

TRAVELLING WITH PETS  **SSSAVE SSSNAKES** & MAKE A "HOT DOGS" POSTER

kids speaking for animals Vol. 21 • No. 3

BCSPCA

Bark!

**SMALL
ANIMAL
SUPPLY
GUIDE**

HIGH PAWS

kids helping animals!



Kasia is a young entrepreneur who made and sold handmade stuffies in tins, then donated a portion of proceeds to the Coquitlam SPCA!



A BC SPCA school club, from All Saints Elementary in Coquitlam, organized a school-wide fair to help raise awareness for animals after learning about welfare issues in their community. They raised more than \$2,000 and a car full of items to donate to their local animal shelter!



After attending BC SPCA summer camp, two students at Mountain View Elementary decided they wanted to do more to help animals. So, they founded the SPCA club at their school! Together this dedicated group of grade 4, 5 and 6 students raised more than \$400 for animals in need.

Want to learn how to make a snuffle mat for your pet or local animal shelter?
Visit spca.bc.ca/learn-at-home.



Sarah regularly volunteers at the Penticton SPCA with her mom. In addition, this year Sarah chose to celebrate her birthday at the animal care centre so that her friends could help her help the animals. Together the group made and donated snuffle mats, an important enrichment activity for the animals at the centre. Sarah also asked her friends for donations to the animals instead of birthday presents!

Reciprocity With Animals

by Erya

PREVENTING OVERPOPULATION

Giving back to animals is important because, if we don't, it will cause a big problem. For example, if you don't get your animal spayed or neutered, your female animal is likely to reproduce. This can lead overpopulation and there won't be enough homes for them. The benefits of getting your animal spayed or neutered is you can make sure there are enough homes.



SAR Dogs

SAR Dogs are Search And Rescue dogs. Some SAR dogs are trained to be avalanche dogs. Avalanche dogs are trained to find people who got buried in the snow. To train an avalanche SAR dog, this handler needs to have a treat or toy that the dog likes. They will also need your dog to see the person getting buried. When the dog finds the human, they should let the dog play or eat with the toy, so the dog will want to help when there is a real situation like that. That is how they can train an avalanche SAR dog.



BC SPCA Magazine



Raya, Avery and Maya sold cookies, juice and collar charms to raise money for the Maple Ridge SPCA! These animal lovers made an eye-catching poster for their stand, featuring the menu and pictures of adoptable animals.

The Joy & Kindness Club at McMillan Elementary is all about spreading positivity and support at school! The club also spread positivity and support to animals when they organized a dance fundraiser with fun music, glow bracelets and their school mascot, Silver the husky. Over two lunch hours, students danced their way to an \$808 donation to the Abbotsford SPCA!



Aryan held a bookmark sale and raised \$809.99! He used the money to purchase a whole bunch of food, toys and supplies to donate to the Burnaby SPCA. This is Aryan's fifth year fundraising, and he did so in loving memory of his family dog.



Alyse generously donated \$125 in birthday money to the Nanaimo SPCA. What a thoughtful way to celebrate!



Bryar collected donations for her birthday and raised an incredible \$400. She then visited the Castlegar SPCA to deliver her donation and met cats Tammy and Jenny!



Lucy and Audrey raised money for the Prince George SPCA at their birthday party. High Paws x 2!



Ten-year-old **Ashton** held a birthday party and asked guests to bring donations to the BC SPCA Kelowna. This thoughtful request resulted in a \$45 donation for animals in need.



Bernadette and Benjamin, members of the 33rd Kerrisdale Centennial Scouts in Vancouver, collected and delivered much-needed supplies to the BC SPCA Wild ARC. Bernadette also did a presentation for her Scout group about how we can better co-exist with wildlife by not feeding them. You can learn more about this important issue on page 10.



Zoe celebrated her 11th birthday and collected \$85, which she generously donated to the West Vancouver SPCA.



