

BOARD GAME INSIDE!



PIG ADOPTION STORY



WILD WORD SCRAMBLE

kids speaking for animals Vol. 22 • No. 2

BCSPCA

Bark!

**ANIMALS AND PEOPLE
THRIVING TOGETHER**

High Paws

kids helping animals!



Friends **Evelyn** and **Nora** made cat treats, cat toys and other crafts, which they sold at their local craft fair. The goal? To raise funds for animals in need in their community. Together, Evelyn and Nora raised \$87.25 for the Kamloops SPCA. Evelyn and Nora were inspired to take action after attending BC SPCA summer camp and reading *Bark!*.



Sam donated \$130 in birthday money to the Nanaimo SPCA. What an incredibly kind and generous thing to do!



The leadership club at **Gabriola Elementary** held a bake sale in support of the BC SPCA. They raised \$350.55! Not only that, but they created amazing adoption posters to help find homes for animals in care.

Turn to **page 5** to make your own adoption poster!



Devon and **Kellan** are Pokémon fans who are making a difference for animals. The brothers set up a fundraiser at their local park, displaying photos of animals in care at the BC SPCA. For 25 cents, donors could get a Pokémon card and support the animals. The fundraiser earned \$32.80 for the Coquitlam SPCA. Devon and Kellan also donated towels, blankets, and toys to the animals.



High Paws to **Bishop**, who celebrated turning six by asking for donations to the Coquitlam SPCA. Bishop collected \$133 to help care for the animals!



Travis and **Paige** both stopped by the Kelowna SPCA to visit the animals and donate some very special gifts. These thoughtful animal lovers each chose to forgo some presents at Christmas in order to give food, treats and toys to our furry friends. Tugboat the cat, pictured here, was very pleased with his toy!



Every year, **Nate** visits the Victoria SPCA to donate cozy pet beds. This annual gift is so appreciated by the animals, staff, and volunteers! This year, along with the beds, Nate brought toys and treats to help make the animals' days even brighter.



A dedicated supporter, **Paige** most recently raised money for the animals by making and selling adorable towel puppy creations!



1st Vedder Mountain Sparks and **3rd Vedder Mountain Guides** brought in food, treats, toys, and blanket donations as a service project for the Chilliwack SPCA for **World Thinking Day**. The Sparks also made adoption posters for animals in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Maple Ridge!

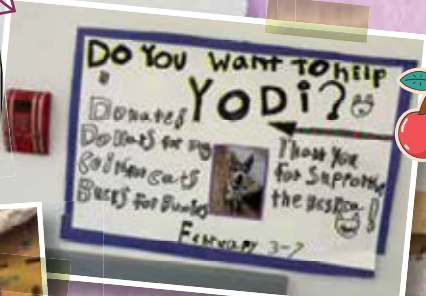
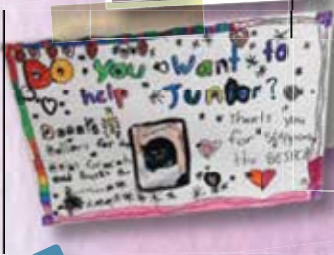




Students at **Wiltse Elementary** in Penticton held a fundraiser for the BC SPCA. In their posters advertising the fundraiser, they featured different animals up for adoption. One of those animals, **Yodi**, was adopted into a student's family after they saw the poster!



Sydney and **Hayley** sold lemonade by donation to the Maple Ridge SPCA. Their fundraiser collected \$168.80. Pawsome!



After participating in a BC SPCA Wildlife Wonders workshop, the students in **Ms. Browning's class** at **Mountain View Elementary** took on a project. Each student chose a wild animal issue, then created a poster about it. They then invited two other classes to view the posters, and taught them about the issues. Way to go!



Maia, 13, stopped by the Penticton SPCA with a generous \$350 donation from her birthday! During her visit, Maia spent some time with the animals – including Rain, pictured here!



To celebrate turning six, **Joni** held a "toonie party" to raise money for animals in need. This paw-some kid collected \$100 for the Vancouver SPCA. High Paws, Joni and friends!



Saya attended BC SPCA summer camp, then fundraised for the animals at her next birthday! She raised \$67 for the Coquitlam SPCA.



Luca and **Rowan** held a pet supply drive at their school! They collected food, treats, and toys for the animals at the Kelowna SPCA. Thank you to Luca, Rowan and everyone at Lakeside School who contributed!



