

EXPLORING EMOTIONS  PRINCETON RESCUE  ABUZZ WITH BEES

kids speaking for animals Vol. 18 • No. 1

BCSPCA

Bark!



Winter Responsibilities

BCSPCA

Providing the Five Freedoms

High Paws

KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



Q: What is a cat's favourite colour?
A: PURRple.



Eleven-year-old Hailex made a sweet contribution to the lives of animals in Campbell River! She raised \$62.45 through selling baked goods, which she gave to the SPCA.



Zihya held a garage sale to benefit the Nanaimo SPCA. She sold \$40 worth of stuff and donated the money to the shelter—brightening the days of both her customers and animals in need.



The students of Dallas Elementary School raised \$300 through their Return-It recycling program for the Kamloops SPCA. On behalf of their school, Jacob, Liam, Conner, Cruz and Carter posed for a picture and made the donation to SPCA volunteer Lisa.



Letterbox

(letters to the editor)

Dear BC SPCA,

I have a lovebird named Towa. She is around 12 years old. Older than me! I have a *Bark!* subscription and read my *Bark!* magazines over and over again. The tips are pawsome (pun intended) and fun to read. I learn a lot from *Bark!* so thank you for making it!

From, Jennie Friars, 10, Nanaimo

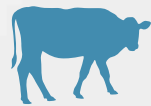
P.S. Can you make a pet joke month?

You guys are quacking me up!



Q: Why are cats so good at video games?
A: Because they have nine lives!

Q: What animal says "DOM"?
A: A cow walking backwards!



Q: What kind of bird works at a construction site?
A: A crane!



What a great idea! We've included some animal jokes on these pages.

Readers, send your jokes to kids@sPCA.bc.ca and we may share them in a future issue!



We're "flipping" out for Ava, Mislal, Mia and Ellie! These awesome girls put on a gymnastics program where they collected donations for the Shuswap SPCA.

Q: What do you call a horse that lives next door to you?
A: Your neighbour!

Hey kids! – Send your letters, artwork and photos for Litterbox, Pet Pals or High Paws to:

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

Email: kids@spca.bc.ca



Q: Why are dogs like phones?

A: Because they have collar IDs!



For several years now, Kinlee (holding the kitten in this photo) has been asking for donations to the Fort St. John SPCA instead of birthday presents. And this year she did it again! What a wonderful way to share the happiness of a turning a year older.



Milo saved up \$67 to buy a LEGO set, but then decided there was something he'd rather use the money for – helping animals! He also sold some of his artwork by donation, bringing the total to \$106 for the Victoria SPCA.



Ava, Micah and two of their friends used their creative skills to help animals. They sold unique crafts like handmade birdhouses and painted driftwood, raising \$40 for the Nelson SPCA.



Mice Peaches and Cream enjoyed a visit from Emily, who donated her lemonade stand earnings to the Cranbrook SPCA.



Kenzie, 10, and Jonie, 8, kindly donated \$35 from their lemonade stand to the Kelowna SPCA.



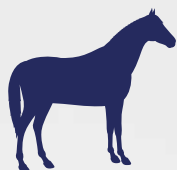
Marina, Avery and Sage worked together to host a neighbourhood bake sale for animals. They raised \$56.25 for the West Vancouver SPCA. Sweet!



Rowan set up an awesome roadside stand to sell lemonade, freezies and baked goods by donation. He raised \$100 for the Nanaimo SPCA.



This gift no doubt caused some purring and some wagging tails at the Vancouver SPCA! Rosie and Olive collected toys and supplies for the shelter to make the animals' stays more comfortable.



Q: How do horses stay in such great shape?

A: They eat a stable diet!

Frosty Five Freedoms

Have you heard about the **Five Freedoms**? To ensure animals receive the care they need to be happy and healthy, people use the Five Freedom guidelines (see sidebar, right).

All year round, we must provide the animals in our care with the Five Freedoms. But in winter, when the weather changes and the temperature drops, we may need to think a little differently about how to accomplish this!

Meet **Hazelnut**. Hazelnut is a seven-year-old mare who lives on a farm in Quesnel, B.C. All year round, Hazelnut relies on her guardians to provide her with the things she needs to live a good life. Things like nutritious food, clean water, shelter and veterinary care. But in the winter, as the temperature dips below freezing and snow blankets the farm, Hazelnut's guardians need to give some extra special care to meet all her needs.