Chloe, Divya and Sebastien held a lemonade stand and donated the money to the Vancouver SPCA. Paw-some!

PET PALS!



Raife, age 6, has been drawing covers of Bark! magazines. This particular cover is from the issue "Test your shark smarts!" Totally jawsome!

Raife, you've inspired us!

Bark! readers, we'd love to see more drawings based on your favourite covers!

Send originals or photos to
BC SPCA Kids Club,
1245 East 7th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1
or email kids@spca.bc.ca.





Safe travels

Exploring new places with your pet can be lots of fun. But it does mean some **extra things** for your family to **pack and consider** before and during your summer road trip.

Before you go

Update their ID. Help your chances of reuniting with your pet if they get lost. Their microchip or tattoo should be registered and the contact information up to date. Register their microchip or tattoo with the BC SPCA Pet Registry at bcpetregistry.ca. Plus, make sure their collar tag has a current cell phone number.

Visit the vet. A quick check-up with the vet to ask if your pet is ready for travel can bring peace of mind. Get a copy of important medical records in case your pet needs to see an emergency vet while away. Know where vet offices are on your route and where you're staying.

Research pet-friendly places. Not everywhere allows pets, so check with where you're staying before you go. You can also look up pet-friendly parks and beaches for pit stops and at your destination.

Pre-plan meals. When you stop for meals, you must bring your pet with you so they don't overheat in the car (see page 6, "**No pets in hot cars!**"). Going to eat at a restaurant? Find out if they have a pet-friendly patio. Otherwise, picnic lunches will allow the whole family to be together safely.



On the road

Safety first. Secure your pet inside the vehicle using a pet seat belt, harness or crate. This is for their safety – and yours as well!

It is illegal and very unsafe to transport a dog unsecured in the back of a pickup truck. The place for any pet is inside the vehicle with the driver and other

passengers. If a dog must be transported in the back of a pickup truck, they should be inside a secured crate in the centre of the truck box.



Keep it comfy. Once they have their safe spot,

make sure your pet is comfortable. Keep water, toys and treats close by. **Avoid letting your dog hang their head out the window** – this can cause serious eye injuries.

Take lots of breaks. Human passengers need stops to stretch their legs, get fresh air and go to the bathroom. Pets need this too! Stop for breaks often and give your pet some extra time (on leash) to move and explore at each pit stop.



Ensure family's mobile phone number is current and up-to-date on your pet's ID.

Keep your pet close. Leash your pet to keep them from straying. Even if they usually come when called at home, use extra caution in an unfamiliar place.

No pets in hot cars! Never leave a pet in a parked car in warm weather. Even for quick stops, even with the windows cracked, even parked in the shade. In just minutes, the inside of a car can get too hot for a pet to survive. Turn the page to learn more about this issue and how you can help spread the word by making a poster. You could even make one on the road!

What to pack

Some items may vary, depending on your pet. Pack your pet's supplies in a separate bin or bag within easy reach in your vehicle.

- Water, food and treats
- Food dish and water bowl
- Dog poop bags/puppy pads/litterbox, litter, scoop
- Grooming supplies
- Your pet's favourite toys
- Leash/harness
- Crate, bed, blanket or pillow
- Safety items: secure travel crate, dog seat belt, life vest, etc.
- Medication and medical records
- Pet first aid kit
- Depending on the weather: rain jacket, sweater, shade cover, cooling vest or bandana, etc.
- Picture of your pet and ID information in case they get lost

Your family can download the BC SPCA pet travel checklist to keep track of everything pet-related for your trip: spca.bc.ca/pet-travel-checklist. This includes tips for travelling by airplane/overseas.



Prepare for an emergency

Even if you aren't planning a summer road trip, many of these tips can still be useful. Like if your family ever needs to leave home quickly because of a natural disaster. Knowing what to bring and how to transport your pet safely can make a big difference.