Shout-out to **Eliza**! A previous BC SPCA camper, she donated \$205 in birthday money to help animals in Nanaimo.



Ayla and **Addilyn** used their time and talent to help animals in need. Their craft sale raised \$45 for the Kelowna SPCA.



Seven-year-old **Quinn** saved up \$21 to donate to the Coquitlam SPCA. What a generous gift to the animals!



HEY KIDS!
Send your **photos**, **letters**, and **artwork** for the chance to be featured! Email us: kids@spca.bc.ca

OR MAIL US AT:
BC SPCA KIDS CLUB
1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1



What is the **B**ritish **C**olumbia **S**ociety **f**or **t**he **P**revention **o**f **C**ruelty **t**o **A**nimals?

SHELTERING



Staff and volunteers care for, rehabilitate, and find animals homes! We have 34 Community Animal Centres across the province.

FOSTERING



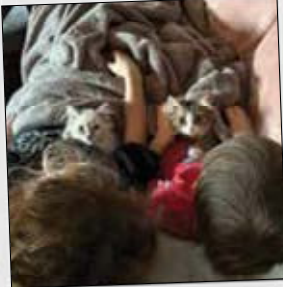
Volunteers care for pets and farm animals at their homes until they can be adopted.

SHELTERING



We have three dedicated farm animal care facilities.

ADOPTION



Pets and farm animals are adopted into loving homes where all their needs are met.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



In emergencies, like wildfires and floods, we rescue and care for animals. We also provide pet supplies for displaced people – thanks to donations!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE



Sick or injured animals get medical treatment right away.

VET CLINICS



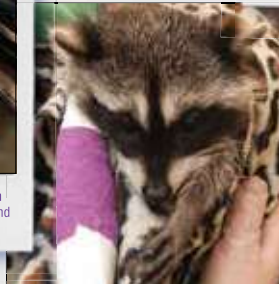
We operate two spay/neuter clinics and two full-service animal hospitals!

HUMANE EDUCATION



Kids are part of the BC SPCA mission through school programs, camps, and the Kids Club. And by reading *Bark!* magazine!

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION



Wild ARC (Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre) cares for injured, sick, orphaned, and distressed wildlife. Recovered animals are released back into the wild.

FOOD BANK PROGRAM



The food bank program runs thanks to donations from community members. Food is available at every BC SPCA location as well as other 160 other community spaces.

ANIMALKIND



AnimalKind gives stamps of approval to certain dog training and wildlife control companies. Recommended companies must use the kindest, most humane methods.

ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAMS:



Our animal welfare programs are based in animal welfare science!

ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAMS:



We work to improve the welfare of companion, farmed, and wild animals across B.C. We do this through education and calling for better laws to protect animals.

ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAMS:



All BC SPCA programs are possible thanks to community members, including volunteers and donors!

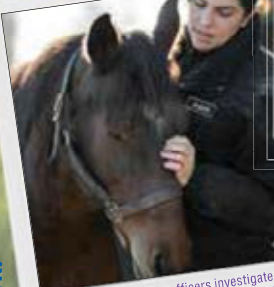
BC PET REGISTRY



This program encourages people to microchip and register their pets, which helps reunite families if animals get lost!

Our vision:
Animals and people thriving together

ANIMAL PROTECTION



Animal protection officers investigate all complaints of animal abuse or neglect. They rescue animals based on the B.C. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.



Visit us at sPCA.bc.ca
Animal Helpline:
1-855-622-7722

Our mission:
Protecting vulnerable animals and mobilizing communities so animals and people thrive together

HOMES for all ANIMALS

Make an adoption poster, make a difference

The BC SPCA wants all pets to have loving homes – and **you can help!**

Animals come into community animal centres and are placed for adoption for different reasons. They might have been:

- **Given up** by people who can no longer care for them.
- **Rescued** from animal cruelty or neglect.
- **Found abandoned** (or lost and we couldn't find their owners*).

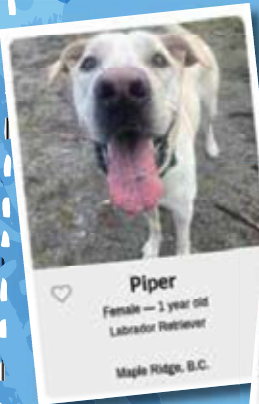
*When pets are in loving homes, we want them to stay there! Pets need permanent microchip identification in case they get lost. Learn more at bcpetregistry.ca.



