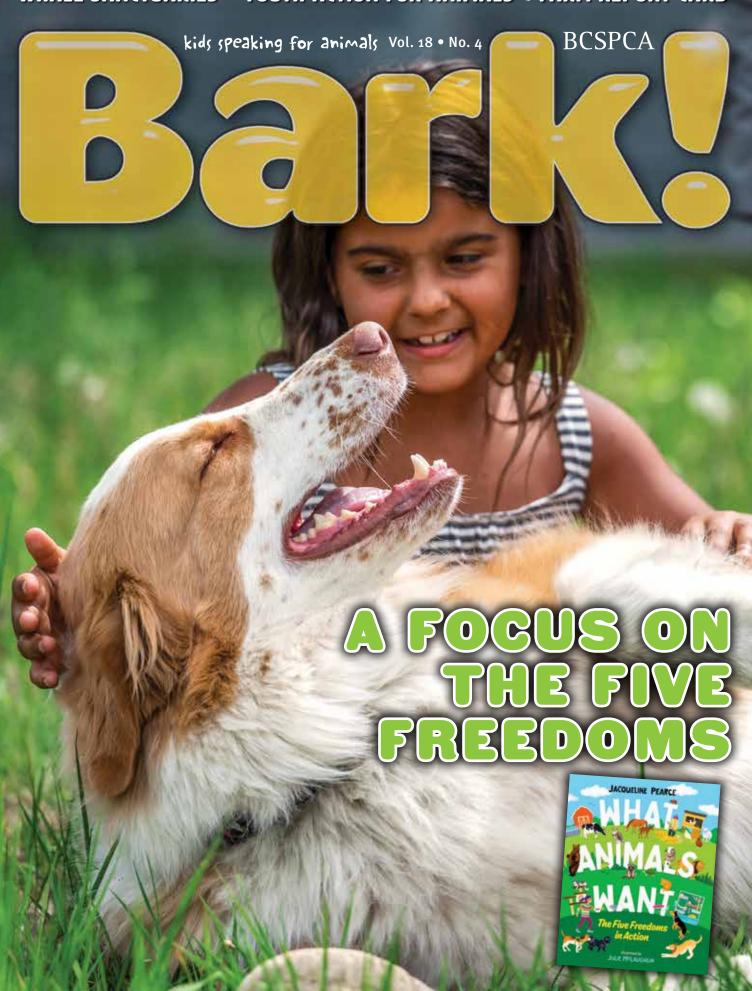
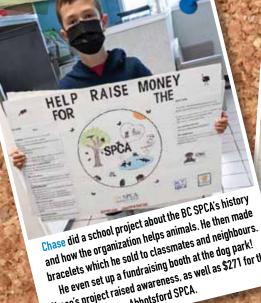
WHALE SANCTUARIES YOUTH ACTION FOR ANIMALS ¥ FARM REPORT CARD





Email your art & photos to us! kids@spca.bc.ca



hase did a school project about the BC SPCA's history
hase did a school project about the BC SPCA's history
hase did a school project about the BC SPCA's history
hase did a school project about the BC SPCA's history
and how the organization helps animals. He then made
raising nearly \$80 for the Parksville SPCA.

Bracelets which he sold to classmates and neighbours.
bracelets which he sold to classmates and serena "picked" a sweet way to help
raising nearly \$80 for the Parksville SPCA.

Chase's project raised awareness, as well as \$271 for the
Abbotsford SPCA.





Tika used her crafting skills to create some beautiful, cozy items for the rabbits and guinea pigs at the West Vancouver SPCA.



Bennett turned eight and thoughtfully donated \$100 in birthday money to the Penticton SPCA.

Pet Pals

For his fourth birthday, Reed collected pet food for animals in need. Reed and his sister, Calla, delivered these thoughtful gifts to the Kelowna SPCA.

CHAMPION

Society Prevention

ruelty to





Ms. Gauley's grade 5/6 class at Rayleigh
Elementary in Kamloops donated \$66.20
from their Young Entrepreneurs Program to
the BC SPCA. They sent the donation along
with a thoughtful card and letter.



We still love our cat ears



Lachlan, Owen and Max dressed up in old Halloween costumes for a super memorable fundraiser! They collected money and

supplies for the Cranbrook SPCA.

Isabella Torrance, 12, from North Vancouver, sent in this photo of her guinea pig, Clover. Isabella brings Clover and her other piggie, Lucky, outside to play safely on the grass.



