

Hello!! Welcome to the first issue of *Animals & Us*. Kids all across Canada are reading this newspaper. Let us know what you think. We want to hear from you. You can write to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies at 30 Concourse Gate, Suite 102, Nepean, ON, K2E 7V7 or e-mail to cfhs@storm.ca. Visit our web site at www.cfhs.ca.

Warning!

Think your guinea pig is tired when he yawns? Think again. He could be angry and warning you to stay away by showing you his sharp teeth.

Your rabbit is warning other bunnies of danger when he thumps loudly with his back legs. But when he licks you and rubs his head against you, he's leaving a scent so everyone knows you're his special friend.

In the aquarium, biggest is best. To make himself appear bigger, your fish spreads his fins and swims with his side facing whatever he finds threatening.

Famous Canadian Animals: Big Ben

Not many animals are featured on a postage stamp or inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. But then, there's only one Big Ben.

Big Ben is a horse, a very big horse. He stands 17.3 hands high (173 cm) and weighs some 650 kilograms. Horses are measured from the withers, or top of the shoulders, to the ground. If you measured Big Ben from the tip of his ears, he would be 240 cm. How tall are you?



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Big Ben retired in 1994 at the age of 18. With rider Ian Millar, Big Ben competed for 11 seasons on the international grand prix show jumping circuit. He earned more than 40 career grand prix victories,

competed in three Olympic Games, and was the first horse ever to win the World Cup Final twice.

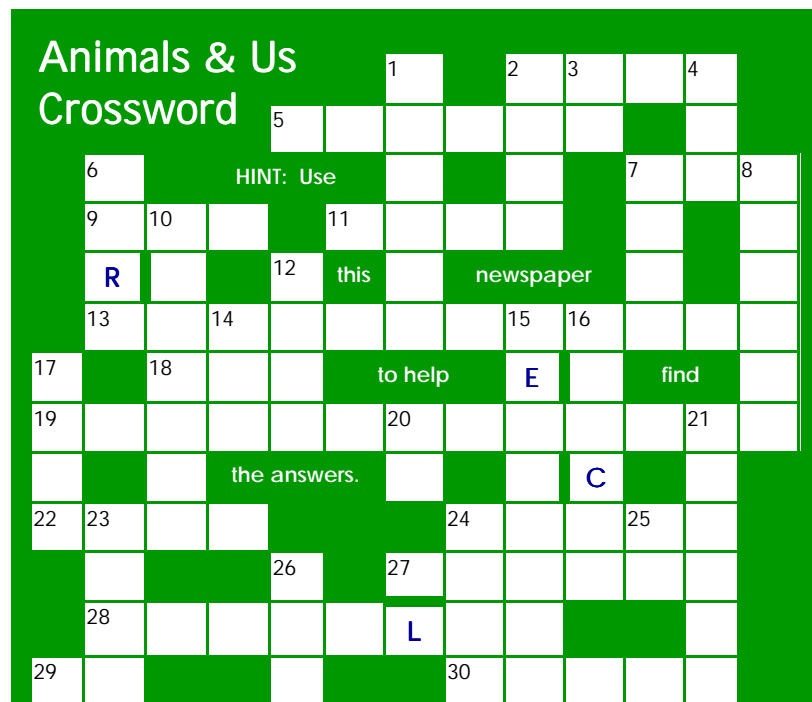
Even in retirement, Big Ben continues to be honoured. He was made an honorary member of the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride and was inducted into the Ontario Sports Legends Hall of Fame. In 1996, both Ian and Big Ben were inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

This year, Big Ben was honoured with a Canadian postage stamp. You'll find his picture on 46 cent stamps which were issued in June.

Big Ben is a horse with a lot of heart. Not only was he a champion competitor, but he continues to touch the lives of thousands of people.

If you'd like to read more about this famous Canadian animal, look for the book *Big Ben* by Lawrence Scanlan. It's published by Scholastic Books.

