



Hello!! Welcome to the fourth issue of *Animals & Us*. Kids all across Canada are reading this newspaper. Visit our web site at [www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us](http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us) for the online version. 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 [animals&us@cfhs.ca](mailto:animals&us@cfhs.ca).

## Space Age ID Tags

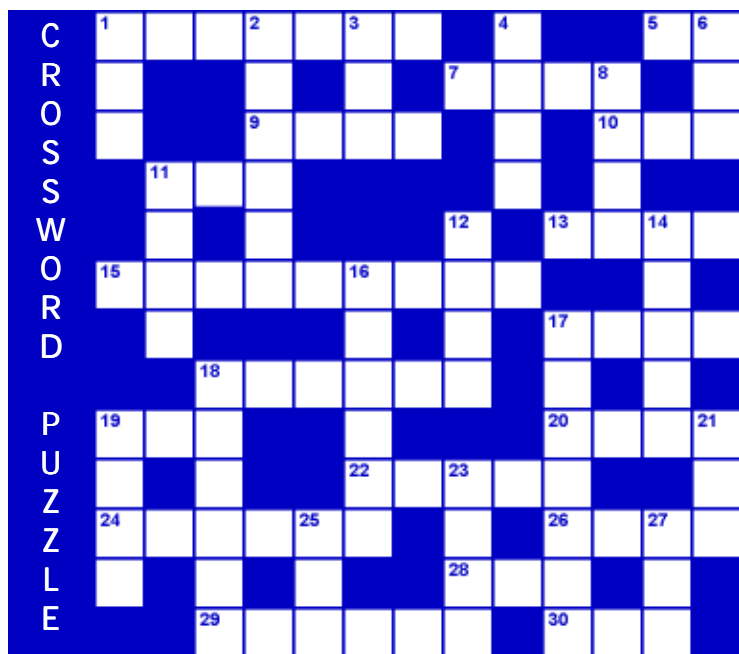
When you were young, your parents probably taught you your name and address in case you got lost. You can't teach your dogs and cats to say where they live, but you can make sure they have permanent ID.

Every well-dressed dog or cat wears a collar and tag, but they should have ID that can't come off as well. Microchips and tattoos are permanent identification.

Many animals have tattoos either in their ears or on the hairless area inside the back legs. Does your pet? Can you read what it says? Tattoos fade, but microchips don't.

Microchips aren't just for computers. Tiny microchips containing identification information can be injected under the skin. If your lost pet ends up at an animal shelter, pound or veterinary clinic, the staff have scanners they use to read the information.

In case your pets get lost – and it can happen easily – make sure they have permanent ID.



Answers on p. 4

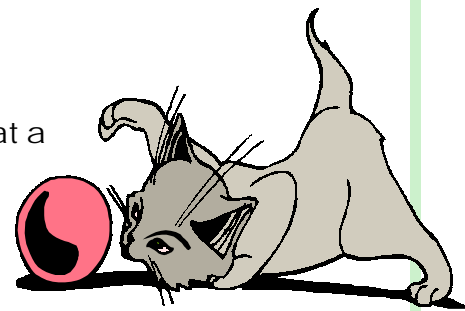
- Clues Across**
1. What squirrels do to warn their buddies. (See p. 2)
  5. Responsible owners make sure their pets have some. (See p. 1)
  7. Common domestic animals. (See p. 3)
  9. Squirrel food. (See p. 2)
  10. Guinea \_\_\_\_
  11. Number of toes people have.
  13. Bit of information. (See p. 2 or 3)
  15. Type of ID your pet can't lose. (See p. 1)
  17. Recommended operation for female dogs and cats. (See p. 1)
  18. What a scratching post should be. (See p. 1)
  19. Lots of exercise stops your cat from becoming this. (See p. 1)
  20. A passport is \_\_\_\_ good for collecting information. (See p. 3)
  22. Having to do with the city. (See p. 2)
  24. These are always nice to see.
  26. Cosy home. (See p. 2)
  28. Animals never tell one.
  29. Pocket pet. (See p. 4)
  30. Type of squirrel. (See p. 2)
- Clues Down**
1. A furry purry. (See p. 4)
  2. Name of Saint Bernard whose owner gave him up. (See p. 4)
  3. What you do at supper.
  4. Funny story.
  6. Domestic relative of a wolf. (See p. 3)
  8. Humane society. (See p. 4)
  11. A squirrel uses his to balance. (See p. 2)
  12. Vancouver is one.
  14. Paws have them. (See p. 1)
  16. Good ones don't use animals. (See p. 4)
  17. Device used to read a microchip. (See p. 1)
  18. Don't let your cat play with this. (See p. 1)
  19. Animal that lives underwater.
  21. Not in.
  23. Good toy for a dog or cat.
  25. Common place for tattoo. (See p. 1)
  27. How you feel when a pet dies.

