

DOG SENSES  ANIMAL HEROES  LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

kids speaking for animals Vol. 17 • No. 4

BCSPCA

Bark!



**Good news
for animals!**

High Paws

KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



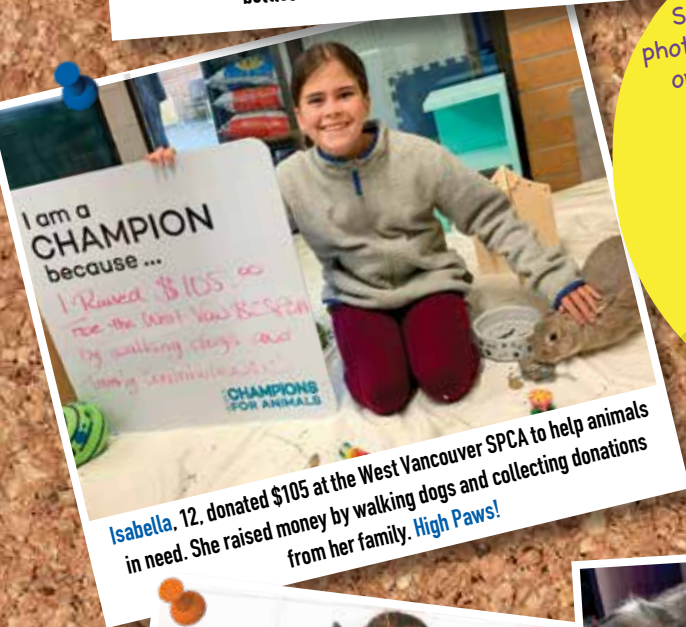
Andrew, 8, worked hard collecting and returning enough cans and bottles to raise \$50 for the Surrey SPCA!



Sisters **Kacey** and **Kora** teamed up for a lemonade stand and raised \$40 for the Victoria SPCA.



Claire sold enough lemonade to raise \$74.75 to help animals. She and her mom visited the Kamloops SPCA to make the donation.



Isabella, 12, donated \$105 at the West Vancouver SPCA to help animals in need. She raised money by walking dogs and collecting donations from her family. **High Paws!**

Send us your drawings, photos, an inspirational letter or just let us know what you've been up to!

BC SPCA Kids Club
1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1
Email us! kids@spca.bc.ca



When **Logan** turned five, he donated \$100 from his birthday to help animals! Logan and his family also adopted their dog, Weiser, from the SPCA.



Chevy participated in the BC SPCA's Treat Week earlier this year, collecting donations in exchange for delicious goodies. Chevy's efforts raised a whopping \$1,400!



When COVID-19 cancelled their end-of-year camping trip, **Kyle** and his classmates at **Franklin Elementary** voted to donate the money they'd raised for the trip to the Burnaby SPCA, where Kyle and his family adopted their dog, Kobe.



Serenity, Melodie and **Harmonie** got to enjoy some outdoor puppy cuddles when they visited the Fort St. John SPCA. This terrific trio donated \$83.20 from their lemonade stand.



Cash set up a lemonade stand to benefit the Kelowna SPCA. He raised an amazing \$440 to help pay for food, toys and veterinary care for the animals.



Instead of their year-end trip, which had to be cancelled, grade 5 students at **Blewett Elementary** were each given \$20 to donate to a community organization. Those who chose the Nelson SPCA collected \$270, which **Elsa** and **Charlotte** delivered to the shelter.



Brooke got to work at home doing extra chores to earn money. But she didn't keep it for herself! Instead, Brooke made a \$200 donation to the Penticton SPCA.



Kaylah and her mom sold homemade masks by donation. They raised \$100 for animals in Penticton that are in need, while also helping people protect each other's health.



Maryn and **Hadley** stopped by the Shuswap SPCA to donate armfuls of cat food! What a purrfect way to help animals in need.



Kendall and **Addison** sold handmade bracelets by donation, raising \$250 for the Fort St. John SPCA.



Pet Photo Contest

We loved this picture – and accompanying letter – that Addison submitted to the Bark! Pet Photo Contest. See more awesome entries on the back page!