To help your family make a "grab and go" emergency kit just in case, download the checklist at spca.bc.ca/disaster-plan-checklist.



A secure travel case should always be easy to grab in case of emergency.



Hot dogs in cars, not cool!

Every summer, the BC SPCA receives hundreds of reports of dogs left in hot cars.

This is because it can be life-threatening. On a warm day, even in the shade or with the windows cracked, a dog can overheat in as little as 10 minutes.

Help protect pets this summer. Like Kat and Fin, create a poster to tell people about the danger of leaving pets in hot cars.

What makes a poster stand out?

- A bold, catchy heading
- An attention-grabbing main drawing or photo
- Short, simple messages (find important facts at spca.bc.ca/hotdogs)
- Very **LARGE** lettering • And a website where people can learn more!



How can you get your poster seen?

- ✓ Visit a grocery store with a busy parking lot. Ask the manager to put it up on their door or bulletin board.
- ✓ Other places where you can ask are the library, community centre or local restaurant.
- ✓ You could also set up a lemonade stand to display your poster. This can help draw attention to the issue – and the summer heat!

We'd love to see what you come up with! Send photos, along with your name, age and city, to kids@spca.bc.ca.

DEADLY drifters:

What goes up must come down

Drifting balloons in the blue sky may look nice, but they can be deadly for animals. Whether released by accident or on purpose, balloons drift for many kilometres. Eventually the helium escapes or they burst and come down. Usually they end up in lakes, rivers and oceans.

In the water, seals, whales, waterfowl, fish and turtles can easily mistake balloons for food. If they swallow them, it can cause painful stomach blockages. Eventually, they may starve. Not to mention, most balloons are attached to string or ribbon. Animals can become entangled or swallow these too. Yikes!

What can you do?

Say **“NO”** to helium balloons the next time you’re at an outdoor event or festival.

If you do use balloons:

- Rethink the amount and type of balloons at your next birthday party!
- Choose air-filled balloons over helium. You have more control over air-filled balloons if they escape from you.
- Choose a cotton-based string (that will biodegrade quicker) over plastic ribbon.
- Say no to balloon releases (and lantern releases – see below).
- Hand tie balloons instead of using plastic valves.
- Choose latex balloons over silver foil balloons. It is unknown how many years it may take for these balloons to break down.

Water fight!

While water fights can be a ton of fun and cool us off, there are alternatives to single-use water balloons. With these, there aren’t tons of tiny balloon pieces to clean up and throw away. And you won’t risk harming animals who find the pieces you don’t.

- Instead of single-use water balloons, look for reusable options. Water cotton balls and silicon water splash balls are two such choices.
 - Use water shooters or other DIY options you have at home, like cups and beach toys.
 - Make your own water sponge balls. Find instructions online with your parent or guardian’s permission.
- Remember to be mindful of water use. Keep water fights short and sweet, and follow all restrictions in your area.

Say ‘no’ to lantern releases

Like balloons, sky lanterns pose a risk to wildlife. Animals may ingest or become entangled in the lantern’s frame. Even those labelled ‘biodegradable’ will take time to break down. More destructive, these lanterns use fire (like a hot air balloon) to make them rise in the air. In British Columbia, they are now banned due to FIRE RISK.

Released balloons eventually litter the ocean, forest, ponds and more.



LET'S GO SHOPPING!

Your guide to buying small animal supplies



Don't forget the FIVE FREEDOMS!

Take a moment to think about the Five Freedoms before you make a purchase:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
3. Freedom from distress
4. Freedom from discomfort
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being

Ask yourself questions like:

Could this product **hurt** my pet or make them **uncomfortable** in any way?

Does this product allow my pet to **express** themselves, or will it just cause **nervousness**?

If you're at all unsure, **skip it!** You might need to do more research to make sure it's right for your furry friend.



STOP!



X Yogurt drops and honey sticks

Both of these sweet treats have way more sugar than small animals need! For a healthier snack, try small pieces of **banana** instead.