## The Great Indoors

Did you know that cats can be perfectly happy without ever going outdoors? They don't get into accidents or have fights. In fact, they live longer! Here are some tips to help your cat enjoy the great indoors:

### Give your cat lots to do

Cat toys are fun. Make your cat a toy box or bag and fill it with fun toys. Then, every day, put out different toys so he or she doesn't get bored of the same ones all the time. Be sure you make time to play some games with your cat too. You want your cat to get lots of exercise so he doesn't get fat!



Supply toys that will appeal to your cat's hunting and stalking instincts. Ping pong balls, crumpled balls of paper, or toys hanging on a string can make for great games of 'chase and pounce.' Don't leave things like string lying around, though, as cats will eat them, causing serious harm.

### Protect the furniture

As everyone knows, cats have claws – and like to use them. Cats scratch to sharpen their claws, stretch their front limbs and mark their territory. Cats need to scratch, but not on the furniture!

Trim your cat's claws every few weeks (Your veterinarian can show you how.) Then she won't need to sharpen her claws. If she does scratch, claws without points don't do as much damage.

Provide a scratching box or post. Cats can be pretty fussy about where they scratch, so make sure it's a post your cat likes. It has to be solid and sturdy. Some cats are horizontal scratchers. They need a scratching board on the floor. Others generally scratch vertically so need an upright post. Some cats prefer carpet while others like a rough surface such as sisal rope or natural wood.

When you're choosing the place to put the scratching post, remember that cats also scratch to mark their territory. Where would your cat want to leave his mark? Near a doorway or at the top of the stairs is a better place from a cat's point of view than down in the basement.

### Bring the outdoors in

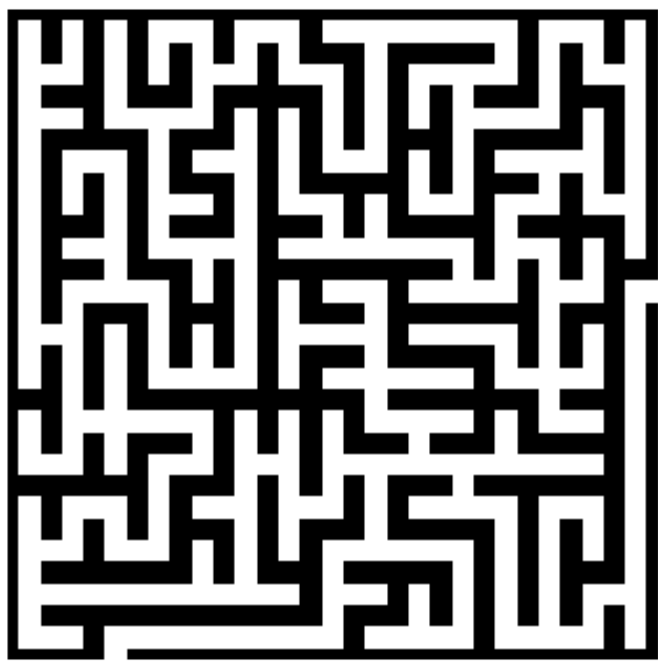
Cats love to perch up high and observe the world outside from a sofa by the window, a ledge attached to the windowsill, or a cat tree with perches. A bird feeder outside the window will provide hours of entertainment.