The Haney Howlers Cub Scouts held a drive-through donation drive for the Maple Ridge SPCA, collecting piles of useful supplies for the shelter.



Kadynce, Makayla and Caleb not only made some other kids really happy by selling some old toys, they also collected \$73.75 for the Powell River SPCA.



care deeply for animals. This begins at home with their dedication to taking good care of their adopted animals, Roofus, Kato, Phil and Lily!



Not only did Journey hold a lemonade stand to fundraise for the Cranbrook SPCA, she and her family also foster animals for the shelter.



Emily and Devon generously donated a bunch of pet food to the Vancouver SPCA. The food was distributed to animals in care and displaced by wildfires, as well as to folks visiting the BC SPCA-run Charlie's pet food bank in Vancouver.



/100 \$

Eight-year-old Corben's juice and freezie stand for animals earned \$50! Corben made the donation at the Campbell River SPCA. where Ford the cat posed with him for a photo.



Creative kids Neve and Elise raised \$239.50 by selling handmade jewelry and drawings. While delivering the donation to the Kamloops SPCA, they took some time to visit with some guinea pigs awaiting adoption.



The drive collected enough recyclables for a refund and donation — of \$120!



SAURPRLY EDUCATION + ASSETTION CTR FOR THE ANIMAS

Janan and Amara decided to hold a donation drive for the Surrey SPCA at their school. In just one week, they and their classmates raised \$130.75 to help animals in need.



Hi, we would like a cat. One that is good with kids. I saw that you have a lot of pets, so we might adopt one.

From, Anisa Duncan, North Vancouver

Thanks for your letter, Anisa! How wonderful that your family is considering adopting a cat. Anyone who is thinking of welcoming a pet into their family can learn more and view adoptable animals at spca.bc.ca/adopt.



After earning \$20 in allowance helping his grandmother with chores, Tanner chose to donate the money to the Comox SPCA.



The Five Freedoms (adapted slightly by the BC SPCA) are:

- 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: by making sure animals have fresh, clean water and the right food to be healthy.
- 2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by taking animals to see a veterinarian when they are sick or injured.
- 3. Freedom from distress: by making sure animals aren't in pain, or feeling scared or bullied by people or other animals.
- 4. Freedom from discomfort: by giving animals a proper, comfortable place to live.
- 5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being: by ensuring animals can do normal, natural behaviours that make them feel good.

THE FIVE FREEDOMS IN ACTION

When we are hungry, we head to the fridge. If we get sick, we go to the doctor. If we are sad, our parents and friends comfort us. When we need exercise, we play sports and games. Our pets rely on us to meet these similar needs. After all, they can't just go to the fridge when they're hungry.

Animal welfare scientists first developed a set of care guidelines, called the **Five Freedoms**, to prevent the suffering of factory farm animals. Today, the **Five Freedom** checklist is used to improve the quality of life for all animals in human care – including our pets.

The following *Bark!* pages explore how the **Five Freedoms** are applied in different situations. We'll show you how we care for cats, dogs and small animals at the BC SPCA. We'll discover how some commercial farms are changing the way they treat their animals to meet the **Five Freedoms**. And we'll look at whales in captivity. Can aquariums provide the **Five Freedoms**?



Looking at animal care through the eyes of animals What Animals Want is a new book by Jacqueline Pearce that explores how animal welfare science helps us unlock how animals think and feel. Using each of the Five Freedoms,

you'll discover what animals really want and need. The book also has lots of inspiring examples of how kids have made a difference for animals.



SMALL STEPS TO FREEDOM(S)

All kinds of animals receive care at BC SPCA facilities — including what we call "small animals" such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, rabbits, gerbils and mice. They're little, but that doesn't mean they deserve their Five Freedoms any less than cats and dogs. They just have unique needs. Here we share steps we take when caring for one small-sized species, gerbils.



Step 1: Hi, roomie! Whenever possible, gerbils are given a "roommate" – a companion of the same sex to

keep them from getting lonely. They can do everything together – eat, play, sleep and even groom each other.

Step 2: Going house-hunting.

The habitat must be large enough that each gerbil has at least one square foot of space to himself.

More space is always better. For two gerbils housed together, a 20-gallon aquarium with a wire mesh lid works well. Efforts are made to place the

habitat in a location that is not too hot or too cold, and away from distressing bright lights and loud noises.