X Wire wheels

Tails and toes can easily get caught between the rungs. **Ouch!** Stick with wheels that have **solid surfaces**, like plastic ones. They're safer and more comfortable.

X Cotton fluff

Hamsters, rats, mice and gerbils love to make nests. But cotton fluff has **small threads** that can wrap around and **seriously injure** their legs and feet.

Toilet paper and **strips of newspaper** are a safer option for nesting materials.



X Exercise balls

Not all hamsters enjoy running around in a ball. Plus, it's easy for them to get stuck in a corner and forgotten – or accidentally kicked! Cats and dogs may also want to play and chase the ball, stressing your poor little rodent.

A better choice? Set up an **exercise area** where small animals can roam around freely and safely.



X Pine and cedar shavings

Pine and cedar smell nice to us, but they can cause breathing issues in small animals.

Recycled paper bedding (unscented) and **aspen shavings** are good alternatives.





BE CAREFUL!



Chew toys

Small animals can enjoy gnawing on toys made from various materials, such as wood and dried hay. But remember, any toy can become dangerous when too much is eaten, or it falls apart! Be

sure to check toys for damage and throw them out if they are badly splintered and unsafe.



Which wood is good?

Some wood sticks are safe to chew (apple, pear and aspen, for example), while others, such as apricot, cedar and alder, are not. Choose carefully, whether from your own yard or from a pet supply store. Better to be safe than sorry, so

do some online research before offering anything to your pet.

Cardboard – such as toilet paper and paper towel rolls – makes a great, safe (and free!) chew item for small animals. (Hint: stuff some with Timothy hay to add more interest for your pet.)



Freely feed Timothy hay to small animals like rabbits and guinea pigs.



Seed mixes

Rats, mice, gerbils and hamsters are huge seed fans. But feed them too many, and they won't get all the nutrients they need. High-quality pellets should make up most of their diet. Seeds can be given in small amounts as treats. Remember, though, guinea pigs shouldn't be fed seed mixes. They have to have their own pellets with vitamin C in it.



GO FOR IT!

Treat balls

Rats, guinea pigs and rabbits can quickly learn to roll these balls around and gobble up the food that falls out. This keeps their minds and bodies active!

Exercise pens

Exercise pens made just for small animals have narrow bars to prevent escape, or solid walls. Fill a pen with lots of objects for them to crawl over, under and through – such as cardboard tubes and boxes. Hint: carpet stores often have perfect tubes they throw away. This lets them safely explore the world outside their cage. They'll still need supervision, of course.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

When shopping for small animal supplies, keep these two things in mind:

1. Just because a store sells a product doesn't mean it's safe or meets your pet's needs. Sadly, some products are downright dangerous for our pets.

Recent research, for example, found that 70 per cent of cages at pet stores were too small. Restricting a pet's space leads to poor welfare. So, it's important to do your research first.

Talk to people who have the same type of pet as you. Read product reviews online to learn about safety concerns.

2. Products are marketed to people, not pets. After all, we're the ones buying them! We're often drawn to a product because the label catches our eye, or we like the colours. But remember, that doesn't mean our pets need it.



WHEN HELPING HARMS



2. IT SPREADS DISEASE

Ducks don't naturally gather closely in large groups. But, throw some easy eats on the ground and you'll see them all flock to the same spot! So, why is this a concern?

Overcrowding due to wildlife feeding increases the chance of animals spreading disease – to each other, to people, and to our pets. Plus, all that competition over food leads to more animals fighting and getting hurt.



Why NOT to feed wildlife

Have you ever fed ducks at your local pond? Or put out peanuts for a backyard squirrel to enjoy? Many people may have fed animals thinking they were doing something positive. It can feel special to see animals up close – and satisfying to think we're helping them. But are we?

In fact, "helping" wild animals by feeding them can do a lot of harm. Here are the **TOP THREE REASONS** NOT to feed wildlife.