You can grow grass in a large pot for your cat. They love the sweet taste of young grass. Most pet supply stores carry kits for growing kitty grass.

### Keep the litter box clean

Having cats isn't all fun. You have to clean the litter box every day. After all, your cat deserves a clean bathroom! If you're lucky enough to have more than one cat, you should have one litter box for each.

This squirrel has become trapped in somebody's attic. Help her find her way home.



### Quick Fact 1

Have you ever heard the phrase "sweat like a pig"? Well, pigs don't sweat! They have no sweat glands.

## Wildlife in the Backyard

Can you imagine a world with just people? Happily, animals live all around us, even in cities. The existence of wildlife in urban areas enriches our environment, bringing a little bit of nature to the bustle of the city.

Many wild animals have successfully adapted to urban life. Squirrels, skunks, mice and raccoons are just some of the animals that live in cities. They find lots of food and shelter and no natural predators. We can hardly blame them for helping themselves to food that is there for the taking in garbage pails, gardens, composters and sheds.

Wild animals should be treated with respect and understanding. Never corner or attempt to pick up any wild animal. They may bite when they feel threatened and they may have parasites or diseases that could be passed on to you or your pets.

So what should you do if you don't want squirrels in your attic or skunks under the porch? Removing the resident animal will just create a vacant territory for another one to move into. It's much better to stop unwanted residents from moving into your house in the first place. (To learn how, visit [www.cfhs.ca](http://www.cfhs.ca) and click on **Animal Info.**) It's important to work with others to keep wildlife habitats in urban parks and ravines so the animals have somewhere of their own to live.



With a little understanding and patience, you will enjoy the wild animals in your backyard!

## Perky, Pesky Squirrels

How many squirrels have you seen today? Squirrels have become common city dwellers. With their intelligence, curiosity and ability to adapt to different habitats, they've made themselves right at home. Unfortunately, this often brings them into conflict with homeowners.

### Reds or Grays?

The squirrels you saw may have been gray or red in colour. The eastern gray squirrel is the most common tree squirrel. It is usually gray or brownish-gray with a white or lighter grey belly, or completely black. The red squirrel, also a tree squirrel, is smaller and has reddish brown fur with white underparts.

Eastern gray squirrels are about 40-50 cm long. Their bushy tails make up about half that length. They use their tails for shade from hot sun and warmth in cold weather. The tails help them balance when climbing and jumping, and slow their fall when jumping from tree to tree. When they are distressed, they will flick their tails back and forth while chattering to warn their neighbours.

### A Dentist's Nightmare

Squirrels are members of the rodent family. Because they have rootless teeth that keep growing, they must gnaw continuously to wear them down. Otherwise they would be unable to close their mouths, and their teeth would continue to grow and eventually prevent them from eating.