Imagine you left a glass of water outside in the **freezing cold**. In a few short hours you would come back to find an icy popsicle instead of a refreshing drink! And it's the same for Hazelnut. Her caregivers have to make sure her water always stays fresh and drinkable, and does not freeze. What's more, Hazelnut's body will use more energy to stay warm in the chilly conditions, so she will need extra food to give her this energy. This is providing the first freedom – **Freedom from hunger and thirst**. Hazelnut will also need a dry, covered place to sleep – **Freedom from discomfort**.

Diesel is an 11-year-old **corgi-terrier** who lives in Victoria, B.C. One of Diesel's **all-time favourite things to do** is to go for long walks around his neighbourhood with his guardian, Amir.

In the wintertime, Amir knows he has to **pay extra special attention** on his walks with Diesel, as the sidewalks are sprinkled with **salt or ice melting chemicals** to prevent them from getting slippery. While they are walking, Amir keeps a watchful eye on Diesel

to make sure that he **isn't licking up the ice melt**, which could make him sick. When they get home from their walk, Amir takes special care to **wipe off all of Diesel's paws so there are no chemicals left behind**, which can irritate his skin (or worse, can even cause a burn).

Amir is ensuring Diesel is receiving **Freedom from discomfort and Freedom from pain, injury and disease!**



The Five Freedoms of animal care

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



Daisy is a chicken who lives on a farm in Maple Ridge, B.C. In this part of the province, the winter can bring some snow. It also brings lots of rain to the farm. On dark, cold and rainy winter days, Daisy and the other chickens on the farm may not be able to leave their barn to spend time doing the things they love to do outside, like **scratching**, **dust bathing** and **foraging**. At this time of year, it is especially important for her farmers to provide extra opportunities for **enrichment** in the barn, like interesting new spaces to **dust bathe** and **perch**, and even **toys** for the chickens to play with – **Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being!**

A chilly challenge:

The Singh family in Kamloops have a cattle farm. In the winter it can drop to -15 degrees C. What things can they do to make sure their cattle get the Five Freedoms?

Write down or draw your ideas, and send them to us by March 15, 2021 at kids@spca.bc.ca, with **A chilly challenge** in the subject line, or mail them to:

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

Please include your name and age. We may include your submission in an upcoming issue of *Bark!*.





One of three rescued cats receives much-needed love and attention from an SPCA staff member.

Because so many animals needed care, SPCA **transfer drivers** rushed them to several different facilities. **SPCA staff**, including **veterinarians** and **animal behaviourists**, began working around the clock. First, they assessed each animal's injuries and illnesses. Then, every animal received ongoing care, whether at a vet hospital, SPCA shelter or foster home.

Many of the puppies – which included Labrador retrievers, Dalmatians, Corgis, Great Pyrenees, King Charles spaniels, Yorkies, Maltese, poodles and Australian cattle dogs – tested positive for canine parvovirus. Parvovirus is a disease that spreads rapidly and makes dogs very sick, causing extreme dehydration. Untreated it is life-threatening.

A TEAM EFFORT

Rescuing and caring for 97 animals

It began with a call from a **concerned citizen**.

The BC SPCA answered the call, and **animal protection officers** went to investigate.

What did they find?

Lack of shelter for some animals. Dirty, overcrowded and stuffy spaces for others. Dangerous objects lying around. Dogs kept on chains with no water bowls nearby, some so skinny their bones showed through their skin.

The animals needed proper care and medical treatment, fast. Officers carried out a search warrant at the property in Princeton, B.C., to take 97 animals into emergency care. They included 46 puppies, 21 adult and senior dogs, 27 horses and three cats.





With time in SPCA care, this horse is on the road to recovery.

Preventing parvovirus

Parvovirus can be easily prevented with vaccinations. Sadly, the dogs rescued in Princeton had not been vaccinated, and were instead left to suffer. Parvovirus especially affects young dogs between six weeks and six months old. **That is why it is so important for puppies to see a vet and have all their vaccinations.**



With each day, and so many people united in helping the animals, their

conditions improved. **Volunteer foster families** stepped in to provide temporary homes so the animals could get better and experience the Five Freedoms. To be safe, warm, fed, cared for. Loved.

Soon, all of the animals would be placed for adoption into forever homes. As BC SPCA **chief prevention and enforcement officer**,

Marcie Moriarty, says, "These animals have been through so much and we want to give them every chance to survive and have a safe and wonderful life."