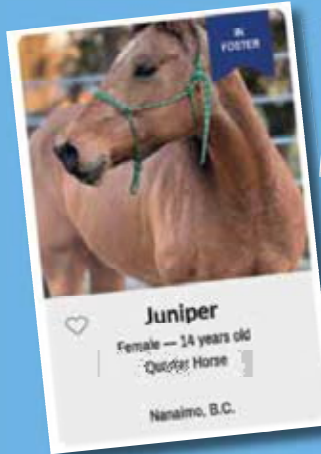
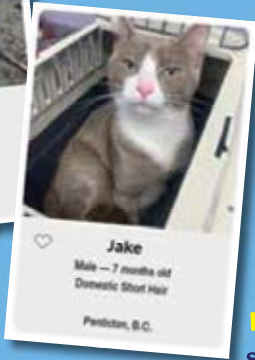
These animals need new homes – and that's where you come in!

1.

Look at animals available at adopt.sPCA.bc.ca or another animal shelter in your community



Choose one that stands out to you. You might pick a cat, dog, small animal, or farm animal!



3.

Draw a picture of the pet in the space provided. Find inspiration in the photos on their adoption profile! You might even draw them doing one of their favourite activities, like playing with a toy. If you prefer, you can print their photo from the website.



2.

Fill out the adoption poster on the other side of this page (or use a blank piece of paper). Include the pet's name and the type of animal they are. Share about their personality too!

4.

Make sure your poster gets seen! **You could:**

- » Share with friends and family.
- » Bring or send it to the animal centre listed on your chosen pet's adoption profile.
- » Ask to put it up on the bulletin board at your school, public library, or rec centre.



Building loving homes

It's heartbreaking when pets are separated from their family. **The BC SPCA wants to prevent pets from needing to come to us in the first place!** We do this by sharing our knowledge about pet care, behaviour, identification and more. We also support pet guardians in times of need through our pet food bank program. **We want to help the animals AND help people enjoy a stronger bond with their pets.**



Adopt me!

I am awaiting a new home

Pet name: _____ Pet age: _____

I am a: _____ I'm up for adoption at: _____
animal type shelter name

Address: _____ Website: _____

A bit about myself: _____

Poster by: _____ Age: _____





The idea that animals, people, and the environment are connected is called “**One Welfare.**” It means that the well-being of animals, humans, and the environment are linked. If one part is harmed, the others can be affected too.

Let’s start with people and farmed animals. Farmers raise animals such as chickens, cows, and pigs. The way these animals are treated affects their well-being and ours. If animals are treated poorly, they needlessly suffer. Intensive farming can also lead to problems like disease outbreaks.



Diseases can harm pets, farmed animals, wildlife, and people. Avian flu is an example of a threat to chickens, cows, barn cats, wild birds, and farm workers. When we keep animals healthy and treat them well, we reduce disease outbreaks.

Next, think about the environment. How farmed animals are raised can impact the planet. Large-scale farming can cause deforestation, air pollution, and water contamination. This harms ecosystems and contributes to climate change. Using sustainable practices helps protect the Earth.

Human activity also affects wild animals. Deforestation and pollution can damage habitats, making it hard

for species to survive. Protecting the environment benefits animals and people, as we all need clean air, water, and healthy ecosystems.