Step 3: Making a home. Staff enhance the habitat with fun things to do like little houses, hanging toys, ramps and an exercise wheel (solid, not wire, to keep delicate feet safe). Items to chew –

such as pieces of cardboard – are added to provide a way to wear down continuously growing front teeth. Aspen wood shavings, shredded paper or carefresh® bedding keep the space comfy. Making a deep layer lets gerbils burrow, which they need, and scattering material like toilet paper encourages nesting behaviour. Everyone prefers a clean home, and luckily gerbils don't make too much smelly mess. Their habitat is fully cleaned every two weeks.

Step 4: Let's eat! Gerbils are fed special rodent food as their main diet, plus a small amount of fruits, veggies, nuts and seeds. They also get (limited) treats. Plain popcorn and cereal are favourites. Of course, fresh water is always available, in a sipper bottle as water dishes can slosh and soak everything.



their usual habitat. This might be a plastic tub lined with a towel and filled with paper bags, toilet paper rolls and other objects to climb in and over. Many gerbils enjoy gentle handling – crawling into cupped hands from the ground of their own accord. This is a good time for staff to observe

any changes in the gerbil, so they can receive necessary treatment. Gerbils are taken to the vet for check-ups, just like any animal at the BC SPCA.





Learn more about the specific care needs of different small animals at spca.bc.ca/small-pet-care.

Meeting the needs of shelter cats

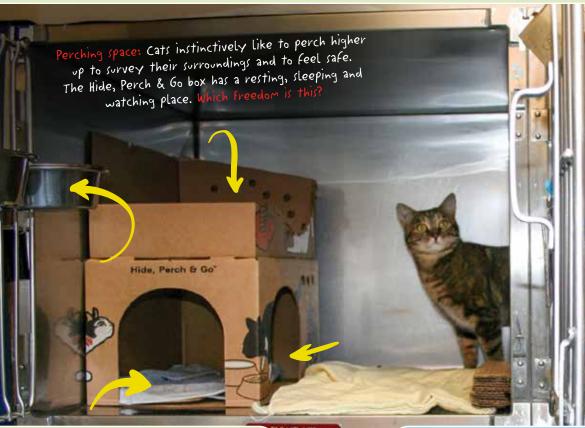
Match the photos with the Freedoms

roviding cats the **Five Freedoms** at BC SPCA shelters is a top priority. Shelters can be scary places for cats. Why? Everything they have known from their previous home changes in a shelter. And most cats don't like change. Their food, living space and daily routine are all new and different. So are the sounds, smells and the people caring for them.

The BC SPCA has carefully designed its cat rooms using animal welfare science and by "thinking like a cat" to help cats adjust as quickly as possible. Let's take a look around a shelter cat room. Can you match each point listed around the pictures with the correct Freedom? (Hint: see page 4 for the list of Freedoms.)



Nose to tail: The moment cats arrive they get a health check. Staff look for illnesses or injuries and assess their personality (temperament). They receive up-to-date vaccinations, parasite medicines (for fleas, worms and ticks) and microchip ID. If they need medical care, they are taken to the vet. Which freedom is this?





food and water: Notice how the food and water bowls are mounted on the cage? This makes it easier for the cats to eat and drink and prevents spills. Staff record how much each cat eats each day. They also record if they are going to the bathroom properly!

Which freedom is this?

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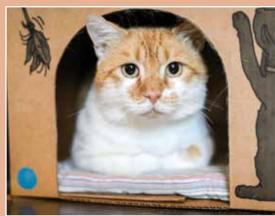
scared cats: Highly stressed cats won't eat, sleep or even go to the bathroom at first. To feel safe they look for a place to hide. The special Hide, Perch & Go box gives them a hiding place. There are two doors so they have a choice if they feel they need to exit. Having choice is very important for animals living in confined spaces—it helps them relax.

Which Freedom is this?



Comfort and space: To make anxious cats more comfortable, staff place them in the upper row of cages. They feel more secure higher up. Some really scared cats might also have a curtain across the cage for extra privacy.

Which Freedom is this?



Being a cat: When shelter cats feel safe and relaxed they will start to groom themselves. Staff watch to make sure they perform this and other natural behaviours like stretching, scratching and playing with toys. Well-adjusted cats will also rub their scent with their cheeks onto surfaces to mark their space. Which freedom is this?