Thirty-three puppies and one adult dog from the rescue required emergency treatment for parvovirus. With so many needing 24-hour care, and limited space at the animal hospital, SPCA shelters turned into parvovirus wards. Dedicated **staff** wearing Tyvek suits (to protect workers from the virus) took shifts to monitor and treat the puppies at all hours of the day and night.

Tragically, despite the best efforts of their care teams, some of the puppies did not survive. One horse in distress also, sadly, did not make it. For the rest of the animals, treatment continued, with medical costs reaching more than \$100,000. **Donors** gave generously to help cover the costs.



Growing healthier and more confident every day. This pup loves to run, smell and play with her new buddy — then enjoy a cuddle and a nap afterwards.



Making the call

If your family is concerned about the welfare of an animal, make the call to the **BC SPCA Cruelty Hotline: 1-855-622-7722.**





Left: display boxes filled with exotic snakes at a reptile show.

Some exotics make people sick

Forty years ago, **red-eared turtles** were popular pets. For a time, it seemed everyone had a baby turtle. Then people started getting sick. It was discovered that turtles carry **salmonella bacteria**, which gives people diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps. Because so many people got sick, many countries banned red-eared turtles as pets. Studies show that 85 per cent of turtles, 77 per cent of lizards, and 92 per cent of snakes carry salmonella.

Hedgehogs

can also carry the bacteria.



Exotics can carry and transmit other illness, too. **Prairie dogs**

were another recent pet fad. But they gave some people **monkeypox**, a rare disease that causes fever, headaches, muscle pain and a rash all over the body. Another popular exotic pet, **sugar gliders**, mentioned earlier spread **leptospirosis** [**lep-toe-spir-o-sis**], a disease that causes fever and liver and kidney problems.

Lowering the risk

Exotic pets are not recommended, but if you have one (perhaps a **snake**, a **turtle** or a **gecko**), here's what to do:

- Always wash your hands immediately after touching
- Never kiss or snuggle your pet
- Keep habitats and toys clean

What about our cats and dogs?

Our cats and dogs can also spread disease or transfer parasites, but the risk is much lower than with exotics. Your vet will help you control **fleas**, **ticks** and **worms** and keep your pets disease-free. Keeping your pets healthy also helps keep you healthy.

KEEPING EXOTIC WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

Scientists think that people first caught COVID-19 from close contact with wild animals who were infected with a similar virus. COVID has made people stop and think about our activities with wild animals and exotic pets.

Exotic pets can spell trouble

Millions of exotic pets like **pangolins**, **parrots**, **frogs** and **snakes** are plucked from the wild and sold as pets, food or other products. The animals are transported from countries around the world. Many will suffer and die in transportation. Some will eventually end up in local pet shops.

Why should you avoid exotic pets?

Think twice before bringing an exotic pet into your home. While



Baby red-eared turtles.

sugar gliders or **turtles** are amazing animals to watch, keeping them as pets denies them the natural, full life they would experience in the wild. Ensuring they get the **Five Freedoms** in our care is difficult (and expensive). They can also spread disease.

T/F The most popular wild animal traded in the world is the pangolin.

Sadly, true. These gentle insect eaters are hunted for their scales. The scales are thought to have special medicinal qualities. When threatened, pangolins roll into a ball, using their scales as protective armor. But rolling into a ball also makes it easier for wildlife traffickers to pick them up and carry them away.



Get to know the BC SPCA

The BC SPCA has been helping B.C.'s most vulnerable animals since 1895. Test your knowledge of the BC SPCA by completing this crossword. With a grown-up's permission, check out our website, spca.bc.ca, to help you find the answers.



CONTEST ALERT!

Unscramble the letters found in each of the **yellow** boxes in this crossword to reveal the answer to the question below.

In what city was the BC SPCA's first branch located? _____, B.C.

Send your answer to us at kids@spca.bc.ca using the subject Winter Word Scramble and you will be entered in a draw to win an official BC SPCA winter scarf! Be sure to include your full name and mailing address with your entry. Contest deadline is February 26, 2021.