### No Time to Rest

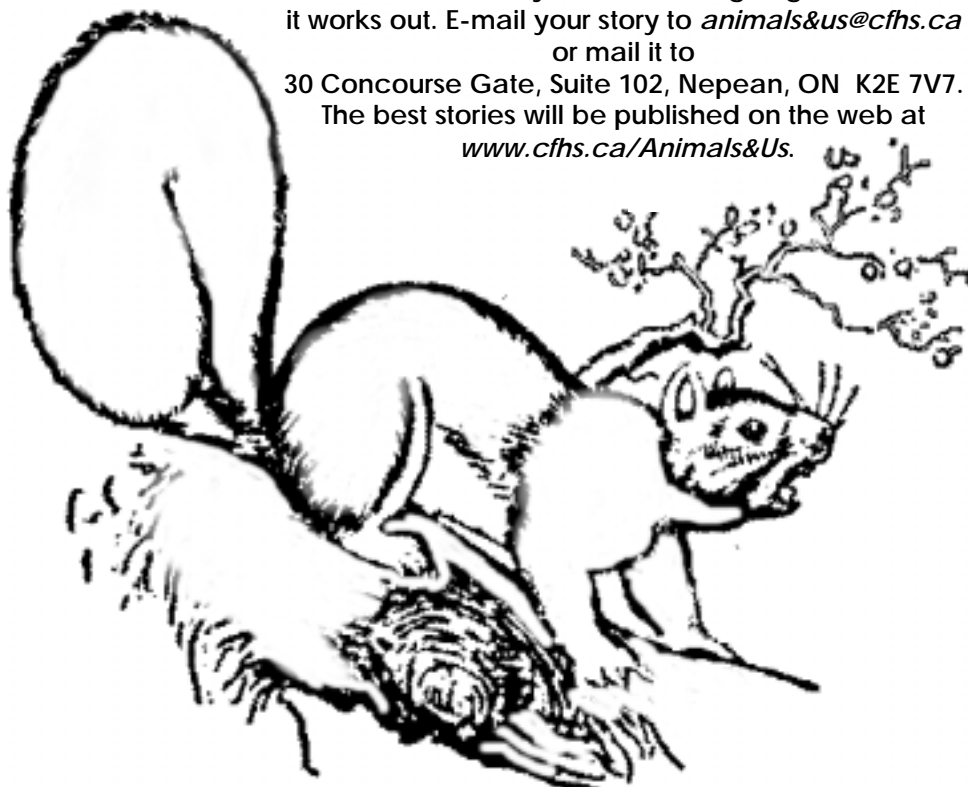
Squirrels keep themselves busy all day long collecting and hoarding seeds and other food. They are primarily herbivores, feeding on roots, stems, bark, shoots, leaves, fruits, nuts, seeds, fungi, flower bulbs, and occasionally insects.

Red squirrels will store food where they live, whereas grays will store it elsewhere. They often store more than they need and sometimes forget where they stashed it. This contributes to reforestation by scattering seeds that will take root and grow in a new location.

Squirrels generally build their nests high up in trees, in hollow trunks or forks between thick branches, using moss, twigs, and dry leaves. Sometimes they will live in colonies with several nests shared among them.



**What is this squirrel warning the others about? Write a story about what's going on and how it works out. E-mail your story to [animals&us@cfhs.ca](mailto:animals&us@cfhs.ca) or mail it to 30 Concourse Gate, Suite 102, Nepean, ON K2E 7V7. The best stories will be published on the web at [www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us](http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us).**



Although they do not hibernate, they will spend long hours in their nests during winter. Red squirrels will stay in their nests for days since they have food stored, whereas grays will go out of their nests every day.

### Getting into Trouble

Squirrels run into trouble when they nest in people's houses instead of in trees. They can make quite a mess! They may also fall down chimneys. And most people don't like squirrels eating at bird feeders or chewing young trees or flower bulbs in the garden.

You can stop squirrels from moving into your attic or falling down your chimney by making sure all holes and vents are covered. Before closing holes, though, it's very important to make sure no squirrels are inside, especially babies.

To keep squirrels out of your bird feeder, install a free-standing feeder on a metal pole at least two metres high, away from overhanging trees and shrubs. Attach a metal cone to the pole to prevent squirrels climbing up. Why not have a squirrel feeder as well as a bird feeder?

To protect young trees from being chewed by squirrels or other rodents, trim low branches and wrap sheet metal around the trunk up to one and a half metres off the ground. To save flowering bulbs from being eaten, place small wire mesh over the bulb bed. Remove the mesh when the ground begins to thaw so the shoots can grow properly.

Squirrels are fun to watch as they lead their busy lives. They give us a glimpse of nature at our doorstep. When their lives get mixed up with ours, we can solve the problem with a little care.

## What's Wild, What's Not

People are not in this world all alone. Animals are here too. Some of these animals share our homes, others keep as far away from people as they can. What's the difference?

We call those that share our living space *domestic* animals. Over hundreds of generations, humans have used selective breeding to change these animals to make them more "useful" to people. They have been bred to be docile and trainable. Most domestic animals could not return to the wild and survive because they have become completely dependent on humans to take care of them. Modern cattle, pigs or dogs wouldn't last for long if let go to make it on their own. They are genetically different from their wild ancestors.

*Feral* is the word used to describe the few domestic animals that do survive long enough to become wild again. "Wild" horses are actually feral horses.