Animals & Us Crossword



Across

- A good place to adopt a new pet. (See p. 4)
- Social groups of gorillas. (See p. 2)
- Something spiders and the internet have in common. (See p. 4)
- What to do if you want something.
- A small horse.
- A Canadian organization for kids who like animals. (See p. 4)
- Next to you, she's your animal's best friend. (2 words) (See p. 3)
- Where a gorilla sleeps. (See p. 2)
- Part of a computer is named after this animal.
- Every pet needs one.
- The largest primates. (See p. 2)
- Who animals depend on.
- The best protection for a dog or cat. (See p. 3)

Down

- These wild animals are close relatives of dogs. (See p. 3)
- An operation that helps stop pet overpopulation. (See p. 2)
- An afterthought at the end of a letter or e-mail.
- How many years you have lived.
- One way a dog talks. (See p. 2)
- Healthy.
- A famous Canadian horse. (See p. 1)
- Many of these fascinating creatures make webs. (See p. 3)
- Rim.
- Circuses do ___ have to have animals in them. (See p. 4)
- A fish that has no scales, teeth or stomach. (See p. 2)
- The Cirque du Soleil is one. (See p. 4)
- Angry guinea pigs look as if they do this. (See p. 1)
- What dogs and cats should wear in case they get lost.
- An indoor cat enjoys sitting on ___ in the window.
- Chickens hatch from these.
- Breakfast is one.
- John likes cats ___ much he reads every cat book he can.
- A very intelligent domestic animal. (See p. 2)

Is Your Cat a Polydactyl?

What does that big word mean? Poly comes from the Greek word "polys" which means many or more than one. Dactyl also comes from a Greek word "daktylos" or finger.



7 toed front paw

Some cats have more toes than normal due to a mutant gene. Researchers say that the largest population of polydactyl cats reside in Boston, Massachusetts. In the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and

P.E.I.) there are many polydactyl cats, probably descended from cats brought by early settlers from Boston.

Some polydactyl cats have seven toes on the front paws and six toes on the back paws. Some have a different number of toes on each paw.



6 toed hind paw




Do you have a polydactyl cat? Some people believe they are good luck charms.

Did You know?

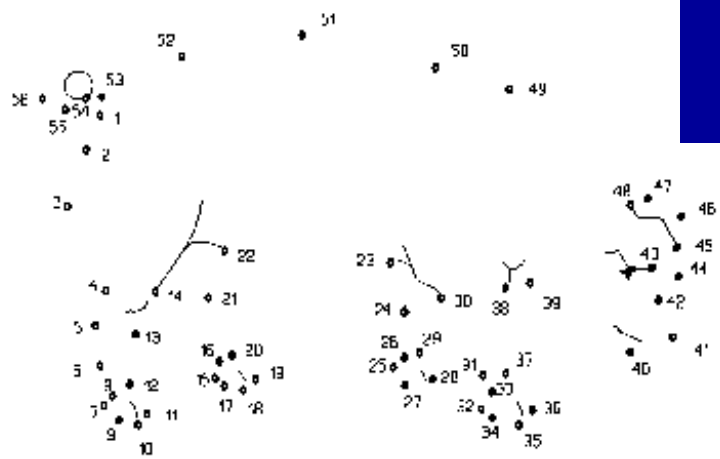
The earliest remains clearly recognizable as belonging to a snake were found in the Sahara desert dating back about 130 million years. It is believed snakes originated from lizards.

There are 27 different types of snakes native to Canada and of these only three are poisonous. The Prairie and Northern Pacific rattlers are found in western Canada, while the Eastern massasauga is found in Ontario.

Quick Dog Facts

-  The number one way in which dogs defend their territory is through barking.
-  Many dog behaviourists believe dogs experience a range of emotions: love, sadness, fear, happiness and despair.
-  Dogs rely on their sense of smell in much the same way as we rely on sight.

Dogs are pretty smart, aren't they? Join the dots to find a domestic animal which is even more intelligent than a dog.



Awesome Animals: Gorillas

Gorillas are the largest and heaviest primates. The average height for an adult male is 1.7m. Gorillas in the wild weigh about 220 kg but in captivity they weigh as much as 310 kg. The average height for an adult male human is just a little shorter, but the average weight is less than a third that of a gorilla.