Calm and quiet: As much as they can in a busy shelter, staff keep noise levels low so cats aren't spooked. Calming music helps, as does keeping cats and dogs as separate as possible. Cats also get a cozy towel. Which freedom is this?

litter box near where they eat and sleep. So cat cages have a tunnel to another room for bathroom breaks. Having this extra room also gives them more space to exercise within a small area.

Which freedom is this?

mes I do à real right de l'a

Going home: When a cat is adopted, the Hide, Perch & Go box from their enclosure transforms into a carry box. Once home, the new guardian converts the carrier back into a hide and perch box. Because the box is familiar to the cat (it has the cat's smells) it makes it easier for the cat to adjust to her new home.

Which Freedom is this?





ogs come into BC SPCA shelters for many different reasons. Lost or stray dogs, who need to be reunited with their families, or who need a home. Surrendered dogs whose guardians can no longer care for them. Or dogs who are seized from a dangerous situation.

Each dog has their own story and unique needs, which means every dog has a shelter care plan designed just for them. But there is one thing that is the same for every animal in our shelters – their care is designed to provide the Five Freedoms.





Nice to meet you

When a dog first comes into the shelter, BC SPCA staff learn everything they can about her. Whenever possible, they ask the guardian about the dog's history and personality. Then she gets a physical exam to check for any signs of injury, sickness or parasites. She also has a temperament test. This helps staff learn more about her personality and behaviour.

Collecting this information allows shelter staff to plan for any medical treatment that is necessary to ensure a dog is healthy. It also helps staff in designing the dog's care plan. This specialized plan is followed to make sure all the physical and emotional needs of the dog are being met.

Getting comfortable

Being in a shelter can be scary for some dogs. There are lots of new sights, sounds and smells. Plus there are new people and other animals they are not used to. Staff and volunteers work hard to help each dog feel comfortable and content during their stay in the shelter.



Every dog's kennel includes comfortable bedding, fresh water and enriching toys or chews to keep them from getting bored. Staff and volunteers spend as much time as possible with each dog. They cuddle, play and groom the dogs in their kennels. Dogs also have time outside in the yard where they can run and explore, sometimes with other compatible canines from the shelter. And of course, going for plenty of walks is a favourite activity of many dogs!

Meal time

Providing a healthy, consistent diet is important for shelter dogs. It reduces stomach upset. The BC SPCA

partners with Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada, a pet food company. Hill's provides food for all the dogs and cats in our shelters. Some dogs get specialized Hill's diets for allergies, sensitive stomachs and other health needs. Even our foster families feed the same Hill's food.

Transforming Lives™



Sometimes dogs in care need a special place to stay outside of the shelter. Dogs who are recovering from medical procedures, who need extra attention or are too stressed to stay in the shelter, are placed in a foster home. The BC SPCA has a network of foster homes all around the province. Foster

volunteers welcome animals into their homes for a period of days, weeks or months. During this time, they provide the care, support, socialization and love that a dog needs until she is ready to be adopted.

The BC SPCA could not do the work we do without the support of our amazing foster network. Learn more about fostering at spca.bc.ca/foster.

Forever homes

While dogs are in SPCA care, our staff and volunteers work hard to provide each of them with the Five Freedoms. Our goal is to find loving "forever" homes for the dogs in our care. Our adoption counsellors help people wishing to adopt make the right match between the dog and a loving home. One that will continue to provide her with the Five Freedoms, plus lots of love, for many happy years together.





ost farm animals on commercial farms, like pigs, broiler chickens and egg-laying hens, don't have great welfare according to the Five Freedoms. Let's look at battery cage egg-laying hens to see how they score.

✓ Grade: A – Food and water: Providing fresh, clean water and nutritious food is top of mind for egg farmers. Good job!

\checkmark Grade: B - Pain, injury and disease:

Farmers are very concerned about the health of their hens, especially from diseases. Called bio-security, farmers ensure visitors wear protective gear. This helps safeguard the hens from diseases like avian flu. Where farms need to improve is on making sure injured and bullied birds get prompt medical care.

X Grade: D - Discomfort: About two-thirds of all hens in Canada live in battery cages - rows of small, side-by-side cages stacked up. Each cage houses five to eight hens. Each bird only has the floor space of the size of this magazine - not much! To make matters worse, hens spend their entire lives standing on wire mesh floors. The only comfort comes in that the temperature in the barn is kept stable, and huge fans circulate fresh air.