*Wild* animals have developed as nature intended them to. The traits that have passed from generation to generation are those that allowed them to survive, not those that made them useful to humans. Those survival instincts

make it very hard, if not impossible, for people to handle them safely and any handling causes lots of stress. Wild animals are perfectly adapted to living in their habitat and are capable of finding their own food, water and shelter as long as humans don't interfere. Some wild animals have adapted to living very close to people; others stay far away.

Is a lion in a circus domestic or wild? What about a dolphin in an aquarium? A fox on a fox farm? An elk on an elk ranch?

These animals may seem *tame*, but they're still wild animals. They are not domesticated. They have become dependent on people for food but still keep much of their wild behaviour. Their instincts tell them how to survive in the wild, but they can't use them. Instead of swimming hundreds of miles, the tame dolphin circles a tank. Instead of being "King of the Jungle," the circus lion lives in a small cage except for the short time he is forced to do tricks.

What do you think? Is it right to tame wild animals for circuses? for zoos? as pets? Should humans domesticate any more species of animals?

### Did You Know?

#### Quick Fact 2

Dolphins can reach speeds of more than 40 kph.

#### Quick Fact 3

The Cruelty to Animals sections of the *Criminal Code* were originally written more than one hundred years ago in 1892.

#### Quick Fact 4

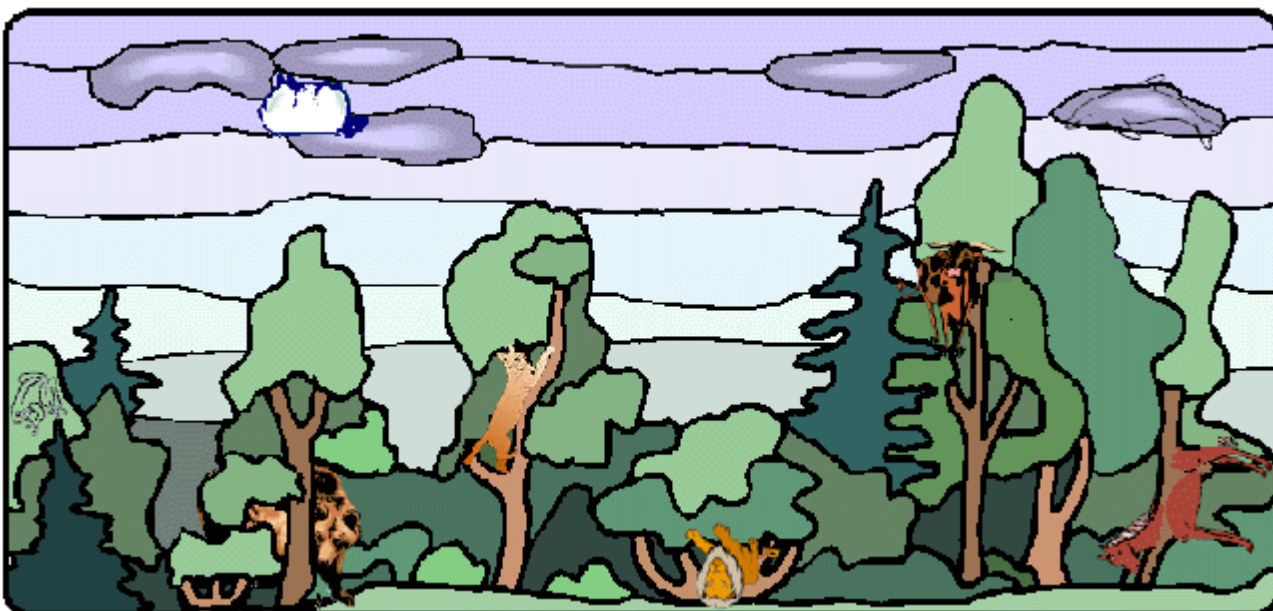
Humans are more closely related to chimpanzees than African elephants are to Asian elephants.



### Jigsaw Puzzle

Would you like a fun computer jigsaw puzzle? Look for the jigsaw icon. Send an answer to one of our questions and we'll e-mail you the URL of a secret web site page. (You have to know the URL to find it.) There, with your parent's permission, you can download the *Animals & Us* jigsaw puzzle to your computer. This is a special puzzle just for kids who participate!