Across

4. Our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, _____ and wild animals in B.C.
5. The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of _____ to Animals.
6. The number of freedoms of animal welfare. _____
8. The BC SPCA's wildlife rehabilitation centre on Vancouver Island is called Wild _____.
9. Name of the e-newsletter sent out to Kids Club members every month. _____
11. We give our stamp of approval to animal-related businesses who uphold the highest standards of animal welfare. Our welfare accreditation program is called Animal _____.
12. There are many animals in our shelters across the province who need loving homes, so we say, "Don't shop, _____!"
13. In 2020, the BC SPCA celebrated its 125th _____.

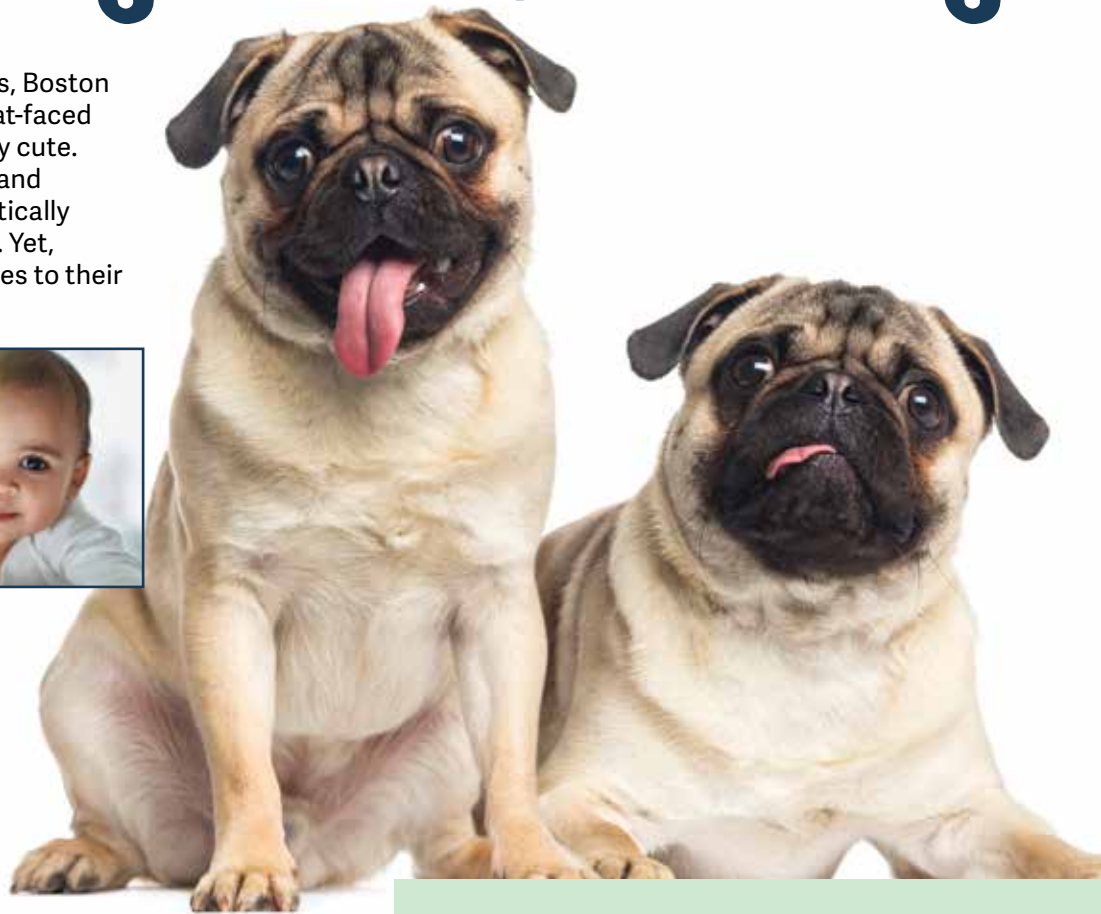
Down

1. Each year the BC SPCA welcomes kids across the province for a week of fun and learning at _____ camp!
2. Pet overpopulation is an issue in some areas around the province. Every year we transfer more than 4,000 animals between our shelters through our Drive for _____ program, to ensure they find their forever homes.
3. The BC SPCA has a network of _____ families who temporarily care for animals in their own homes before they are ready to be adopted.
7. We have more than 5,000 dedicated _____ who freely give their time to make the world a better place for animals.
10. To prevent pet overpopulation, the BC SPCA operates two _____/Neuter clinics.