1. IT'S UNHEALTHY

Bread is a common food to throw and watch ducks gobble up. But should ducks be eating bread?

Ducks have evolved to find the nutrition they need in natural foods in the wild. While tasty, bread and other human foods do not provide ducks with what they need. Instead, these foods can cause malnutrition, bone deformation and limit a duck's chance of survival. Plus, throwing food near water sources contributes to water pollution. This in turn harms the animals living there.

Other animals people commonly feed include squirrels, raccoons, deer and even bears. This is sometimes done on purpose. Most often, it is done unintentionally by leaving garbage unsecured. Along with lacking nutrition, human foods found in garbage cans often include packaging animals can ingest or become stuck in.



CHRISTIANE COTTIN



ANGEL GEIST



3. IT CAUSES HABITUATION

Wild animals usually like to keep their distance from humans. This natural fear keeps us all safe. But, when food is involved, animals are more willing to take their chances and approach. This can happen whether we feed them on purpose, or by accident with our garbage and compost bins. Over time, they lose their fear – they become habituated.



Habituation causes wild animals to lose their natural flight or flee response. As a result, they are more likely to be hit by a car, attacked by a predator or harmed by someone who sees them as a “nuisance.” The problem continues when mother animals bring their babies to their favourite feeding

spots. The babies may not develop a healthy fear of humans or learn how to find food for themselves.

Habituation also puts people at risk. Animals can become aggressive towards people and pets as they seek food. Some even break into vehicles and buildings in search of their next meal!



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Along with **pledging not to feed wildlife**, you and your family can help by:

- Putting out garbage the same morning as pick-up.
- Using wildlife-proof bins.
- Keeping pet food inside.
- Picking up fallen fruit on the ground.
- Not littering.



Activity alert!

Download your wildlife-safe checklist to inspect your yard for wildlife attractants.

Finally, share this message with your family, friends and neighbours:

**PLEASE
DON'T FEED
WILDLIFE!**



SANDI WALMSLEY

What about bird feeders?

During months when there are plenty of natural food sources available, the BC SPCA encourages attracting birds naturally with native plants in your garden. Well-maintained bird baths and bird houses can also be nice ways to invite birds to your yard. If you do decide to use a bird feeder, do so with care and during October to March when there are less natural food sources available. Clean it regularly, keep seed off the ground and away from other species, and choose the right feed for the season and species. Visit spca.bc.ca/is-it-bad-to-feed-birds for more tips.



LYNN HANAS

A birdfeeder may attract more animals than just birds, which can be dangerous for both the animals and people.



MARTIN SMART

Quit bugging me!

Is your dog **scratching** and **chewing** at himself? He may have **fleas**, or some other **itchy, irritating parasite!**

Fleas

- Small, wingless insects
- Feed on blood
- Excellent jumpers
- Pass from pet to pet
- Bite people too!

Pets can get **fleas** anytime they go outside. Itchy flea bites make them scratch, chew and lick a lot. Slowly part your pet's hair, and you might also spot black dots of flea "dirt" which is really their poop. **Gross!**

Ear mites

- Microscopic arachnids (related to spiders and ticks)
- Feed on ear wax and oils
- Very contagious between pets
- Rarely bite people

Pets usually catch ear mites from other pets who have them. **Ear mites** make them extremely itchy. They shake their heads and scratch their ears until they're sore. Your

pet's ears might look red and swollen.

They might be smelly and filled with a black crusty material (a mixture of blood, wax and mites - ewww!).

Ticks

- Small arachnids (related to spiders and mites)
- Feed on blood
- Attach to skin
- Bite people too!

Pets can pick up ticks when they walk in tall grass. A tick feels like a small lump on their skin. **Tick bites are sometimes painful.**



This hook was used by a veterinarian to safely remove a tick from a dog.