Dear BC SPCA,

I decided to enter some photos of my seven-month-old goldendoodle, Oz, to this contest because recently I have discovered a hobby of photography. Winning this contest would mean a lot to me because I hope that one day this could be my real job. I think that taking photos of animals is calming and very enjoyable, it really does take a lot of patience, but I love it anyways!

Best regards,
Addison Hudson, 11, West Vancouver



Good news for animals!



Emperor penguin colonies discovered

Penguins live in the harshest environment imaginable. In the Antarctic, temperatures can fall as low as **-50° C**. If you've seen the film *March of the Penguins*, you know emperor penguins travel great distances in these conditions to raise their young inland.

You may also know that penguin habitats are being threatened by melting sea ice caused by global warming. **But there is good news.** Scientists studying images of Antarctica from a new satellite have discovered 11 previously unknown emperor penguin colonies.

The colonies are small, numbering just a few hundred individuals. Still, the discoveries increase the known emperor penguin numbers by nearly 10 per cent! The total number of emperor penguins from 61 known colonies is now estimated to be about **half a million birds**.



STEPHAN OLCEN

Gentle Giant Humpback Whales

Called gentle giants, humpback whales can be spotted off the coast of Vancouver Island. Humpbacks swim slowly, eating vast numbers of small fish and krill, a tiny shrimp-like crustacean. They follow their food source, migrating up and down the coast from Alaska to California.

Humpback whales used to number more than 5,000 off the B.C. coast. However, after 150 years of commercial whaling, they were almost wiped out. When whaling was banned in 1967, humpback whale numbers had dipped to just 1,400. **Thankfully, in the last 40 years humpbacks have been making a slow, yet steady, recovery.**



Missing Sea Otters

Thick-furred sea otters were once abundant on B.C.'s west coast. Prized for their soft fur, they were hunted almost to extinction until the early 1900s. In 1911 an international treaty finally gave sea otters protection. But was it too late for the sea otters on B.C.'s coast?

Sea otters are what scientists call a “**keystone species**.” This means they play an important role in their ecosystem. Sea otters hunt, groom and rest in kelp forests, feeding on creatures that eat the kelp. A kelp forest needs sea otters to keep it healthy. Without the sea otters, sea urchins,

abalone and crabs will eat all the kelp. The kelp beds also provide shelter for fish and other sea creatures. When the sea otters disappeared from the B.C. coast, kelp forests also suffered.

Luckily, some sea otters had survived in Alaskan waters. Between 1969 and 1979, scientists relocated 89 Alaska sea otters to Checleset Bay on the west coast of Vancouver Island. **Today, this number has grown to nearly 6,000 animals.** Sea otters are still considered a species of “special concern,” but the population appears healthy.

GIVING A HOOT FOR BURROWING OWLS



MARK SHERWOOD

Burrowing owls are one of the most endangered birds in Canada. But a remarkable program of hope and recovery is giving these fragile birds a chance at survival.

As their name suggests, these small owls live in burrows on open grasslands in B.C.'s Okanagan and Interior regions. There are estimated to be only 70 of the birds left in B.C. Over the last few decades, much of their habitat has been lost to human development.

To help the birds, dedicated biologists and volunteers have been operating a captive owl breeding program. They are also building and maintaining **800 artificial burrows for the owls** once they are released.

The project has its challenges. Breeding burrowing owls in captivity and then releasing is not an easy feat. They are very shy and get highly stressed by the mere presence of people. But, while burrowing owls still face an uncertain future, there is hope their numbers will continue to increase.

To learn more about the burrowing owls, visit the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society at burrowingowlbc.org.



ANIMAL ACTION

WHEN THERE'S A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED, **TRUE HEROES** DON'T STOP AT WONDERING HOW THEY CAN HELP. THEY LEARN ABOUT THE ISSUE, FIND SOMETHING THEY CAN DO, **AND THEN DO IT.**

CHECK OUT SOME OF THESE AWESOME - AND MAYBE UNEXPECTED - PROJECTS FROM ORDINARY **KIDS-TURNED-ANIMAL ACTION HEROES:**



Last fall, kids and their families attended a **Cats & Crafts workshop** at the **Kamloops SPCA**. They learned about the issue of cat overpopulation and community cats - and then worked together to take action!