Troops of 16-30, led by a dominant male, spend most of the time on the ground walking on all fours. They feed only on vegetation. Gorillas do not need to drink water as there is enough juice in their food. Each adult gorilla builds a nest every night. Young gorillas sleep with their mothers until they are three years old.

Gorillas are only dangerous when wounded or alarmed. When faced with an intruder, a dominant male beats his chest with both hands. He rushes through the undergrowth, breaking branches and thumping the ground with his hands. The gorilla's only enemy is also a primate – the human.

Quick Fact

Canada Geese stay together in families when they migrate. Mother leads the way, followed by the young, then the father.

Are you an environmentally friendly pet owner?

- ☺ When choosing a pet, be environmentally friendly by adopting a domestic animal. Some mammals and many species of birds, snakes, frogs, chameleons, turtles, spiders and fish are captured in the wild in other countries and sold as exotic pets in North America. Even in North America people capture frogs, turtles, snakes and other creatures to keep as pets. No matter where they come from, leave wild animals in their own environment.
- ☺ Never release into the wild a pet you can no longer keep. The animal could starve to death, kill other creatures in order to survive, spread diseases and parasites to wildlife, or cause other problems.
- ☺ Keep your dog on a leash when walking off your property except in off leash areas. Loose dogs can harass wild creatures, cause car accidents, get into dog fights, and bite people.
- ☺ Stoop and scoop your dog's poop. This will keep the environment clean and help to control the spread of parasites and diseases.
- ☺ Prevent your dog from barking excessively. Noise is a form of pollution and can be very disturbing to your neighbours.
- ☺ Keep your cat indoors to prevent your pet from catching birds, digging up gardens, pooping in sandboxes or annoying the neighbours. Cats live longer when kept indoors or on a leash when outdoors. (See p. 3 to learn how to harness train your cat.)
- ☺ Buy pet food in as large a package as you can store properly. This saves on packaging. Avoid buying pet food in foil pouches. Recycle any containers you can.
- ☺ Use natural products to keep fleas off your pets. Read labels carefully before you buy any products to use on pets.
- ☺ Use "green" products for bathing your pets or when treating odours from them.
- ☺ Protect your pets as well as wildlife by not using chemical pesticides and herbicides in your garden.
- ☺ Spay or neuter your cat and dog to help control the pet overpopulation. Every year in Canada, tens of thousands of animals are euthanized because no homes can be found for them.

Would you believe that a Canadian is the world's leading authority on seahorses? Dr. Amanda Vincent is a marine biology professor at McGill University in Montreal but spends many hours scuba diving in seahorse habitats around the world.

She has written many articles about her observations of seahorses. She believes that the populations of seahorses around the world are declining quickly and that we must take measures to protect them.

She is working with native people trying to find ways for them to earn a living without catching and selling seahorses.

Dr. Vincent received the Rolex Award for Conservation Enterprise in 1998 - a watch and some money to help with her studies!



Strange but True: Sea Horses

Seahorses have fascinated humans for centuries. They were captured and kept in aquariums where they were studied. But, it's only recently that they have been studied in their natural habitat.

Seahorses are amazing little creatures that are actually classified as fish. They are very different from fish because they have no scales, no teeth and no stomach. Their eyes move independently. Imagine being able to move one eye in one direction and one in another like seahorses can! Since they swim too slowly to escape easily from their enemies, they can change colour quickly to blend with their habitat.

The male seahorse becomes pregnant, produces the young and looks after them.

While found around the world, seahorses are never found in vast numbers. In the North Atlantic the lined seahorse is sometimes seen off the coast of Nova Scotia in late summer. It is the only species that visits this far north.

Seahorses are classified as vulnerable (almost endangered).

Why are they disappearing?

They are captured and sold to aquariums but unfortunately usually die. Home aquariums are not suitable for them. They are sold for the traditional Chinese medicine market as some people believe parts of the seahorse help cure diseases. They are caught and dried in the sun and then sold as souvenirs to tourists. They are caught by mistake in shrimp nets and die as a result.

How can you help seahorses?

Resist buying a seahorse to keep in a home aquarium. Don't buy dried seahorses as souvenirs. Leave seahorses alone. If you know anyone who scuba dives or if you do, do not touch a seahorse or try to take it to the surface for a closer look. The change in water pressure can cause problems similar to "the bends" in humans. Help organizations keep the marine habitats preserved where the seahorses live – sea grasses, mangroves and corals.