Can you find the animals hidden in this picture? There are 4 domestic and 4 wild.



## The Book Beat

### Beautiful Joe

by Margaret Marshall Saunders

Have you ever felt sorry for a dog? Over a hundred years ago, Canadian author Margaret Marshall Saunders did and wrote a book about him.

In 1892, in the town of Meaford, Ontario, Saunders met Beautiful Joe, a mongrel dog that had been cruelly mutilated by his first owner. Friends had told her Joe's story and she was inspired to write about Joe to emphasize the plight of domestic animals everywhere.

*Beautiful Joe* is a great book to read. You can join Joe as he is rescued from the cruel Jenkins by caring children and join Beautiful Joe in his new family. The Morris family had its counterparts in real life, and nearly all of the incidents in the story are based on fact.

Before writing his story, the author spent six months with Beautiful Joe and the family who adopted him. Although she relocated *Beautiful Joe* to a fictional town in Maine, readers know the story is actually based in Meaford, where you can find a park and a monument dedicated to the dog's memory.

Here's to great reading!

#### Identification Information

- Owner's name
- Address
- Phone number
- E-mail
- Dog's Name
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- Breed or type
- Colour and markings
- Microchip and/or tattoo
- Licence number

#### Veterinary Information

- Veterinarian's name and phone number
- Date of spay or neuter
- Dates and types of inoculations
- Rabies tag numbers

## Make Your Pet a Passport

When Canadians travel to countries overseas, they have to have a passport for identification. Horses need passports too to compete in big horse shows. Why not dogs and cats? Make your pet a passport to take with you when you go on vacation. It's also a good way to keep all your pet's information in one place.

Buy a small exercise book, the kind held together with staples, or fold together several sheets of paper to make your own booklet.

Passports have very official-looking covers. They are usually black or navy blue with the name of the country and the coat of arms. Make an important-looking cover for your important pet's passport.

On the first page, put a recent picture of your pet. It should be a side view of them standing.

On the next page, write your pet's identification information.

Use the third page for veterinary records.

Use the rest of the pages to keep a record of travel – or just of things you and your pet do together. In a real passport, authorities stamp the page when you enter a country. You could collect souvenir stickers of different places you visit with your pet, or describe activities you do together. When you're grown up and your dog is old, or perhaps has passed away, you can look back at all the great things you did together.

## Pocket Pets?

Hamsters, gerbils and other small animals are sometimes called pocket pets because they're small enough to carry around in your pocket.

It's a catchy phrase but NOT a very good idea. Little animals need careful handling.

Can you think up catchy phrases to describe other animals. Phrases that rhyme or phrases where each word starts with the same letter are good. For example, dogs might be "House Hounds" or cats, "Furry Purries." Send your phrases to [animals&us@cfhs.ca](mailto:animals&us@cfhs.ca) or go to [www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us](http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us) and enter them there.

## Your Turn

Write your answer to this question and send it to **Animals & Us**. You could see your name in print!

### How can kids help animals in circuses and other shows?

You can e-mail your answer to [animals&us@cfhs.ca](mailto:animals&us@cfhs.ca) or you can go to [www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us](http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us) and write your answer there. You can also mail your answer to the CFHS office. The address is on the

front page. Be sure to give your name and city.

Here's an answer to the last question:

### What do you think is the best way for kids to help animals?

I think the best way for kids to help animals is to adopt one from your local SPCA. There are lots of lonely, abandoned animals there that need homes. If your parents don't like animals or someone in your family has allergies to them, you can also make a donation of money, blankets, newspapers and food to your local SPCA.