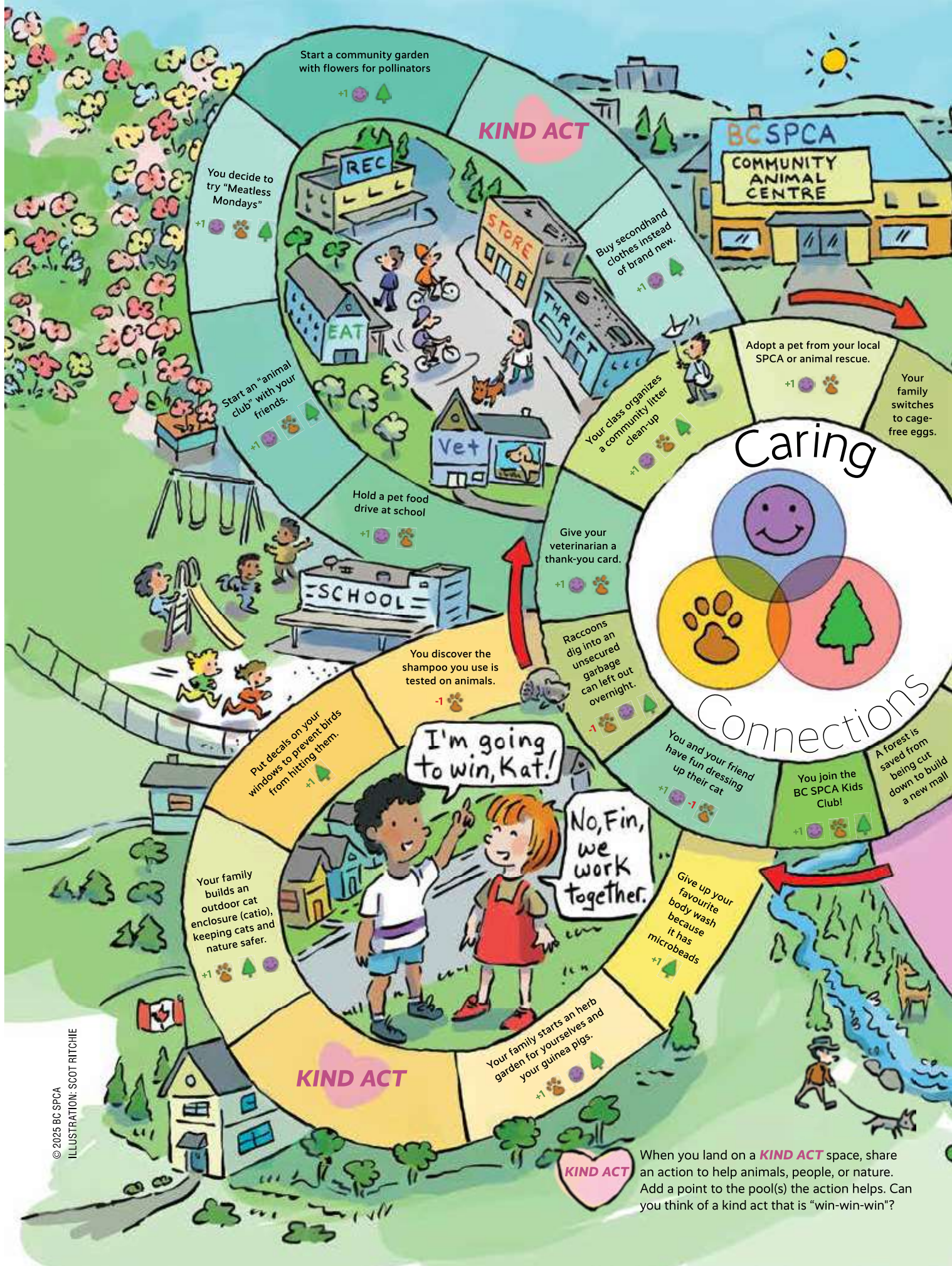
Lastly, think about our pets. Pets provide us with comfort and companionship. If a family is struggling financially to make ends meet, they may be faced with giving up their pets. This causes tremendous stress on everyone. Pet food banks are one way to help keep families together.

The **One Welfare** concept shows that we must consider how we treat animals, the environment, and ourselves. By thinking in a **One Welfare** way, we can create a world where animals, people, and the planet thrive together. It’s all connected!