Spidery Crafts

Spiders are amazing creatures. Did you know there are over 35,000 different species? They live in most areas of the world except in the deepest parts of the oceans, inside volcanoes and around the North and South poles. They can see in all directions at once because most spiders have eight eyes!

Make a spider decoration to hang on your Christmas tree, tie on a parcel or hang from your ceiling.

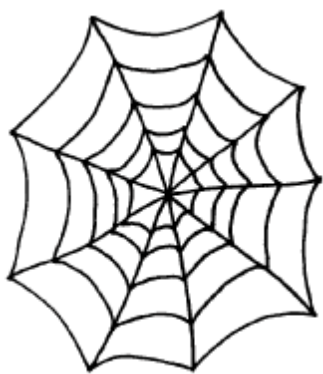
Supplies:

- glue
- 5 pipe cleaners,
- 2 sequins
- fine gold wire or thread
- 2 Christmas balls - one 3cm, one 1.2 cm



Glue the small Christmas ball onto the top of bigger ball. Cut four legs about 10 cm long from pipe cleaners. Tie all of them together in the middle with gold thread. Tie with wire or thread around the neck of the larger ball. Bend legs into shape. Draw eyes on the head or glue on two sequins. Make a hanger by tying a thread around the middle of the spider.

As a symbol of the "web of life" and how everything is connected, make a spider's web to hang in your window or as a gift.



Supplies:

- cardboard
- black marker
- wax paper
- straight pins
- thin white string
- white glue

Using a black marker, draw a spider's web on cardboard. Cover the

drawing with wax paper. Dip string in glue and place on wax paper along the outline of the web. Use straight pins to help keep the string in place. Let dry. For a sparkling web, paint web with glue and sprinkle with glitter. Let your web dry before putting it on display.

Confused about Coyotes

Oops! Someone wasn't paying attention. The text below contains a lot of mistakes. Can you correct them so the article gives the right information about coyotes? Substitute the correct words for the ones in red. (Hint: if you see an incorrect word more than once, the answer is the same each time.) You'll find the answers on p. 4.

Coyotes live in South America¹, from Argentina² to Brazil³. They live in many different habitats, including farmland and cities. Coyotes may travel a very long way each night as they search for nickels⁴. They do most of their hunting at noon⁵ and midnight⁶.

To locate prey in tall grass or moving in tunnels below the surface of the ground, coyotes use their sharp sense of thinking⁷. Coyotes talk to each other by phone⁸, to tell each other about food or danger. Like their senses of thinking⁷ and smell, coyotes' vision is excellent, but they don't see bulldozers⁹ very well.

Wolves, cows¹⁰ and pigs¹¹ are closely related to coyotes.

Some people want to get rid of coyotes that live near them, because they cause problems. Coyotes sometimes eat dimes¹² and nickels⁴ left outdoors, and steal people's silverware¹³. Removing coyotes from urban areas might actually increase the number present, however, because others will move into the available apartments¹⁴.

In order to live with coyotes, we should keep small pets indoors, and walk dogs on a pond¹⁵. Don't feed coyotes, because they might become dependent on humans for nickels⁴. To keep coyotes out of your yard, you should build a scarecrow¹⁶ at least 2 m tall. Observe coyotes through marbles¹⁷ from a distance. Never approach a coyote!

dawn garbage Mexico binoculars colours dogs North America howling
leash foxes food Alaska territory hearing fence pets dusk

Harness Training for Cats

Some people think cats can't be trained, but that's not true. It just takes lots of patience. Here's how to harness train your cat. (You can harness train your rabbit too.)

Buy a lightweight leash and an "H" shaped nylon harness that buckles at the neck and the stomach. To find the correct size, measure your cat's neck and stomach and allow space for two fingers at each place.

Place the harness, with an ID tag and the leash, where your cat can sniff, paw and play with them. Wait for several days then put the harness on without the leash.