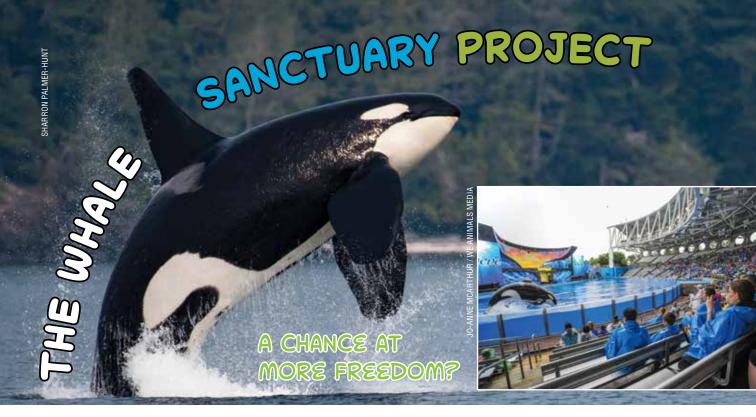
X Grade: D - Distress: Since hens lay nearly an egg a day, they get agitated and frustrated searching for a non-existent nest box. Plus, being stuck in such a small space with other birds means they are constantly stressed trying to move around. Often birds are pecked and bullied by their cage mates.

Crade: F - Natural behaviours: A huge welfare FAIL! This is the most overlooked Freedom for battery-caged hens. They can't do most of their natural behaviours. There are **no nest boxes**. **No ground** to peck and scratch. No perches to sleep at night. There are no areas to dustbathe to clean their feathers, much less room to stretch their wings!



Freedom-friendly alternatives for hens

Getting hens out of battery cages is the best way egg farmers can improve the welfare of egg-laying hens. It is encouraging that more and more farmers are switching to cage-free housing systems. By law, egg farmers will have to switch to larger cages by 2036. If this seems like a long time, your family can help speed the process by only buying cage-free eggs. A higher demand means more farmers will convert sooner.



round the world, whales and dolphins suffer daily in aquariums where their Five Freedoms just can't be met. Some land animals from zoos and circuses are lucky to live their remaining years in sanctuaries with lots of space. But what about marine animals? Where can they go?

Above: a social orca communicating with members of her pod in their wild ocean home. Inset: a captive orca trained by a whistle and treat system to jump on command for human entertainment.

WHALES IN THE WILD

In their natural ocean habitat, orcas, dolphins and belugas all live in close family groups, called pods. They freely swim, dive, explore, play and rest. They navigate, communicate and catch their own food using

echolocation – sending out calls to bounce off food, friends and obstacles. The real world offers variety and poses challenges that allow them to use their complex brains as they are meant to be used.



GENEVIEVE BOCK-CARON

BUILDING A MARINE SANCTUARY

The Whale Sanctuary Project wants to change the world for whales like Kiska. The idea is to use an ocean bay with a mesh net at the end to close the space. The chosen location is Port Hilford Bay in Nova Scotia. Once built, the sanctuary will include 100 acres of water space – more than 500 times the size of Kiska's tank – with enough depth for diving and exploring. The whales will be monitored and provided medical care but would live in as natural a place as possible – finally getting their Five Freedoms.

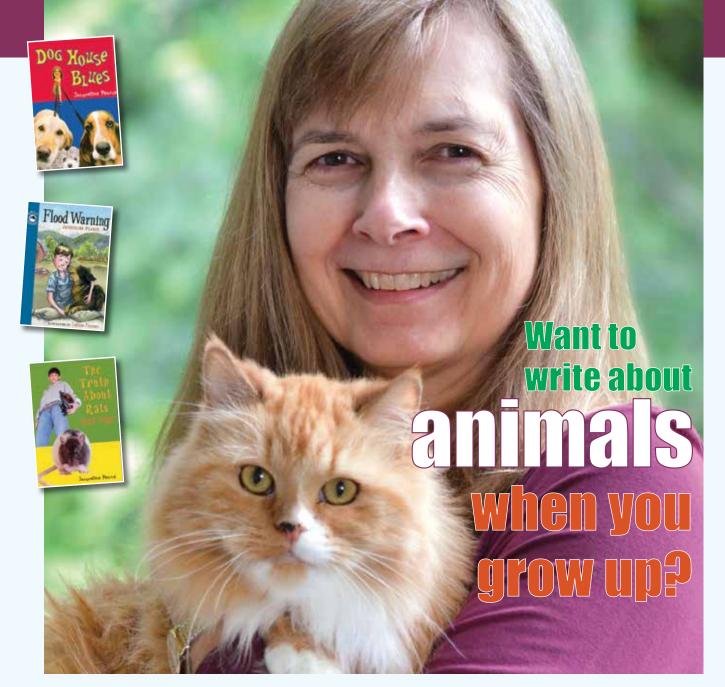
The sanctuary team hopes to welcome whales in 2022 – and see more like it built around the world in years to come. Learn more at whalesanctuaryproject.org.