The participants made a total of 40 outdoor cat shelters out of storage containers and warming materials. The shelters were then set up throughout the community to provide safe, dry and warm spaces for cats living outdoors. The heroes who made them, made a true difference for animals.

Want to get in on the action? Look out for upcoming announcements on more workshops to help animals. You can also learn how to make your own cat shelter at spca.bc.ca/cat-shelter.



Hartley made a treat puzzle ball to help her cat battle boredom! She learned that after her cat spent some time sniffing, she worked hard at solving the puzzle to get to the treat! Games like this are great for enriching our pets' lives, and a fun way to spend time together.



James became a hero for animals by initiating a donation collection for his local shelter. He reached out to his community and local pet supply store, gathering a trunk-full of food, cat litter, bedding, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, gift cards, cash - and even a cat carrier! Thanks to James' leadership, animals at the West Kootenay SPCA in Cranbrook have a "paw up" as they await adoption. And James says he can't wait to do it again!



HEROES!



Cara and Megan are heroes for birds! They made butterfly decals to stick on their windows. These decals will prevent injuries to birds who might otherwise only see the reflection of trees or sky and fly into the glass.



Ethan designed a super cool cat kennel with the Five Freedoms in mind! Does this make you think differently about what cats need?

Holly trained her dog using a clicker and positive reinforcement, including treats and plenty of pats and "Good dog!" encouragement. Positive reinforcement is the kindest and most effective way to train a dog – and the method every animal hero uses. Learn more at spca.bc.ca/AnimalKind



Shlok raised money for the BC SPCA and BC Children's Hospital by taking pictures of people and their pets! He charged \$5 per photo and then donated a portion of the proceeds, helping both animals and kids in need.



Jadyn and Luca used humour to tackle an important issue. Together they created and filmed a skit about the importance of not leaving dogs in hot cars. A great project they can now share with their friends.

It's important for pet guardians to have a kit ready in case of emergency! **Oliver** created an emergency backpack filled with blankets, food, toys, medicine and medical records. To make your family's own kit, visit spca.bc.ca/learn-at-home.



Rochelle shared her love of animals while saving materials from the landfill – a hero move for the environment. Here is her upcycled unicorn cat art!

Ready to become an Animal Action Hero? Tell us what you're doing to make life better for animals (with photos if you can!) at kids@spca.bc.ca.

Include your name, age and city. We may feature you in a future issue of Bark! or e-Kids, so you can inspire even more heroes.



Respect me from a distance, please!

WILD Neighbourhoods



Have you ever been walking in your neighbourhood and spotted a family of raccoons scurrying around in a tree? Or watched a deer grazing in the grass at the side of the road? Or closed your eyes and listened to the melody of a songbird singing outside your window? Wildlife is all around us!

The best thing we can do for our wild neighbours is **keep them wild**, and prevent them from becoming dependent on people for their food or shelter. Check out these simple “**Do’s** and **Don’ts**” that can help us peacefully coexist with urban wildlife:

- ✓ **DO** keep your garbage cans, recycling and organics bins cleaned and rinsed so animals aren’t attracted to any leftover scraps or lingering smells.

ILLUSTRATION: SCOTT RITCHIE

Ah, Fin! What'cha feeding those ducks?

Some bread. What's wrong with that?

Bread is seriously harmful to ducks.

Whoa, see those raccoons sneaking upon that family?

I thought raccoons stayed clear of people.

Not when they are used to getting food handouts. That's dangerous.

Kat's right. There is little nutritional value in bread, yet it fills them up. This discourages them from eating the healthy natural foods they need.

When wild animals are used to being fed by people, they lose their fear and get too close. It's called habituation [hab-it-u-a-tion] and can cause wild animals to be aggressive toward people.



✗ DON'T put your garbage can outside the night before pick-up. Instead, put it out on the morning of, so it doesn't give time for animals like skunks or raccoons to help themselves to a snack.



MICHAEL WOODS

✓ **DO** fill your garden with plants like lavender that are attractive to pollinators, like bees. **BONUS!** Deer may be deterred from munching on your garden by plants with powerful aromas.