When you first put the harness on her, your cat may show funny behaviour. She may run around the room or lie on her side. As long as your pet is in safe surroundings, leave the harness on for 5 minutes. Repeat this several times a day for a week or so.

Wait until your cat is comfortable with the harness. Then attach the leash. It's best to do this just before feeding. Let your cat drag the leash around the house for several minutes at a time, several times a day, for another few days. Be sure to supervise her.

Once your cat has accepted this part, pick up the leash. While gently pulling on the leash, offer food and encourage the cat to come with you. Be patient and persistent and loving.

Remember, cats usually will not walk on a leash like a dog. They like to run a bit, stop, roll, sniff, eat grass and then carry on. Be patient.

Never leave harnessed or leashed pets unsupervised. Once tied, they are totally defenceless. They could be hurt by other roaming animals or become tangled or frightened.

In many cities and towns it is against the law to let a cat go unleashed off your property. Please look after your cat so she won't dig up gardens, kill wild birds, or get lost, hurt or killed.

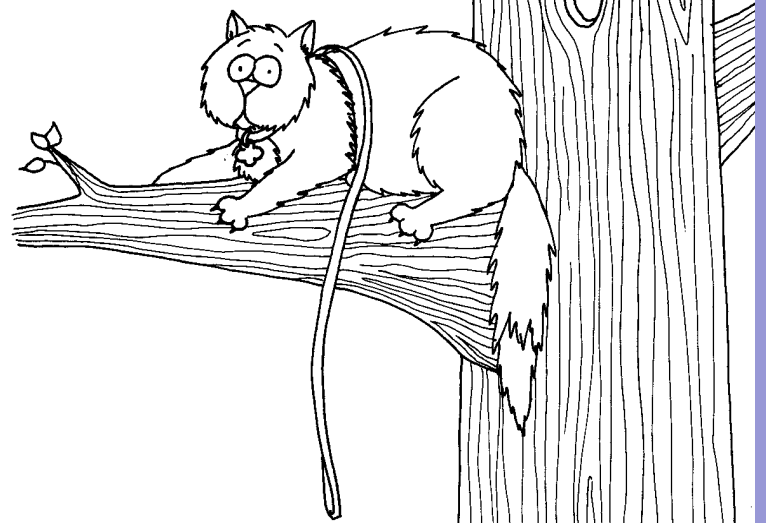
Quick Cat Fact 1

Cats spend approximately 70% of their lives sleeping.

Quick Cat Fact 2

All cats except the cheetah have retractable claws.

Hold on!! A leash doesn't work if you don't hang onto your end!!



E.R.

Next to you, your veterinarian could be your pet's best friend. You should take your pet to the vet at least once a year. Your vet will check your animal and make sure she's healthy. The vet will also give your animal shots.

Your vet probably doesn't work seven days a week. The vet clinic may be closed on weekends and holidays. Find out what you should do in an emergency.

Under the Big Top

The first circus in North America was held in 1793, more than 200 years ago! It was operated by the Ringling Brothers. Staged in a tent, the circus attracted 600 people.

Today, in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the Circus World Museum is located in the original winter quarters of the Ringling Brothers Circus. On the grounds there are daily circuses.

For the past 200 years many circus animals have been trained by methods that many people consider cruel to do tricks that are not normal behaviour for them. Why? Because humans will pay money to watch them. Remember the circus owner is in business to make money.



Is it necessary to have animals in circuses? What do you think? Did you know there are at least 17 circuses in the world that only have people performing.

Join Up!

Many SPCAs and humane societies have clubs for kids who like animals. If you're lucky enough to live in a community with an SPCA, find out whether they have a club. Ask the person who gave you this paper. You can join the Kindness Club no matter where you live. Write to them at The Kindness Club, 65 Brunswick St, Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5.

A Wolf in the House

Dogs and people share a long history. They have been together for at least 12,000 years, perhaps longer. Dogs were the first animals that ancient people were able to tame (domesticate).

We share the earth with about 37 species of wild dogs. These include coyotes, foxes, jackals, African hunting dogs and wolves. There are more than 400 different breeds of domestic dogs in the world. All of them, from the biggest St. Bernard to the smallest chihuahua, developed from the wolf.