KISKA'S STORY

Captured in the wild near Iceland at age three, 45-year-old Kiska is an orca at a marine park here in Canada. She has outlived all five of her babies and now lives alone in a small concrete tank. While it is illegal in Canada (since 2019) to keep whales and dolphins in captivity, the marine park is allowed to keep Kiska because she already lived there. Kiska spends her days floating in place and moving in slow circles. She deserves better, but having lived most of her life this way, she would not survive back in the open ocean. What other options does Kiska – and all the other whales at marine parks – have?

Kiska floating in her tank at Marineland, Niagara Falls, Ontario.





Jacqueline Pearce is a writer whose work includes both fiction and nonfiction focused on animals. We talked to her about her new book, the pets that have inspired her and the advice she has for aspiring writers.

Tell us about your new book, What Animals Want: The Five Freedoms in Action.

What Animals Want uses the Five Freedoms and examples from the latest animal science to help kids think about what animals need to have a healthy and happy life - from the right food and home, to healthcare, comfort and doing things animals like to do.

What inspired you to write the book?

I've always loved nature and animals. I have a degree in environmental studies and have worked in environmental and humane education. My family and I have adopted and fostered many animals over the years including guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils, rats, dogs and cats. When the BC SPCA asked me to

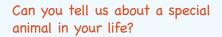
work with them on a book about how to improve the lives of pets and other animals, I thought it was a great idea.

What other books have you written about animals?

My novel *Dog House Blues* is about a girl who lives in a house full of dogs. The Truth About Rats (and Dogs) is about a boy who wants to get a dog, but ends



up secretly looking after a rat. Pets, farm animals and wild animals are also important in many of my other novels, too. I've also written some articles about animals for kids' magazines, and I once wrote a story about a cat for Smuckers Jam, which was given to people who bought



jars of jam at grocery stores.

When I was about ten or so, I had a fluffy black and white cat named Spooky. She used to come when I whistled - just like a dog. Right now I have a fluffy orange cat called Curious who is over ten years old, but she still looks like a kitten. Sometimes she walks across my computer keyboard when I'm trying to write. Other times, she likes to curl up under a blanket. She also has a special meow when she's thirsty and wants me to turn the bathroom tap on for her.

Did you always want to be a writer? How did you get started?

I loved to read books (especially fantasies and adventures), and I started wanting to write stories of my own in about grade 5. When I was twelve, my local newspaper published a poem I'd written, but it took many more years before my first novel was published.





Opposite page: Jacquie and Curious. Above, from left: a typical day at the dog park!; along with her cat, spooky, Jacquie also remembers her beloved childhood dog, Corky; Oscar the rat rubbing noses with Jacquie.

What is your favourite thing about being a writer?

One of my favourite things is doing research (which I do whether I'm writing fiction or nonfiction). I've learned about all kinds of strange and interesting things for story research, including how to ride a horse, how to teach a rat to jump through a hoop and how to fire an antique musket. When I was researching What Animals Want, I learned a few things that surprised me. Did you know that pigs like to build nests, or that whales can get sunburned?

What advice do you have for kids who want to be writers?

There are lots of different types of writing you can do - from writing fiction and nonfiction books, to news reports, magazine articles, blogs posts, TV and film scripts and more. Write about what interests you (whether it's animals or any other topic), and try to tell your story or give your information in a way that will make it come alive for your readers.

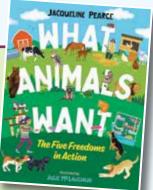
What Animals Want Contest

How do you (or *would* you, if don't have a pet) provide the Five Freedoms to your own animals at home?

Tell us, and you will be entered to win one of 50 signed copies of What Animals Want: The Five Freedoms in Action.

Send your entry to BC SPCA Kids Club, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1 or email kids@spca.bc.ca with the subject line "What Animals Want Contest."