GET TO KNOW THE BC SPCA ANSWERS!
Across: 4. FARM; 5. CRUELTY; 6. FIVE; 8. ARC; 9. EKIDS; 11. KIND; 12. ADOPT; 13. ANNIVERSARY
Down: 1. SUMMER; 2. LIVES; 3. FOSTER; 7. VOLUNTEERS; 10. SPAY

Think **carefully** before getting a **flat**-faced dog

Pugs, bulldogs, boxers, Boston terriers and other flat-faced dogs are wonderfully cute. Their loving personalities and adorableness have dramatically increased their popularity. Yet, there are welfare downsides to their cuteness.



Why we love them: Breeding for looks, not welfare

Often people are attracted to flat-faced animals **because they look like human baby faces**. Seeing them triggers positive emotions and a desire to care for them. If you have a flat-faced dog you likely share this impulse. Despite making wonderful companions, you might not know there are **health issues that underlie their cuteness**.

Pugs snore and more!

Pugs, and other flat-faced dogs, have smaller nostrils and shorter airways than normal dogs. This causes **difficulty breathing**, especially when exercising or in hot weather.

When they sleep their airways relax and their breathing becomes even more difficult. This is why they **snore**! It might seem amusing but many flat-faced dogs need surgery just to allow them to breathe easier. The **struggle to breathe** properly can prevent the deep sleep they need.



16 DOG BREEDS WITH FLAT FACES

- Affenpinscher
- Boston terrier
- Boxer
- Brussels griffon
- Bulldog
- Bullmastiff
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- English mastiff
- English toy spaniel
- French bulldog
- Japanese chin
- Neapolitan mastiff
- Pekingese
- Pug
- Shih Tzu
- Tibetan spaniel



FLAT-FACED DOGS: A GENETIC MUTATION

Flat-faced breeds are called “brachycephalic” [**brack-e-sif-ahk**] dogs, which is Greek for “short head.” Brachycephalic breeds have domed heads, wide foreheads and very short muzzles. Brachycephaly is a genetic oddity that is now popular with pet lovers.

Left, the compressed skull of a pug; right, a skull of a grey wolf.

Too small a jaw

Flat-faced dogs have the same number of teeth as dogs with long snouts. **All 42 teeth have to fit into a compressed jaw.** The result is dogs with crisscrossing, crooked and overlapping teeth. Daily brushing (with a special toothpaste made for dogs) is essential to prevent gum disease. But many flat-faced breeds have to have teeth removed for health reasons – and to help them chew properly.

What big eyes you have

Flat-faced dogs have shallow eye sockets which cause their eyes to bulge out. While cute looking, this leads to two different eye issues.



Cherry eye syndrome

First, their eyelids can roll inwards causing their **eyelashes to rub against their sensitive eyeballs**. If surgery isn't done to fix this, the dog's eyes will become irritated and scratched. Also, since their eyelids don't fully cover their eyeballs, their eyes dry out. “Dry eye” causes soreness and, in severe cases, **blindness**.



A bulldog with a bite-time underbite

Second, their squished face affects their tear ducts. Many dogs have constant draining of fluid from the corner of their eyes. Look closely when you see a flat-faced dog. If you see dark staining on their fur below their eyes, you know the dog has a **tear duct problem**. Surgery is often needed to correct this.



Pheew!

Stinky wrinkles!

Flat faces cause skin face-folds. These wrinkles need daily cleaning. If you don't clean the skin between the folds regularly, dead skin, moisture and debris cause **smelly skin infections**.

Re-thinking our desire for flat-faced dogs

In general, flat-faced dogs face more health and welfare issues than long-snouted dogs. **They are vulnerable to breathing, eye, jaw and even spinal issues.** Flat-faced dogs also have trouble breeding. Many can't give birth to their puppies without surgery. Maybe we need to re-think our desire for flat-faced dogs.

Lastly, what can you do?

1. Research carefully all the health issues before getting a flat-faced dog.
2. Pick a different dog breed. See the list of alternative breeds.
3. If you have a flat-faced dog, be sure to visit your veterinarian regularly.
4. Discourage others from getting flat-faced dogs.



12 OF THE HEALTHIEST DOG BREEDS



Mixed breed dog (like you see at the BC SPCA and other rescues) 👍

Beagle

Australian cattle dog

Chihuahua

Poodle

Husky

Border collie

Corgis

Greyhound and whippet

Terriers (there are many types)

Tibetan spaniel

Havanese

Bichon frise

Research the breed you're interested in. This list is based on breeds known to have the least amount of health problems compared to other breeds. They also tend to have longer life spans.