Wolves are social animals. This means they live in groups. Each group or pack is lead by a male and a female. These two leaders are the strongest animals in the pack. All the other wolves obey them.

Wolves communicate with each other in many ways. For example, they can use different expressions. When a wolf curls his lips up and shows his sharp teeth, he's warning other wolves to stay away.

Wolves can also send messages with their bodies. A wolf that puts his ears up, holds his tail stiffly in the air and looks as if he's walking on tiptoe is telling other wolves that he's the boss. This wolf may attack. A wolf that doesn't want to be attacked puts his ears down and holds his tail between his legs. He may even roll on his back. Dogs today still show many of these wolf-like behaviours.

You've probably been told not to run away from a strange dog, even one that's barking at you. Do you know why?

Wolves chase animals for food. A dog, like a wolf, may chase you if you start to run. If you stand still or walk away slowly, he's less likely to harm you.

If you own a dog, your dog thinks of you and your family as his pack. If your dog is well trained, he will obey you. If you don't train your dog, however, he may try to become the leader. He may growl at you or push you down, trying to get you to do what he wants.

Dogs, like wolves, are pack animals. A dog left by himself gets lonely. Like people, dogs want to have company.

Spiders in Cyberspace

The World Wide Web has spiders too. Search engines like Alta Vista and Infoseek have computer programs called "spiders" which travel through internet sites and index the pages. When you type a keyword into a search box, the software searches the index to find pages containing that word.

Here are some cool sites you can visit:

Do you watch nature shows on television? Well, PBS has a web site too. To learn more about seahorses, go to www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/seahorse. You'll find neat information about wolves at www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/wolves.

For all kinds of fun activities and stories, visit KIND News Online at www.kindnews.org and Animal Action Club at www.rspca.org (click on *Kids' stuff*).

Visit the CFHS at www.cfhs.ca. Look for the web site of your local SPCA on the page listing CFHS member societies. And don't forget to visit the Kindness Club at www.smythe.nbcc.nb.ca/kindness

In Canada, the "people only" Cirque du Soleil of Montreal is very famous. It now travels around the world and is very successful.

You can help circus animals. Plan not to attend circuses using animals. Write a letter to the circus owners or the newspaper telling why you are not going. For the sake of the animals, ask the owners to have a "people only" circus.

Your Turn

What is the kindest thing you ever saw a person do?

What is the most amazing thing you ever saw an animal do?

Write your answer to one of these questions and send it to **Animals & Us**. You'll find the address on the front page.

Next issue we'll publish a selection of answers.

Watch for yourself in print!



Above is the logo of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. How many different animals can you find in it? You can check your answers below.

Working for Animals

There are many groups which work to protect animals. Humane societies and SPCAs look after domestic animals as well as the occasional wild animal. Most have animal shelters and take in cats, dogs and other pets who no longer have homes. Some have constables or inspectors who enforce the laws against cruelty to animals.

Do you have an SPCA or humane society in your community? If your family is looking for a new pet, your local animal shelter is the first place to check.

Most of the SPCAs in Canada belong to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. Its job is to work on animal protection at the national level, talking with the federal government and national organizations. It helps everyone work together for Canadian animals.

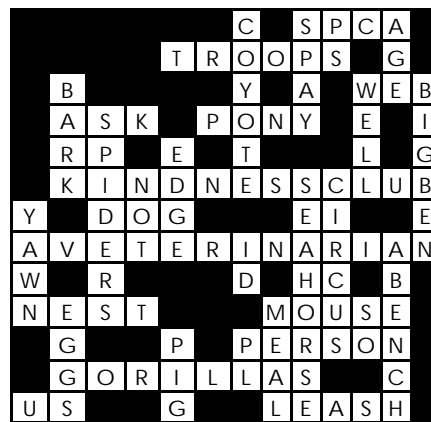
Answers

Confused About Coyotes

1. North America
2. Mexico
3. Alaska
4. food
5. dawn
6. dusk
7. hearing
8. howling
9. colours
10. foxes
11. dogs
12. garbage
13. pets
14. Territory
15. leash
16. fence
17. binoculars.

CFHS logo

bird, dog, horse, seal, pig, squirrel, dolphin, cat



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