

If you find an injured bird, call the BC SPCA animal helpline at 1-855-622-7722 for advice.

FROZEN FEASTS

Help your cat or dog cool off on hot summer days with a nice cold snack!
These easy recipes will also keep your pet's brain busy as they work to get every morsel.

Kongsicle: Stuff a Kong toy

with something
extra tasty and
freeze it. Try pieces
of cheese mixed with
peanut butter for dogs. Wet
cat food with crunchy treats
is fun for felines.

Frozen treat bowl: All

you need is a bowl of water and some of your pet's kibble or treats. Place in the freezer for about an hour (depending on the amount of water). Once frozen solid, present to your pet and watch them lap it up.





DON'T FORGET FARMED ANIMALS!

If your family cares for farmed animals, there are two particularly important actions you need to take this summer:

- 1 Make sure they have access to shade
- Provide them with extra water

Send photos of your window art, frozen treats or other summer activities to help animals to kids@spca.bc.ca. We may share them in e-Kids newsletter or on BC SPCA social media to inspire others!



As you might have read in *Bark!* before, domesticated rodents including mice and rats can make great pets. But wild rodents as uninvited houseguests? Not so great.

You can love animals and still not want them taking up residence in your walls. They can cause a lot of damage by chewing through insulation, wiring, furniture – you name it! – not to mention getting into food and leaving droppings behind.

The best way to deal with a rodent problem? Stop it from happening in the first place. Prevention is

best for us humans as well as the animals. By keeping rodents out in the first place, we reduce the need for harmful solutions like rodenticides (more on that later).



YOUR ACTION!

Summer is a great time for families to rodent-proof. There are four main steps.

1.TIDY UP

Two things make rodents want to hang around: food and shelter. You can play an important role in searching these out around your home.

First, check your garbage and compost bins. Are they well secured? Is the barbecue cleaned and covered up? Scan the ground outside. Is there spilled bird seed, fallen fruit? How about pet food – is it left out for another animal to potentially find?





Next, look for hiding spots close to your house. Are there items stacked up outside your back door or in the carport? Overgrown plants along the side of the house?

Once you've done your search, with an adult, work to clean up any attractants you find. Bring pet food inside or keep in a sealed plastic bin. Remove clutter and trim or thin out plants from around your home's exterior.



2.LOOK FOR HOLES

Mice can fit through a hole the size of a dime! Time to scan your house or apartment for even the smallest "doors."



A dime is just 1.7cm!

Can you spot any openings on the outside of your home? Gaps, open vents or even cracks that seem tiny to you could be just the right size for a mouse. Remember to look all the way up to the roof – rodents can climb!



Now, look around inside. Any holes you hadn't noticed before? With an adult, empty cupboards or move furniture and appliances to check behind. A common place for rodents to enter is where pipes or wires come through drywall.



3.COVER 'EM UP If you and your family find any holes, you will now need to fix them up!

Close off entry points with heavy-gauge wire screening. Stuff metal mesh into holes around pipes. Then use

expanding foam sealant to fill the mesh and other gaps and cracks. Add door sweeps to block spaces underneath doors. Vent covers help prevent another entry point. Basically, seal any hole the size of a dime or bigger.

There are special companies that can help with all of this! **AnimalKind.ca** has companies recommended by the BC SPCA.

4.CHECK AGAIN

Rodent-proofing isn't a one-and-done job! Mice and rats can chew through just about anything. Regularly check for attractants, hiding places and entry points. Make the fixes right away. This is part of your mission to keep your home rodent-free.







NORWAY RAT

are.

ROOF RAT

MOUSE

Mouse
droppings are
smooth,
30-60 mm long
and pointed at

both ends.

Norway rat droppings are blunt on both ends and are between 1.2-1.8 cm long. Roof rat droppings are shiny, black pointed at both ends and are between 1.2-1.9 cm long.

ALREADY HAVE RODENTS?

Maybe you've spotted droppings (rice-sized for mice, almond-sized for rats). Or your family has found gnawed wood, walls or wires. What should you do?

Visit **AnimalKind.ca**. These companies can help your family choose the most animal-friendly ways to handle a rodent problem.