✗ DON'T give wildlife any opportunity to score an easy meal. Keep pet food stored inside. If you have a backyard bird feeder, clean up any seed that has spilled on to the ground. Keep your barbecue free of any leftover grease or residue after cooking.



✓ **DO** rodent-proof your home to avoid unwanted guests moving in, especially as we head into the colder months of the year. Seal any cracks or holes you find. Remember, a mouse can fit through a hole the size of a dime!

✗ DON'T let your pets chase wild animals. Keep cats indoors to protect birds and other animals (as well as your cat from dangers!).

✓ **DO** respect and enjoy the wondrous wildlife who share our neighbourhoods!





Make a Fleece Forest!

Small animals are little explorers who love a cozy hideaway! A homemade fleece forest is a fun way for rabbits, guinea pigs or other small animals to express natural behaviours (Freedom #5).

You will need:

Plain cardboard box

Clean fleece fabric



Scissors

Marker

Chopstick



1.



Safety tip! Remove any tape, labels or hazards from your cardboard box

STEPS:

1. On one side of your cardboard box, draw and then carefully cut out a doorway big enough for your pet.
2. On the top of the box, use your marker to plan where your fleece "trees" will hang down.
3. **Ask an ADULT to use a sharp object** to cut where you've made your marks. Then, use your chopstick (or a similar object) to open up the holes slightly.
4. Now it's time to make your trees! Cut your fleece fabric into strips. You will need as many as you have holes at the top of your box. They should be as tall as your box, plus a bit extra, as they will be tied at the top.



3.



2.



4.



5.

5. Use your chopstick to push a piece of fleece through a hole, then pull it down. Cut a slit at the top of the fleece and tie a knot, so the strip stays put. Repeat until all of the holes have a strip of fleece hanging down.

Happily EVER After

Happy ending for doggy dozen

Earlier this year, a dozen - *that's 12* - puppies became orphans when their mother disappeared. Thankfully, they were discovered and soon brought to the Williams Lake SPCA.

The four-week-old puppies needed treatment for parasites, vaccinations and special puppy formula to help them become healthy and strong. Plus, each one needed to be spayed or neutered once they were old enough.

It didn't take long for these sweet, playful German shepherd mix puppies to find their forever homes. After some time - and lots of love - with foster families, all 12 were adopted!

We wish many years of tail-wagging good times to this doggy dozen and their people.

After: Adopted into loving homes with new families and playmates!



Before: The A-Team — Angel, Aiden, Adam, Abel, Ava, Archer, Aspen, Alina, Alec, Allie, Alvin, Atlaas.

FROM THE TRASH, TO TREASURED



Cabo



Rosa



Maizie



Storm

When workers at a garbage dump on the Sunshine Coast discovered a litter of kittens, they rushed them to the veterinarian. Abandoned in a dumpster, the newborn kittens had been picked up along a garbage route. They were badly injured. An experienced SPCA foster family cared for them day and night. Regular bottle feedings of special kitten milk replacer helped the little ones recover and grow.

Eventually, the kittens were ready to be adopted. One of them, Cabo, became a "foster fail." Those who cared for him when he so desperately needed it, became his forever family. And each of his siblings also found a loving home. All are truly treasured by their people!



A DOG'S FIVE SENSES

Touch. Hearing. Smell. Taste. Vision.

Touch: Dog whiskers are especially sensitive. They use their whiskers to judge the size and shape of close-up objects. Whiskers even help guide them in the dark. They are as sensitive as your fingertips.



Vision: People used to think dogs only see in black and white. While they don't see the same range of colours we do, they instead see the world in hues of blue and yellow. No wonder dogs have trouble finding a green tennis ball in the grass!

Touch: Born deaf and blind, puppies rely on their sense of touch right from birth to feel their way around. A dog's fur is connected to highly sensitive nerve endings. They can feel the lightest touch, from a fly landing on their backs to the wind blowing across their fur.

Vision: Compared to people, dogs have excellent peripheral (**per-if-er-all**) vision. This means they can detect the slightest movement, an ability passed down from their ancestry as hunters. Dogs also see very well in low light, especially at dawn and dusk.



Taste: Compared to humans, dogs don't have a great sense of taste. In fact, people have about five times more taste buds than a dog - 9,000 compared to only 1,700 in dogs. Maybe this is why dogs seem to eat just about anything that falls on the floor!