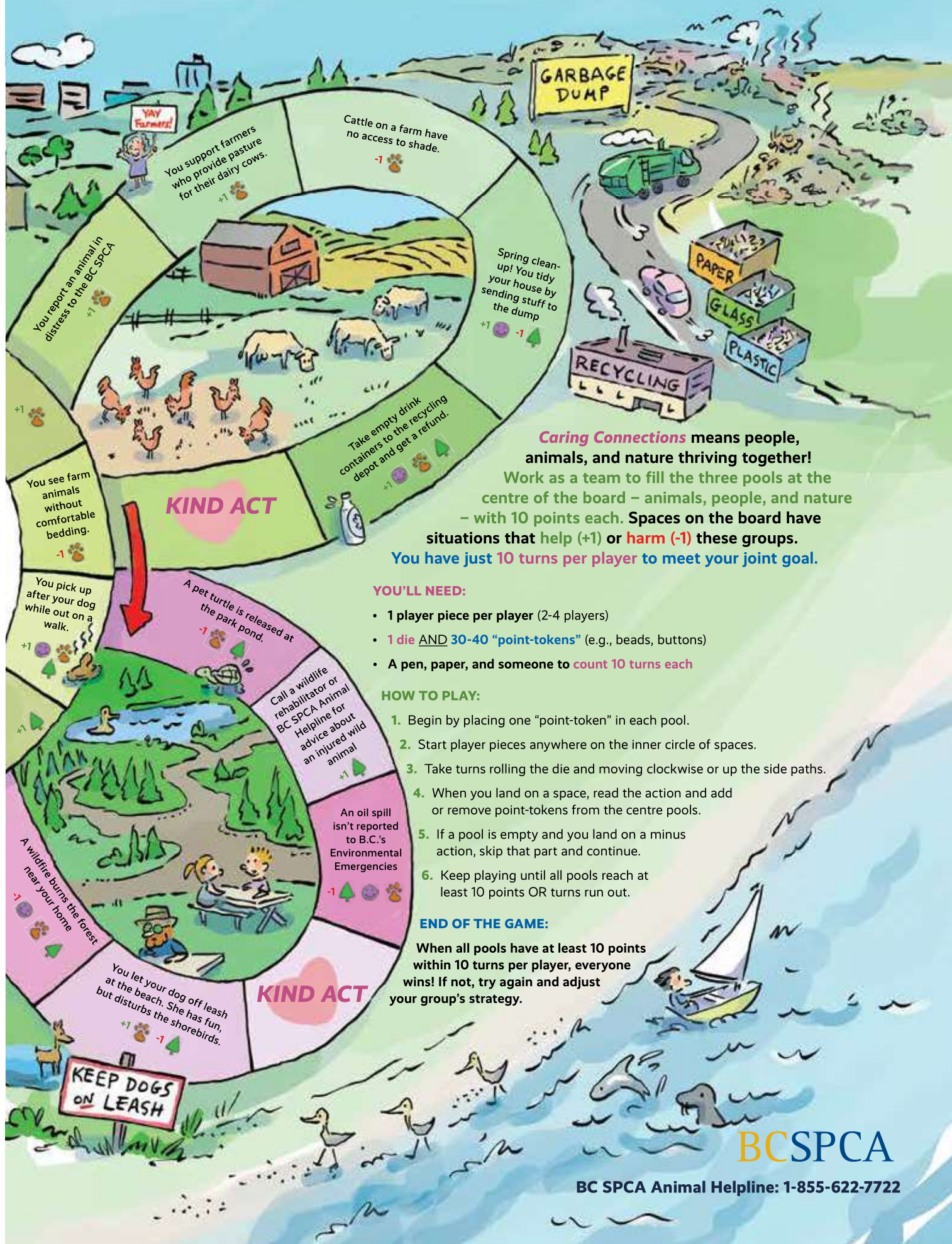


Caring Connections Game

Explore **One Welfare** further by playing the Caring Connections game (next page). The game highlights how our actions affect others, both positively and negatively. Discover how to create a world where people, animals, and nature thrive.



When you land on a **KIND ACT** space, share an action to help animals, people, or nature. Add a point to the pool(s) the action helps. Can you think of a kind act that is "win-win-win"?



GARBAGE DUMP

YAY Farmers!

You support farmers who provide pasture for their dairy cows.

Cattle on a farm have no access to shade.

Spring clean-up! You tidy your house by sending stuff to the dump.

RECYCLING

PAPER

GLASS

PLASTIC

KIND ACT

Caring Connections means people, animals, and nature thriving together!

Work as a team to fill the three pools at the centre of the board – animals, people, and nature – with 10 points each. Spaces on the board have situations that help (+1) or harm (-1) these groups.

You have just 10 turns per player to meet your joint goal.

YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 player piece per player (2-4 players)
- 1 die AND 30-40 "point-tokens" (e.g., beads, buttons)
- A pen, paper, and someone to count 10 turns each

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Begin by placing one "point-token" in each pool.
2. Start player pieces anywhere on the inner circle of spaces.
3. Take turns rolling the die and moving clockwise or up the side paths.
4. When you land on a space, read the action and add or remove point-tokens from the centre pools.
5. If a pool is empty and you land on a minus action, skip that part and continue.
6. Keep playing until all pools reach at least 10 points OR turns run out.

END OF THE GAME:

When all pools have at least 10 points within 10 turns per player, everyone wins! If not, try again and adjust your group's strategy.

KIND ACT

BCSPCA

BC SPCA Animal Helpline: 1-855-622-7722

Pig Tale

BC SPCA TO THE RESCUE!

1

It began with a call to BC SPCA animal protection officers last May. Two pigs, Peggy and Al, needed help.