Do animals have emotions?

The obvious answer is yes, of course animals have emotions.

But until the last few decades, most scientists believed animals were only capable of instincts such as fear, mating and nest building. They dismissed the idea that animals such as chimpanzees, dogs and dolphins could experience the complex emotions people feel – like grief, playfulness and love. Even today, many scientists believe animals only react on instinct.



EVERETT COLLECTION INC. / ALAMY



Chimpanzees experience a wide range of emotions including joy, sadness, frustration and grief. When a chimp feels anxious, the mother offers comfort and assurance.

Dr. Jane, an animal scientist game changer

Dr. Jane Goodall, a world famous primatologist, first studied chimpanzees in the 1960s. When she suggested that chimpanzees experience complex emotions, she was laughed at by other scientists. They accused her of projecting her own feelings onto the chimpanzees. Yet, Jane's thorough research over decades of observations, began to convince scientists.

Today, thanks to Jane's pioneering research, we now understand that chimpanzees (and most other animals) experience and express a wide range

of emotions. Jane's work also helped us understand that chimpanzees each have unique personalities – just like people do.

Thinking differently

What inspired Jane to think differently than other scientists?

She drew on firsthand experiences with her childhood dog, Rusty. Rusty showed her that animals have unique personalities, thoughtful minds and feelings.

"If you have a dog or cat," Jane says, "you will know that animals experience emotions."



Jane believes her research helped "people understand that animals have personalities, minds and emotions, and now you can study those things."



changing the way we view animals

Jane carefully documented her research group of chimpanzees by living close to them for many years. She recorded chimps that showed anger, playfulness and caring for others in the social group.

Scientists have witnessed animals who appear to grieve after the loss of sibling or parent. Jane Goodall, for example, described the day Flint's mother, Flo, passed away. Her orphaned son, Flint, was listless and depressed afterwards. Other scientists have observed similar behaviours in other primates, dogs and in whales. Off the B.C. coast in 2018, an orca whale called Tahlequah had her baby die shortly after birth. Tahlequah stopped eating and kept nudging her baby's body to the surface for two weeks before finally letting go and putting her to rest in the ocean depths. Tahlequah has since given birth to a healthy new baby this past year.

UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH / ALAMY



Jane also documented the complex communication system that chimps use. She showed that, like us, individual chimpanzees have different personalities. And, that chimpanzees, as a group, have their own culture. They also pass knowledge on from one generation to the next – just like we do.

Animals are like us

The world of animal science is changing to reflect the idea that animals are more like us than we once realized. Science now tells us that emotions are an important part of evolution. They help animals survive and thrive.

But how does this relate to how we treat our pets, farm animals, and other animals in our care? Since we know animals experience emotions and have unique personalities, we must strive to ensure their needs are met. The Five Freedoms of animal care help do this (see page 5). Do you have a pet, like Jane Goodall's Rusty, who lets you know how he or she feels?

When Tahlequah's baby died, she displayed behaviours scientists describe as feelings of grief. Many animals mourn the death of close companions including elephants, dogs, chimpanzees, wolves, magpies and dolphins.

Jane Goodall also revealed the complexity of the animal mind. Jane was the first to show chimps using tools. She witnessed chimps using twigs to reach into termite holes and bring out clinging termites to munch on.



Until then, the world believed people were the only species with this capability. Now researchers have observed lots of animals using tools, including crows, octopuses, sea otters and even bees.



COURTESY TAYLOR SHEED / SOUNDWATCH NMFS #21114

Courage to speak for animals

Jane Goodall helped us change the way people view chimpanzees. But it wasn't easy for Jane. She had to show a lot of courage to prove to other scientists that chimpanzees were complex, social beings.

Having the courage to speak for animals will help others take into account the needs of animals, whether they be pets, farm animals or animals in the wild. As Jane says, the "voice of the animals is growing."



SHIKHAR BHATTARAI / ISTOCK



Every hive has a queen bee, and this hive is "ruled" by Queen Connie.



Want to be a beekeeper when you grow up?

We spoke to **Sarah Currie**, a beekeeper in Castlegar, B.C., about hives, honey and helping make the world a kinder place.



You're a beekeeper. Why do you keep bees?

I keep honey bees because taking good care of such a special creature makes me feel very happy and close to nature.