Smell – a dog's super

sense! Dogs can detect tiny chemical traces of an odor well beyond what people can. A dog's sense of smell is about 20 times greater than ours. This is why dogs are trained to sniff for explosives, illegal drugs, people buried in avalanches and more.



Photo of Bear's nose, from SPCA summer camper Isla Craig, 9, Vancouver!

Hearing: Dogs have awesome hearing. They can detect sounds from far away, long before we hear them – especially high frequency sounds. This explains why some dogs will bark at the sound of a siren well before we hear it. Dogs are so good at picking up subtle sounds that they can easily tell your footsteps from those of a stranger.

Smell: Dogs are being trained to detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus. Maybe one day COVID-sniffing dogs will be visiting schools.



Touch: Dogs' paws are connected to a concentration of nerves that help them feel their way over unfamiliar surfaces.



Mad, sad and glad

You probably already know that dogs are good at reading our body language to tell what we are feeling. They can tell by our facial expressions if we are scared, sad or happy. Did you know that dogs can also smell our emotions?

Recent research has shown that how we feel is linked to odours dogs can detect. The research had people watch short videos that were either scary or happy. Researchers then gathered their sweat samples, and the samples were presented to dogs. Dogs acted scared when they smelled the fear sample and then showed relaxed, friendly behaviours when sniffing the happy sample. The conclusion? Dogs really can smell our emotions.



Can dogs hear earthquakes coming?

Some researchers believe dogs can hear the sounds of grinding rock deep beneath the earth just before an earthquake. Other animals, including birds, have also been known to behave oddly just before an earthquake hits. Spooky!

Be a citizen scientist with just your phone



At Brackendale, near Squamish, an average of 1,300 eagles are counted each year.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

iNaturalist is a **free phone app** that allows you to easily identify and record all your nature observations. You point and click a picture of a bird, butterfly, mushroom or anything else wild, and **iNaturalist** tells you what you found.



More importantly, when you use the app you are participating in **citizen science** (see definition). Each of your observations is shared with scientists studying the planet's ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms that live and interact with each other. We depend on clean and healthy ecosystems for our own survival. **You are helping the planet** when you use the **iNaturalist** app.

iNaturalist projects

On the **iNaturalist** website you can explore all the nature observation projects from around the globe. School classes, environmental groups and individuals like you can create a project in your community or you can join other projects. A project, for example, can focus on just birds, butterflies or beetles. Or you can collect data on all biodiversity (the entire community of plants and animals).



Tips for nature lovers

- ◆ Always be safe and be aware of your surroundings.
- ◆ Never trespass or explore in areas you aren't allowed.
- ◆ Don't eat wild berries or anything else on nature walks.
- ◆ Never disturb wildlife just to get a picture.
- ◆ Don't feed wildlife (see pages 8 and 9). Plus, it's against the law.



What is citizen science?

Citizen science is research done with the help of public participation. It involves recording observations of plants and animals you see around you. That information is collected into a giant database of observations. Scientists review the data to understand more about the health of ecosystems. Getting your help allows scientists to gather way more data than they could get on their own. That's great news for science!



MARK SHERWOOD

Create your own iNaturalist project!

Whether it's a group of friends, your school class or an animal club, you can set up a project to record the species you see. Setting up a project is easy (though you might want to ask a parent or teacher to help get started).

1. Go to the *iNaturalist* website at [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).
2. Click **"Community"**
3. Select **"Projects"** from the dropdown menu.
4. Select **"Start a Project"** and you're on your way.

Need some ideas? If you do a search of "school," "city," or "marsh" you will see *iNaturalist* projects people have started that focus on a specific place. Type in "butterfly," "whale" or "bat" and you'll see groups collecting data on a particular type of animal.

Get inspired!

To learn more about using *iNaturalist*, watch **How To Identify Any Species in Your Backyard with Nothing But Your Phone**, a fun 10-minute video on [YouTube](#).