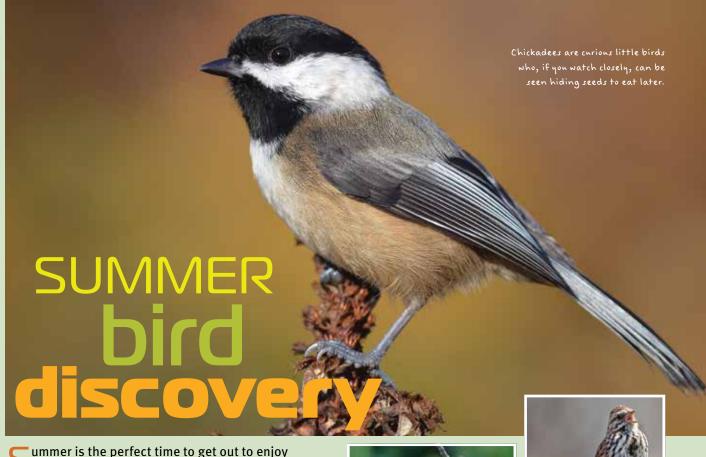
Some *un*kind methods to say "no" to include:

 GLUE TRAPS. These cause great suffering for rodents who are left to die when they

get stuck. Birds, small wildlife and even pets can get trapped as well.

- RODENTICIDES. These poisons cause slow, painful deaths for rodents. Not only that, predators such as owls can feed on the rodents and be poisoned too. Other wildlife and pets can also eat the poisoned bait by mistake.
- RELEASING THE ANIMALS OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOME RANGE.
 Just because we don't want rodents in our homes, does not mean they don't deserve to continue living in theirs.





ummer is the perfect time to get out to enjoy nature. On your outing you'll likely hear musical bird songs. Yet, you may not see the birds making the calls. Some bird songs may be familiar, like the chirping sound of a robin. Or maybe the alarm call, "chick-a-dee-dee," of a chickadee. But other birds shy away from people, like flycatchers or marsh wrens. You may wonder, "What birds am I hearing?"

Merlin is magical

There is a quick, almost magical, way to identify birds you cannot see but can hear. You can use an app on your phone. One easy-to-use app is called Merlin.



Merlin uses your phone's microphone to "listen" for bird songs. Then it shows you the birds close by. You will see a picture and the name of each bird species. Often Merlin will pick out two, three or more different birds. To help identify which bird is making the call, the picture of the bird lights up. How cool is that? By clicking on the bird pictures you will learn more about the bird.





SONG SPARROW: LASALLE-PHOTO/ISTOCK

When is best time to hear bird songs?

AMERICAN ROBIN: SERENA LEBLOND

Birds are most vocal in the early morning or at dusk. Also, visit different habitats, like marshes, forests and grasslands, to hear and see different bird species. Soon you'll know the birds around you just by their unique songs.

It will make your nature walks more interesting and fun. Plus, you can impress your family and friends by naming the birds you hear!

MORE BIRD AND NATURE APPS TO TRY:



Seek is an easy-to-use app for identifying plants and animals



eBird Use for keeping track of all the birds you see

Naturalist.ca A citizen science app for identifying plants and animals and recording their locations (great for parents and teachers too!)

> Remember, make sure you have parent permission before downloading any apps.

Did you know the sounds of bird songs improves your health? Research shows that bird songs make you feel good. They are relaxing and improve your mood. So, get out into nature often for your own health!

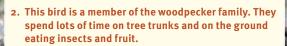
HOW WELL do you know your

Everyone knows what American robins looks like. They're the most common bird in B.C. Below are eight other birds found in B.C. Can you identify them?



1. B.C. has 21 species of sparrows. This grayish sparrow has a long tail and black and white stripes on their heads.

- a) House sparrow
- b) White-crowed sparrow
- c) Song sparrow



- a) Pileated woodpecker
- b) Woody woodpecker
- c) Northern flicker

3. The male of this duck species has a bright green head.

- a) Wood duck
- b) Mallard duck
- c) Daffy duck
- 4. This jay is B.C.'s provincial bird.
 - a) Blue jay
 - b) Grey jay
 - c) Steller's jay



Did you know that the male species of most birds are often more colourful than the females? Why might that be?