The BC SPCA farm animal care team hurried to meet the animal protection officers. They brought Peggy and Al back to the Surrey Good Shepherd Barn.

BUT LOOK AT US NOW!

Peggy and Al were found malnourished, with itchy skin full of mites.

2 At the Good Shepherd Barn

A visit from the vet confirmed that Peggy was pregnant. At the barn, she could be made comfortable and get proper nutrition. She also received treatment for some serious skin issues.

In July, Peggy gave birth to two healthy piglets. Summer campers at the Surrey SPCA named the piglets Chip and Dale. They visited and doted on the little pigs! The campers even helped to enrich the barn space with different activities, like setting up a wallow, where the pigs could cover themselves in mud and protect their skin from the sun. They also made the pigs yummy treats!

Their adopter shared this update during the snowy winter:

"Al, Chip and Dale all have new names now. Al is now Lugh, Chip is now Thor, and Dale is now Loki! They have settled in well here at our little farm. They have become friends with our previously lone pig, Elvira. During the snowy days they have all snuggled up warm and cozy in their new barn."

Al quickly warmed up to people, while Peggy learned to trust more slowly. Eventually, she began liking scratches and eating out of her caregivers' hands. Peggy and Al both liked rooting for Cheerio treats and rolling in their mud pools!

3 New beginnings

Al found a great home on a hobby farm. Once the piglets were old enough, they joined him!

Thor likes to flop for belly rubs.

Peggy also found a new home and is thriving! She loves to follow her people around the barn.

Loki is the friendliest of the pigs, even though he was more shy at first.

WHAT IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD BARN?

This barn at the Surrey SPCA is for farm animals who need extra love. The animals have been abused, injured, or neglected. They need urgent vet care and rehabilitation. The farm animal care team must be patient and gain their trust.

The team also works to find the right home for every animal. Being able to be with their same species is important, since most farm animals are social. And the perfect adopters give the animals time to get used to their new space, friends, and experiences.

« Campers setting up a pig enrichment play station.

WARMING UP FOR ZOOMIES WITH MY BRO!

Located near Victoria on Vancouver Island, Wild ARC is the BC SPCA's Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre. At Wild ARC, a team of *rehabilitators* care for injured and orphaned wild animals.

Animals need care at Wild ARC for many different reasons. Most of the time, it is due to human activity such as collisions with windows or cars.

Recently, an Ancient Murrelet was admitted to Wild ARC after colliding with a glass railing of a B.C. Ferry. The seabird fell onto the boat's deck after hitting the glass. Fortunately, the ferry was travelling to Victoria which is en route to Wild ARC. As soon as the boat docked, the Ancient Murrelet was taken straight to Wild ARC for care. After receiving treatment for two days, the Murrelet was ready to be released with a local flock.

That's WILD!

Hint: If you get stuck, look for clues in the pictures on this page!

Unscramble the letters below and discover some wild facts about Wild ARC!

1. In an average year, 70% of animal patient species at Wild ARC are S D B I R.

2. At Wild ARC, staff work to B T I E A H A R L E I T injured and orphaned wild animals.

3. Most patients at Wild ARC need help because they have been affected by A H M U N activity.

4. Wild ARC helps animals all year-round. The busiest seasons of the year are S G P N I R and M U M R E S when most wild animals have their babies.

5. Large carnivores (meat-eating animals) like bears, cougars, and coyotes are not treated at Wild ARC. There are other wildlife rehabilitation centres in B.C. where these animals can be helped. There are some mammals who can be cared for at Wild ARC. Can you unscramble some of the wild species that have been treated at Wild ARC?

C C R O N A O and V A B E E R E R D Q R I E U L R S

6. The top three reasons that animals come into care at Wild ARC are:

S L L I O O C I S N with vehicles
C T U R P A E by outdoor cats or free-roaming dogs

Collisions with W O W D N S I or I N S G I U L D B.

Answers: 1. BIRDS 2. REHABILITATE 3. HUMAN 4. SPRING / SUMMER 5. RACCOON / BEAVER / RED SQUIRREL 6. COLLISIONS / CAPTURE / WINDOWS / BUILDINGS

REACHING

OUT

Pet food banks keep people and their pets together

Pets use food banks?

Yes, it's true! Sometimes pets need food banks. Community food banks help feed people, and the **BC SPCA Pet Food Bank program** helps people feed *their* pets. This keeps animals from going hungry. It also **prevents people from having to give up their pets** when times are hard!