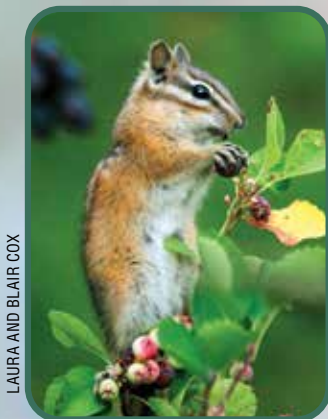


BRITT SWOVELAND

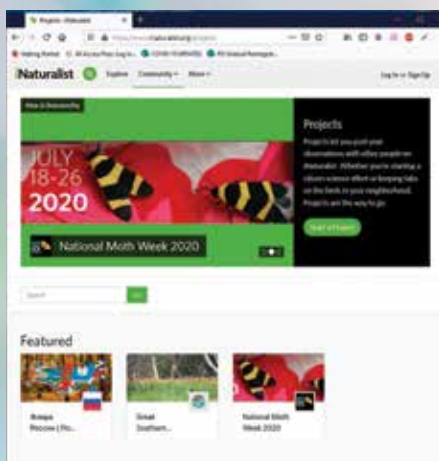
Hide and Seek

Be sure to get your parents' permission to use *iNaturalist*. Why?

Because your observations and their locations are shared with other *iNaturalist* users. This can be a concern. The good news is that you can safely use *Seek* instead. *Seek* is a free, kid-friendly version of *iNaturalist*. *Seek* still uses the same data pool to identify plants and animals, but your *Seek* observations are not shared publicly. You remain hidden! Go to your favourite app store to download.



LAURA AND BLAIR COX



CHRISTINA DOLL



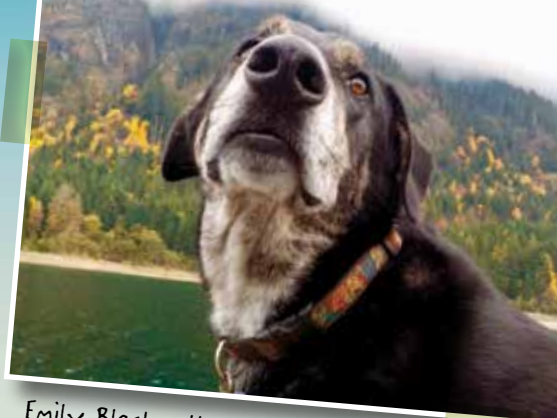
BRUCE TUCK



TANIYA SIMPSON

Fantastic Pet Photos!

In the summer issue of *Bark!* we challenged you to enter our **Pet Photo Contest**. High Paws to everyone who sent in submissions. Your skill, creativity and love for animals shines through in your images.



Emily Blackwell, 12, Black Creek.

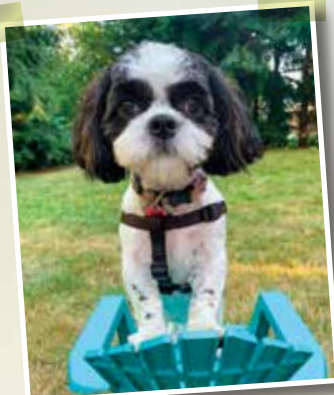


Lucie Rasmussen, 12, North Vancouver.

With so many great photos to choose from, we couldn't pick just one! So, in honour of the **FIVE FREEDOMS** for animals, we selected **FIVE PICTURES** to feature here.



Emma Yakimovich, 9, Victoria.



Camila Wist, 11, Port Moody.



Tyler Hall, 12, and Taryn Hall, 10, West Kelowna.



Love animals? Join the BC SPCA Kids Club today!

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

You'll receive a *Bark!* magazine subscription delivered to your door four times a year, posters, a fun welcome package and a monthly e-Kids Mews!letter - plus other awesome membership perks.

Love animals? Join the BC SPCA Kids Club today! Fill out this form and mail it to:

BC SPCA Kids Club 1245 East 7th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

School: _____ Email: _____

☐ Yes, you can email me e-Kids Mews!letter and other BC SPCA Kids Club updates

☐ **Savings!** Two-year membership (\$25) ☐ One-year membership (\$15) ☐ Cheque payable to BC SPCA

Or by credit card ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Signature: _____

Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

High Paws to
you for printing
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Sign up online at
spca.bc.ca/kidsclub.

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