



The Mini Page®

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Great American
Bison

Give Them Shelter



photo by Kristin Ausk

Mini Fact:
Animal shelters take in many kinds of animals, including guinea pigs, lizards, ferrets and snakes.

If you have a pet at home, there's a good chance it came from an animal shelter. Animal shelters care for millions of abandoned or injured dogs and cats each year. There are about 5,000 animal shelters in the United States.

What is a shelter?

Most shelters are places that care for animals for a short while. Few can care for animals for the rest of their natural lives.

Shelters care for the animals while workers search for good homes for them. They find homes for millions of animals every year.



photo by The Bees

Dogs and cats are the main animals in shelters. However, they also care for many other animals people have as pets. Sometimes wild animals end up in shelters, too.

What do shelters do?

Shelters take in abandoned or injured animals. Often they care for lost or stray dogs and cats until their owners claim them.

Animal control officers also rescue animals from situations where the animals are being treated cruelly. Animals that have been pets don't do well on their own. Shelters look after these animals.

Shelters provide food, water, housing and medical care. Workers pet and play with the animals.



photo by Chris Haight Paganini

This mother cat and her three kittens are **feral** (FAIR-uhl), or wild. They live by hunting.

Spaying and neutering

Experts say the most important thing people can do to help their pets is to get them **spayed** or **neutered**. This means the animals get an operation to be sure they can't have kittens or puppies. They are asleep during the operation, so they aren't scared or in pain.

Spaying and neutering are important because there are so many animals needing care and not enough homes or shelters for them. One cat or dog can have many litters in its life. Its kittens or puppies can have many litters, too. This can end up creating thousands of new cats and dogs.

Good homes needed!

Unfortunately, shelters cannot care for all the hurt or abandoned animals that come through their doors. Experts say that from 6 to 8 million dogs and cats are brought into shelters in America each year. About half of those are **euthanized** (YOU-thuh-NIZD), or painlessly killed.

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of animal shelters are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

- ADOPT, ANIMAL, BLANKETS, CARE, CAT, DOG, FERAL, FOOD, HOME, LITTER, LOST, NEUTER, PET, SHELTER, SPAY, STRAY, TOWELS, TOYS, TREATS, VOLUNTEER, WATER.

L O S T S T E K N A L B Z Y Y
H A R Y A R T S N B W S R Z Z
C D L E L O L I F Q H S E L G
Z O A S T I M P Q E L H E W O
Z P R T A A T O L E O P T D D
V T E A L L W T W M V E N O K
A I F E M L E O E Z A T U O T
S G L R R R T O K R F O L F A
U R E T U E N X L H J Y O U C
F S P A Y L C A R E M S V C C



Cook's Corner

Mexican Pinto Beans

You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced

- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 (15-ounce) cans pinto beans, drained
- 3/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- salt to taste



What to do:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan. Add onion, peppers and garlic; cook until onions are soft and translucent.
2. Stir in cumin and chili powder. Add beans and chopped cilantro. Season with salt as desired.
3. Heat through and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

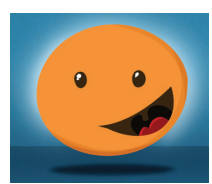
7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. vegetable on a cob (4) _____
2. allowed by law (5) _____
3. stomach area (7) _____
4. U.S. capital city (10) _____
5. dog with curly fur (6) _____
6. what you put on before shoes (5) _____
7. awe-inspiring (9) _____

HING	RN	PO	ABD
SOC	OMEN	WON	KS
LE	WAS	FUL	CO
DER	ODLE	GAL	TON

Answers: corn, legal, abdomen, Washington, poodle, socks, wonderful.



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Mini Jokes



- Pete:** What kind of dog likes taking a bath?
Petra: A sham-poodle!
- Penny:** What do you call a cat who lives at the beach?
Paul: Sandy Claws!

Eco Note



Nearly a mile beneath the waters surrounding the Galápagos Islands, scientists encountered a tiny flash of blue unlike anything they had seen before. Barely the size of a golf ball, the newly discovered octopus emerged from one of the least explored environments on Earth — the dark, cold seafloor of the tropical Pacific Ocean. Researchers described a sense of wonder as cameras captured the little creature moving across the ocean floor, its vivid blue body glowing against the darkness.



photo courtesy Charles Darwin Foundation

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your local newspaper for articles about animal shelters in your area.

KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

8-22

1 ACROSS OPPOSITE OF FOLLOW

2 DOWN

3 DOWN

4 DOWN

5 DOWN

6 ACROSS

7 DOWN OPPOSITE OF DIM

8 ACROSS 7 - 3 = ?

9 ACROSS

10 ACROSS 11 - 9 = ?