This contest is open to Bark! readers ages 13 and under and closes November 30, 2021.







You can make a difference

Want to make a positive impact in the world?

Get inspired with these stories of youth using their creativity and unique talents to help animals.

Lego for charity

Andrew has a passion for LEGO® and a love for animals. He and his sister, Annora, co-founded **Lego for Charity**. Their goal is to raise money to support local animal organizations, including the BC SPCA. **Lego for Charity** collects donations of previously enjoyed LEGO, and buys used pieces for sale.

Using his creativity and talent for LEGO, Andrew repurposes these pieces into new sets. They are packaged and sold online and at in-person events.

Annora uses her social media, marketing and management skills to grow the organization. **Lego for Charity** has connected with many local businesses who are excited to support their mission.

Andrew and Annora are making an incredible difference for animals. They are also considering other ways to support their community by donating LEGO to local charities.

Learn more: legoforcharity.com / FB: Legoforcharity IG: lego_for_charity



Climb for Climate Change

When Cody was 10, he set out on an epic adventure with his mom, Megan, to make a difference for animals and the environment. Cody and Megan planned to walk from Gibsons to Powell River, B.C.

Their goal was to raise \$10,000 for the B.C. Sustainable Energy

Association and \$20,000 for the Sunshine Coast SPCA. They worked hard planning and preparing for their 115km walk, and spreading the word in their community to meet their fundraising goal.

With the support of family, friends and their community, Cody and Megan began their journey. They were met with challenges along the way – rain, cold temperatures and pain. But their determination, passion and support for one another kept them going. They completed their journey in record time, and they exceeded their fundraising goals!

Because of their generosity, the Sunshine Coast SPCA was able to install a brand new solar roof!

When asked for advice for other young people who want to make a difference, Cody encourages others to set their mind to a goal, and to believe they can achieve it.

Learn more about Cody and his Climb for Climate Change at climbforcc.org.



The Little Red Barn Micro Sanctuary

When Jessica was in grade 8, she designed a science fair project to find out if children could be taught empathy and compassion toward animals and the environment. Her research showed that many people do not connect the animals they eat as food to the sentient (able to feel) beings they are.

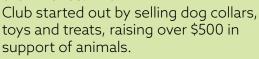
Jessica saw the need for people to connect with farm animals, helping them understand that every animal is "someone, not something." So along with her family, Jessica created the **Little Red Barn Micro Sanctuary** in Winnipeq, MB.

Little Red Barn rescues farm animals who may otherwise be headed for slaughter. Some of the animals live their lives at the barn, and others are lovingly rehomed. Visitors are welcome to the barn, where they are able to connect one-on-one with the animals.

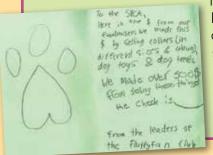
Jessica is continuing her research on the connections between humans and farm animals. She is also expanding the work of the **Little Red Barn** by virtually meeting with students across the country. Jessica recently presented to campers at the BC SPCA's summer camps. She is truly making a difference in the lives of the animals at the **Little Red Barn**. And through education, she is creating incredible change.

FluffyFan Club

Kiera is passionate about making the world a better place for animals, so she founded the **FluffyFan Club**. Members include her brother, Aidan, and many of their friends. The



The FluffyFan Club is also passionate about the important issue of puppy mills. They created a slideshow on the cruelty behind puppy mills which they shared with their community. The Club also wrote a



letter to the Prime Minister of Canada to share their concerns (and they received a reply!).





This school year, discover how you can make the world a better place for animals! Ask your teacher to invite the BC SPCA into your classroom for a live virtual presentation (in-person presentations will also be available in some B.C. school districts).

Together with your classmates, learn about animals and important animal welfare issues - and explore how you can make a difference.

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Presentations are available for classes K-12.

Learn more at spca.bc.ca/classroom-presentations.

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

The Kids Club unites youth like YOU who LOVE ANIMALS.

You'll get Bark! magazine delivered to your door four times a year, 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			a Pa
○ Sign up for the Kids Club \$20 ○ Cheque payable to BC SPCA or by credit card, info below please			
○ Amex ○ Visa ○ Mastercard Signature:			
Number:	Expir	y Date:	
Name on Card:			
Parent or Guardian's Name:			Sign up online at spca.bc.ca/kidsclub.

BCSPCA





Who needed a nap after creating this issue:

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