What does a beekeeper do?

A beekeeper cares for honey bees by providing them with a safe place to live, adequate food and water, and everything they need to stay healthy. A beekeeper knows enough about the needs of bees to anticipate special needs ahead of time. For example, in the early spring, I have learned and observed that there is a gap between the time that the bees start to fly and when the first plants bloom. This means the bees have no natural source of food at that time. So, I provide the honey bees with sugar syrup during that time.

What skills do you need to have to be a beekeeper?

- Kindness, gentleness, patience
- Curiosity and knowledge
- Physical strength
- Good communication skills
- Detail oriented/organized
- Resilience

What is best thing about taking care of bees?

The best thing about taking care of honey bees is the time I spend in the hives observing the life of each colony. I get to be outside and then, enter into another world. The inside of the hive smells of sweet beeswax, nectar and pollen. The sound of the energetic hummms of the bees is both exciting and soothing. I have to slow down when I am in the hive and accomplish my tasks with great focus.

What is the most challenging thing about beekeeping?

The most challenging thing about beekeeping for me is keeping the bees healthy. Bees are susceptible to many viruses, diseases, and are prey to a parasite that lives in all North American hives: the varroa mite. If you keep honey bees, you also keep varroa mites. The trick is to keep the number of varroa mites in the hive low, so the life of the hive is not jeopardized.

Below, left: the varroa mite on a bee. Right: mite treatment to one of Sarah's hives.





A swarm begins to enter the swarm box before Sarah shakes the branch.



Sarah adding honey bees to one of her hives.

The swarm made it safely into their box!



Is there a funny or surprising story you can share about your work?

All of my swarm catching adventures have been funny and surprising: ladders, pulleys, shaking branches, brushing, night swarm catching, watching bees crawl single file into the swarm box after the queen as if in a parade.

Have you had any other special animals in your life, now or when you were growing up? I have been very blessed to have had a special animal or animals keeping me through each stage of my life. When I was little, I was visiting a neighbour's goats when I noticed my neighbour in a white suit with smoke moving in slow motion. He was tending his bee hives. He noticed me there with the goats and brought me a piece of honey in the comb to eat. It was delicious. I think that was when I decided that one day, I would have honey bees of my own.

What would you share with kids who want to make a difference for animals or the natural world in general?

Begin by treating yourself and everyone – even the tough ones – with kindness and gentleness. Then, spend time observing the world and read/watch everything that will expand your knowledge about what interests you.

Find ways to spend time with people who work with animals and are out in the natural world.

Do your very best to provide animals in your care with love, respect, a healthy environment, food and water, and everything that they need to thrive and live a good life. Take time to quiet yourself and just look and listen to all of the life around you.

We are very much a part of nature with the weather, the land and water, and the animals. We are interconnected. The more connected you feel to these things, the richer your life will be.

Want to know more?

Find our full interview with Sarah at spca.bc.ca/beekeeper-interview.

Visit the BC SPCA's official YouTube channel and watch the **A Buzz About Bees** video to see Sarah in action and answering kids' questions.



HEY, CAT LOVERS!

Do you have a cat?

Or know someone with a cat?

Are they spayed or neutered?



Shelters fill up with cats and kittens when there are more animals than homes. We call this **pet overpopulation**.

One of the best things we can do to prevent **pet overpopulation** is to make sure our cats at home are "fixed" – that means **spayed** (for females) or **neutered** (for males).

If your family has recently adopted a kitten, it's important to take them to the vet for the procedure **before six months of age**. Otherwise, your kitten could produce **even more kittens**.

Spread the word that kittens can have kittens, so we need to **FIX** before **SIX**!

Don't forget ID!

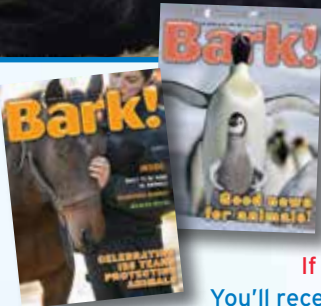
If your cat runs off, having a collar and ID tag – plus a microchip – will increase your chances of finding each other.



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.



Name: _____ Phone: _____ 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: _____



JOIN THE KIDS CLUB TODAY!

FILL OUT THIS FORM AND
MAIL IT TO:

BC SPCA KIDS CLUB
1245 EAST 7TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, BC V5T 1R1
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