*A **flea comb** is a tool used to find and remove fleas, their eggs and "dirt" from your pet.*



Protecting your pet from parasites

For dogs, check for parasites regularly, especially after they've been in long grasses, sand or shady, humid spots. For cats, you can cut the risk of parasites by keeping them indoors or in a "catio" (spca.bc.ca/catio).

You can also prevent parasites with medication from your vet – either pills your pet swallows or a liquid you put on their skin once a month. **Be careful of products for parasites found at your local pet store. Some products for dogs that contain a chemical called permethrin are very poisonous to cats.**

If your pet does appear to have fleas, ticks or mites, they should get medical treatment right away. **They can get skin or ear infections, or even diseases from them.**

Parasites thrive in **warm weather**, so are more common in the **spring** and **summer**. But **climate change** and **warming temperatures** means they **now survive** for more of the year. **Continue checking** for parasites in the **fall** and **winter**.



PICK OF THE LITTER

ANIMAL-THEMED BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

Sea Otters: A Survival Story, by Isabelle Groc (Orca Book Publishers, 2020).

Travel along the B.C. coast in search of sea otters with nature writer Isabelle Groc. Learn about the tragic demise of sea otters and their remarkable recovery. What happened to the sea otters? How is their return helping grow an underwater forest teeming with sea life?



Fire on the Mountain, by Pamela McDowell, illustrated by Dana Barton (Orca Publishers, 2022).

When lightning starts a forest fire in nearby mountains, Cricket and her brother worry about the wild animals fleeing the flames. And where is their neighbour's cat hiding? Cricket and her brother do their best to help prepare their house and town before the fire arrives. Then, they too, must evacuate!



Mac and Cheese and the Personal Space Invader, by Jolene Gutiérrez, illustrated by Heather Bell (Spork Publishing, 2020).

Mac and Cheese are the class guinea pigs, and Oliver can't resist snuggling with them. Oliver is also good friends with his classmates but learns they don't always like him getting so close. Do guinea pigs feel the same way?



No Place Like Home, by James Bird (Macmillan/Feiwei and Friends, 2023).

Life is rough for Ojibwe 12-year-old Opín, his brother Emjay and their mother. They have no place to live and are sleeping in their Ford Pinto. Even getting enough food is a challenge. Together, they set off to Los Angeles in the hope of a better life with their uncle. Along the way, Opín adopts a stray dog. Like them, she needs a home. But having a dog, adds to the struggles on their journey, as shelters for people don't accept dogs. Will the family ever find a real home?

MORE BOOKS!

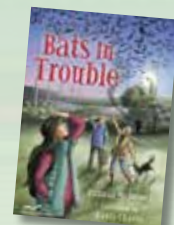
Little Wolf, by Teoni Spathelfer, illustrated by Natassia Davies, 2021. *After she moves from her Indigenous home, life in the city is challenging for Little Wolf. Her shelter dog helps.*



Sharks Forever, by Mark Leiren-Young, 2022. *A deep dive into the fascinating life of sharks and their amazing abilities – and the threats to their survival.*



Bats in Trouble, by Pamela McDowell, illustrated by Kasia Charko, 2017. *Cricket McKay and her best friend, Shilo, discover something is killing bats around Grandpa McKay's farm. Is it pesticides or the new wind turbines?*



Celebrating Snakes

Snakes are among the least understood animals. While we might be surprised when we encounter them, almost all snakes in B.C. are harmless to people. Snakes are fascinating to observe. They

play an important role in the ecosystem eating things like slugs, insects and mice. Despite it being illegal to harm a snake in B.C. – including rattlesnakes – they still face serious threats.

Take action to help snakes

You can step up for snakes! Here are five small ways to make a BIG difference for these remarkable reptiles:

1. **SSSpread the word.** Remind friends and family that harming snakes is unnecessary (and illegal). Snakes don't want to hurt us. They just want to go about their lives (see the "make a sign" activity).