Katie

**Q** What do bees use to comb their hair?

**A** A honeycomb.

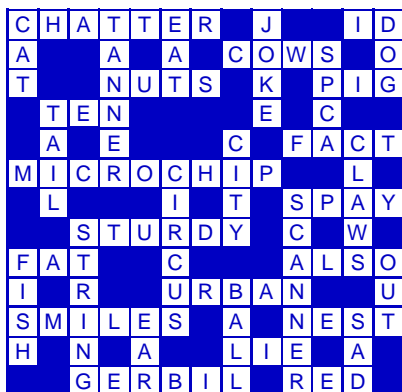
Thanks to *Kassandra from Hinton, Alberta*. Do you have an animal riddle or joke to share?

## Answers



### HIDDEN ANIMALS

Wild	Domestic
dolphin	cat
bear	cow
lion	sheep
frog	horse



## Kids Can Make a Difference

Melissa Parsons is a fifteen-year-old French-immersion student at Greenwood Junior High School. She has been a volunteer with the Exploits Valley SPCA since she was eleven.

Melissa started out by helping raise money for the animals at the shelter through various fundraisers under the guidance of an adult volunteer. Then she started to come after school to help out at the shelter. Now Melissa even does a shift every Sunday night at the shelter.

Melissa is responsible for training new Junior Volunteers, helping to give shelter tours and taking in foster animals. She takes photos of the animals and does a little write-up for the "Adorable Adoptables" column which appears in four central Newfoundland newspapers.

Melissa also managed to raise \$300 all on her own to have a couple of dogs spayed which helped them find great homes. These are just a few of the things she does for the animals.

## Do You Really Want to Go to the Circus?



Circuses are exciting! You sit on the edge of your seat eating popcorn as you watch scary lions and tigers, funny chimpanzees and bears, and huge elephants. What fun!

But have you ever thought how those animals feel? If you attend a circus that uses animals, this is what your money goes towards:

- Keeping elephants chained by one back leg and one front leg all the time they're not performing. They can take a step or two backwards or forwards and lie down. That's it.
- Keeping lions, tigers, chimpanzees, bears and other animals in cages so small they can hardly turn around. Imagine the "King of the Jungle" having to eat and sleep in his toilet.
- Using cruel training methods to force wild animals to perform.
- Putting people in danger if an elephant decides she's had enough or a tiger escapes. (It has happened many times.)

Please, if a circus with animals comes to town, tell your parents and teachers you don't want to go. Circuses with human clowns and acrobats are just as exciting. More importantly, the performers choose to be there. They are not forced to perform.

## Tanner

By Melissa Parsons

Animals arrive at the Exploits Valley SPCA (located in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland) on a daily basis and for various reasons. Some are strays, some are unwanted and some animals have been found abandoned. But this time it was different. Tanner, a purebred Saint Bernard dog that arrived at our shelter on September 30, 2000, was given up by his owner.



another town, he decided he couldn't take this very large dog with him.

The owner called the shelter to see if we knew of anyone who would buy him or if we would take him and try to get a new

owner for him. Because we asked for a donation to help cover Tanner's expenses until we could find him a home, the owner decided to look for a new owner himself. He was also in a real big rush as he had to leave town within a week or so.

Tanner's owner had been a regular visitor at the shelter. He came to visit one of our part-Saint Bernards and for a while was considering adopting him, but he decided not to mainly because he wasn't a purebred. Eventually this man bought a purebred Saint Bernard puppy from a breeder.

Anyhow, Tanner found himself given away to a new owner. This lady, who kept Tanner at her house for a few days, called the shelter to say she needed to give him up as she just wasn't used to such a big dog and was a little afraid of him. This was how Tanner ended up at the shelter.

For approximately three years, Tanner lived with this man and his family. When Tanner was about six months old, his owner even brought him to show him off at a Telethon to raise money for the shelter. However, when the man had to move to

**What happened to Tanner next? Did he get adopted? Write your own ending to Tanner's story and send it to [animals&us@cfhs.ca](mailto:animals&us@cfhs.ca). Visit [www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us](http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us) to read what happened to the real Tanner.**

© 2001 Canadian Federation of Humane Societies  
Issue 4 Spring 2001

*Animals & Us* is published by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies on behalf of its member societies.  
Editor: Elizabeth Gredley Design: animallNK  
Contributors: Valerie Lalor, Shelagh MacDonald,  
Melissa Parsons, Judy Hunter