CEDAR WAXWING: DENNIS MCLAREN

- 5. These owls live in old buildings and have heartshaped faces.
 - a) Barn owl
 - b) Great horned owl
 - c) Barred owl
- 6. These herons eat fish, frogs and insects and build nests out of sticks high up in trees. Which is this heron?
 - a) Green backed heron
 - b) Great blue heron
 - c) Black-crowned night heron
- 7. The males of this hummingbird species have bright red patches on their heads. Along with nectar, these hummers also chase and eat flying insects.
 - a) Calliope hummingbird
 - b) Rufous hummingbird
- c) Anna's hummingbird
- 8. There are 14 finch species in B.C. This small colourful variety is common in towns and cities.
 - a) American goldfinch
- b) House finch
- c) Red crossbills

Answers: 1) White-crowed; 2) Northern flicker; 3) Mallard; 4) Steller's; 5) Barn; 6) Great blue; 7) Anna's; 8) House finch.

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

- o-3 You are just getting your flight feathers. Time to download a bird app to learn more B.C. birds (see previous page).
- 4-6 Great job! You know some of the nearly 600 bird species that have been spotted in B.C.
- 7-8 Soaring high! You know your birds. See how many you can spot by summer's end!





Companies test cosmetics and many other products on animals like rabbits, mice and rats. They do this to test the toxicity of a product before it gets used by humans. Toxicity means how much a substance can harm an organism. The problem is that animals don't

have any voice to tell us how they feel.

Canada is now catching up to 40+ nations around the world that have already limited or banned cosmetic animal testing. The federal government recently passed Bill C-47, which will phase out the testing of cosmetics on animals. When our government

does good work like this, it is important for us to say, "thank you." Just like you, they like to feel good about making a difference.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR EMAIL OR LETTER

- * Know how to address the person you are writing to. For example: The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health.
- Be personal! Use your own words whether you are saying a simple thank you or expressing your concern for animals.
- Make your points clearly but keep it short, to one page if possible.
- * Always use kind and respectful language.
- * Be sure to include your name at the end.
- Yeah! No postage stamp is needed when you are sending letters to our government.

YOUR ACTION: Write a letter or email to PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU and MINISTER OF HEALTH JEAN-YVES DUCLOS to say "thanks!" You can email them at Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca and Jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca, or write to them at:

House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6



REMEMBER: STILL LOOK FOR THE BUNNY!

Besides cosmetics, lots of other household products are tested on animals. When you shop, look for a rabbit logo on the label that lets you know this product was not tested on animals AND has no animal ingredients.





HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGE TIME!

Check the products in your own home using one of the apps (left). **Note:** Always check with an adult before you download an app or anything from the internet.

Find at least 10 products around your house that you can check for cruelty-free status. You might be surprised at what you find.



One easy way to figure out whether products you are buying are crueltyfree is to use an app to do the detective work for you. Then you can be sure your purchase supports companies that care about animals. Here are a couple of good ones:



Cruelty-Free: finds cruelty-free beauty products using either a barcode scanner or a search bar. Keep in mind that only companies that are certified with **Leaping Bunny** are in their lists. This means the product could be cruelty-free, just not **Leaping Bunny** certified. So look for other bunny logos on the product or try **Bunny Free**.



Bunny Free: has more than 4,000 companies in its **Bunny Free** database. While it doesn't have a barcode scanner, it has an easy to use search tool. It also has alphabetized lists that make it easy to find products that are cruelty-free.







Summer with animals can be so much fun! Maybe you like to hike or swim with your best dog buddy. Or enjoy more time to play with a cat companion or small pet pal at home. There are lots of different ways to bond with furry friends.

As we learn inside this issue of Bark!, there are also ways we can help keep pets cool on hot summer days.

How many of these summer fun and safety words can you find?



- Hike
- Fetch
- Cooling mat
- Plav
- Kong
- Sunshine
- Relax
- **■** Swim
- Shade
- Toys
- Water



Ν F K M G O F K R B Υ Α K F F Т Н G Ν Т G G Ν Υ P Т ı F S F D Н O Н Α S S R В R Ε X Α S Α D Ν K U M X R S S S 7 M Т F K F Α Н Ν



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 Who didn't forget to *relax* while making this issue: Bark! • KIDS SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS SUMMER 2023 / VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3

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