2. **Lift with care.** Rocks in sunny areas make great warming spots for snakes. Move them carefully to avoid accidentally crushing any snakes hidden underneath.

3. **Know before you mow.** Snakes like travelling in long grass. Before you mow, stir the grass with a stick to give snakes a chance to flee.

4. **Get a little messy!** Leave some natural areas in your backyard. Bits of bark, leaves, twigs, branches, rocks and fallen logs help give snakes a safe place to hide.

5. **Pets and snakes.** Keep your pets from harming snakes. Some dogs are bred to hunt other animals, such as rats and snakes. Keep pets leashed in areas where snakes live.

Sssensational Sssnake

Get to know B.C.'s snakes – just not too closely! Remember, it's best to leave snakes alone and watch them from a distance.

Three species of **garter snake** call B.C. home. These harmless snakes usually spend the winter in underground dens shared with other garter snakes, racers, rubber boas and rattlesnakes.



Rubber boas are mild-mannered snakes – so much so that some people take them from the wild to keep as pets! This is illegal, and bad for the snakes, too. Not many survive in captivity.



Not much is known about the secretive **night snake**. These rare snakes are the only rear-fanged snake in Canada. They inject their prey with a mild venom by chewing on them.



Adorable **sharp-tailed snakes** (or "sharpies") are about as long as a ruler and as thick as a pencil! Sadly, these tiny slug-eating snakes are endangered.



Top threats to B.C.'s snakes

Habitat loss. Snakes need undisturbed space to find food, have babies and hibernate.

Pesticides. Snakes can easily be harmed by the poisons meant for other animals like slugs and mice.

Humans! Some people hurt snakes on purpose.

Cars. Snakes like to sun themselves on roads, where they can be run over.

Cats and dogs. Some pets hunt and kill snakes.

Make a Ssssnake Ssssign!

Some forward-thinking communities post education signs to inform people of the importance of snakes. The City of Delta, for example, put up signs alerting the public that snakes live along rocky pathways. You can make signs, too, and put them up near the snake habitats you know about.



Only one species of **rattlesnake** lives in B.C. These venomous snakes are usually not aggressive. When faced with danger, they prefer to stay quiet and still. Striking is a last resort.



LARRY LITTLE



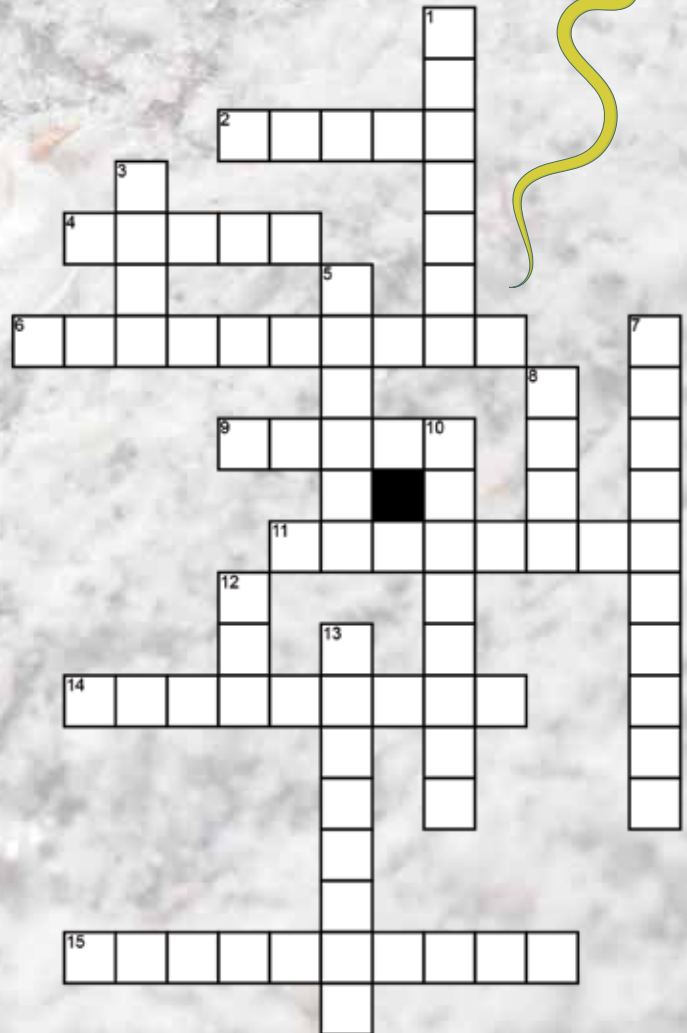
Not surprisingly, **racers** are built for speed! They use their excellent vision to hunt during the day. Grasshoppers and crickets are a favourite meal.