Jo has cared for **Prudence** since she was a three-month-old kitten. Jo is a **loving and responsible guardian**, who has a very small income. She says, "Because of the program, I have never had to buy dry food which helps my budget tremendously. I can use the **saved money to buy her more wet food** and toys."

Jo proves, while low-income pet guardians may need help



Prudence in her sunny sit spot.



from time to time, **their love for their pets is no less deep.**

"Some think low-income people shouldn't have pets because we're poor. But life is tough right now and having a pet to come home to and love makes everything easier," she says. "The people I know would rather go without food than not feed their pet."

✓ **Need assistance?** If your family needs food for your pet, you can ask for it at **your local BC SPCA** community animal centre.



Look at all of the pet food donations available at the Cloverdale Community Kitchen!



Last year, **34 BC SPCA** food bank locations and **160 community partners** provided **654,727** pet food meals. We helped **40,698** animals with a week's worth of food!



Can you help?

BC SPCA community animal centres accept donations of unopened and unexpired food.

Consider holding a **pet food drive** at school or in your neighbourhood. Make **posters** to advertise and **decorate** old cardboard boxes to **collect donations!**

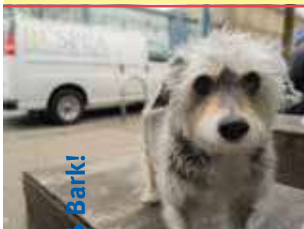


Paul and Megalove pause for a photo in Vancouver.



If you **don't** have a **BC SPCA** in your community, there are still places you can **donate** or **access** pet food. Call the **BC SPCA Animal Helpline** to find where to go in your area.

Some **BC SPCA** locations offer discounts on **pet spay/neuter**.



BC SPCA locations:
spca.bc.ca/locations

BC SPCA Animal Helpline:
1-855-622-7722

Big love for small animals

We need homes too!

Right now, there are small animals in need of homes. Lately there have been a lot of guinea pigs and gerbils at the BC SPCA. Both can make great pets. **Learn more about them in our care guides!**



Rocky and Twix

These guinea pig brothers are both super chill and wildly social. They like being held and happily accept gentle head pats.



Rocky is very outgoing and makes it known when he wants treats! Twix is sweet – and smart. He lets Rocky do most of the work to get treats – then he happily accepts his share.

Rocky and Twix are up for adoption as a pair at the Powell River SPCA.

Naomi

Naomi is “a busy little body” who loves to scurry around. Like all gerbils, she needs plenty of space to dig, burrow, explore, and gather.



What might a gerbil funhouse include? Think small houses, hanging toys, ramps, tunnels, tubes, and a solid (not wire) exercise wheel.

Naomi is up for adoption at the Nanaimo SPCA.

These animals may have been adopted since this article was written. Find all animals looking for homes at adopt.sPCA.bc.ca.

Remember: each animal has traits that can affect the care they need. Like cats and dogs, not all will be a good match with kids or certain other animals. The BC SPCA can help make a match that's right for all the people and animals involved.



Caring for smalls

Small animals include:



guinea pigs



gerbils



rabbits



rats

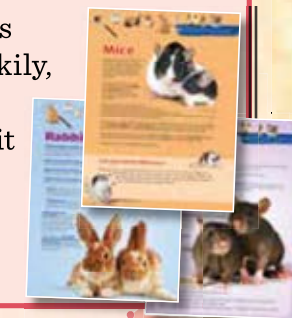


mice



hamsters

They are all unique species with their own needs. Luckily, the BC SPCA has care guides for all of them! Visit sPCA.bc.ca/kids and find them in the “Learn about pet care” section.



Making the right match

One of the best things we can do for small animals (and the people caring for them) is to make the right match! If your family is considering a small pet, which type might suit you best? **Take the quiz and find out!**



SIT SPOTS

EVEN IF YOU DON'T OBSERVE ANIMALS, LOOK FOR SIGNS OF THEM! SPIDERWEBS, TRACKS, NIBBLED LEAVES. **WHAT ELSE?**

What's a sit spot?

The natural world is an amazing place! A sit spot can help you discover it in a very special way. This is an outdoor spot where you can be still and notice the sights, sounds, and smells around you. It might be in your backyard, on your schoolground, at a park, or near the beach. You can come back each day, week, or as often as you like. Wherever, and whenever, it is a special spot for you to connect with nature.



DO YOU HEAR LOTS OF NON-NATURE NOISES? WRITE THEM DOWN IN YOUR JOURNAL. THEN, FLIP THE PAGE AND TRY TO "TUNE IN" TO LESS OBVIOUS NATURE NOISES.

Where do I sit?

Choosing the "spot" for your sit spot is personal. You might try a few places before finding the right one! Look for somewhere you can:



Get to and from easily and safely.



Be comfortable, peaceful, and *with* nature.



Sit, lie down, or stand up.



Observe different parts of nature (trees, plants).



Who do I sit with?

You can go to your sit spot by yourself! (Make sure a parent or teacher knows where you are.)

Or, you can have a group sit. Who would you like to sit with quietly?

Avoid places that are uncomfortable or unsafe (sharp or slippery rocks, thorny bushes, steep terrain, in the middle of lots of people).



When do I sit?

Whenever works for you! Mornings often have the most bird sounds. Afternoons, after a busy day at school, can be relaxing. Try to visit your spot during different times, different weather, and different seasons. You'll notice different things!



LAST YEAR, BC SPCA VICTORIA SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPANTS EACH CHOSE A **SIT SPOT** AND WROTE A LETTER TO A TREE. **WHAT WOULD YOUR LETTER TO A TREE SAY? TRY IT!**

Before you go to your sit spot, get some energy out! Walk, run, jump, dance around.

When you feel ready, settle into your sit spot. Try to stay there for one minute to start.

In your spot, you might ask yourself:

- » **What do I notice?**
- » **What do I wonder about?**
- » **How do I feel?**
- » **What am I thankful for?**



Me and My Sit Spot

Lauren MacLean is a B.C. teacher as well as an author. Her book shares many important reminders, tips, and possibilities for your sit spot!



IF THE GROUND IS WET OR MUDDY, YOU CAN STAND INSTEAD OF SIT. **AUTHOR LAUREN MACLEAN SAYS, "ROOT YOUR FEET LIKE A TREE!"**



Journal it!

In your sit spot, or after, you can write or draw what you notice right here!

Once you have filled this space, you might like to continue in your own nature

journal. This can be any notebook or sketchbook.

If you keep going to your sit spot, you will notice how things change over time. With each day, month, and season, the environment changes. Do we change too?



↑
it's ok - start drawing or writing here!



SOUND MAPPING
NATURE

DOWNLOAD, PRINT,
AND TAKE THIS
ACTIVITY TO YOUR
SIT SPOT

Each time you visit your spot, try using one or more of your senses. Some suggestions:



SIGHT

Count leaves, find different colours, look for animals or signs of them!



SOUND

Listen for a bird, rustling leaves, raindrops



TOUCH

Run your hand over the ground, tree bark, a rock



SCENT

Smell the air, a flower, the grass

You can bring tools to help you at your sit spot, too! Here are some ideas:



SIT PAD
to be more comfortable



BINOCULARS
to look for birds, nests, squirrels, etc.



MAGNIFYING GLASS
to look up close at grass, flowers, insects, etc.



FIELD GUIDES
to identify species near your sit spot



COMPASS
to see what way you're facing or track the direction of the wind



NATURE JOURNAL
to record what you observe, write your thoughts, sketch what you see

BCSPCA

MISSION: POSSIBLE



The BC SPCA has a mission. It is:

**Protecting
vulnerable animals
and mobilizing
communities so
animals and people
thrive together.**



This means the BC SPCA is here to help animals in need. And that we must all work together to make the world a better place for animals and people. We believe we can achieve our mission – together with caring people like YOU!

Here are some ways to get involved with the BC SPCA:



Join the Kids Club!
Get the scoop about important animal issues – and discover how you can make a real difference!



Get ready for Kids Club Live! Connect with Kids Club members at our first-ever online club event, coming soon. Make sure you're subscribed to e-Kids newsletter for updates: spca.bc.ca/ekids.



Sign up for summer camp!
Registration is open now. Join us at in-person or virtual camp.

BCSPCA



CANADA WIDE
MEDIA LIMITED



MIX
Paper | Supporting
responsible forestry
FSC® C011267

The *comedi-hens* who pecked out this issue:

Bark! • KIDS SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS SPRING 2025 / VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2
ART DIRECTOR **Laurel Ettinger** / BC SPCA CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Pamela Bean, Gillian Ickert Plett, Craig Naherniak, Allison Simpson, Nadia Xenakis**
COVER PHOTO **FatCamera/istock** / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR **Scot Ritchie**
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