Because they need to travel from den sites to foraging sites to egg-laying sites, **gopher snakes** have large home ranges — as big as 25 hectares (or 35 soccer fields)!



LAUREN SHERWOOD

Snakes & more crossword puzzle



Across

- Snakes love to warm themselves by lying on _____ in the sun.
- To protect your small animal's feet, choose a wheel with a _____ surface.
- When wild animals lose their fear of humans, they become _____.
- Not one, but three species of _____ snake live in B.C.
- Three types of parasites that can infect pets are fleas, ticks and _____.
- When travelling with your dog or cat, look for places that are pet-_____.
- The animal on the cover of this magazine is a _____.
- SPCA stands for the Society for the _____ of Cruelty to Animals.

Down

- Feeding wildlife can cause overcrowding and spread _____.
- Use a flea _____ to look for and remove fleas, eggs and "dirt" from your pet.
- Not one, but three species of _____ snake live in B.C.
- Snakes are an important part of B.C.'s _____.
- Littered balloons are dangerous for sea life because animals can mistake them for _____.
- The BC SPCA Kids Club slogan is "Kids _____ for animals."
- On a warm day, a dog can overheat in a car in as little as _____ minutes.
- Floating _____ can start forest fires that harm animals.

ADOPT.SPICA.BC.CA

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the BC SPCA has seen a recent surge of animals come through our doors. Hundreds of pets – including puppies, kittens and guinea pigs – are available for adoption.

If your family has carefully decided to adopt a pet, visiting adopt.spica.bc.ca is a great place to start. Many animals available for adoption are cared for in foster homes, so you won't see them if you visit your local SPCA. Instead, you can view their photos and learn about them online before meeting in person.

At adopt.spica.bc.ca, every animal is given an adoption profile. It includes basic information like the animal's name, breed and age. It may also say if they can be in a home with other animals or kids. Maybe best of all, each adoption profile has a write-up about the pet's personality and the type of home they need. And of course: **adorable pictures!**

Tips for using adopt.spica.bc.ca

✨ To find pets who could be a good match for your family, search by location, breed, age, compatibility and more.

📧 Sign up to receive email alerts when a pet who may be a good match comes up for adoption.

♥ "Favourite" animal profiles for an easy way to view them again later.

Breed	Breed (Secondary)
ANY ▼	ANY ▼
Weight	Approximate Age
ANY ▼	ANY ▼
Sex	Location
ANY ▼	ANY ▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Compatibility
	ANY ▼
<input type="button" value="APPLY FILTERS"/> <input type="button" value="Reset Filters"/> <input type="button" value="More Filters"/>	



IN FOSTER

Balin

Male — 3 months old
Akbash / Labrador Retriever

Kelowna, B.C.



Remy

Male — 1 year old
Rat

Penticton, B.C.



Annie

Female — 8 years old
Poodle

West Vancouver, B.C.



Eevee

Female — 6 months old
Kangal Dog / Border Collie

Selmon Arm, B.C.



Gretchen

Female — 1 year old
Guinea Pig

Surrey, B.C.



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DAVE MANTLE/ISTOCK

