

Kia ora and Bula to young ocean explorers!

In this issue of Kind Matters, we're diving into an important topic: plastic pollution and how it affects not only marine life but also other animals and their habitats. We'll explore how our actions can help protect all kinds of animals, both in the ocean and on land, and keep their homes safe.

Get ready for some interesting facts, fun activities, and a creative craft to try out. Plus, don't miss our **NEW** Kind Matters competition, where you can share how you're helping to care for marine life!

Colouring Competition

with



Hey there, pawesome Kiwi artists! Ready for an exciting adventure? Grab your colouring pencils and join the fun in the magical world of Elastic Island Adventures - Plantation Island Resort. Written by Karen McMillan, this book stars Lepani the hermit crab who is terrified of plastic!

This is your chance to **win** amazing prizes and learn about protecting the ocean at the same time! Happy colouring and good luck!

Find the colouring page at the end of Kind Matters and make sure you enter by Sunday 27th April 2025.

To enter and for Terms and Conditions visit the Kids' Portal at: www.sPCA.nz/kindmatters



SPCA Kids
KIND MATTERS
sPCA.nz/issue 35

KIDS ENTER NOW

COLOURING COMPETITION

Please note: by entering SPCA competitions, you're agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on all SPCA webpages and within social media postings. Thank you to our sponsors Elastic Island Adventures, OfficeMax and EUGY for the amazing prizes!



What's Inside



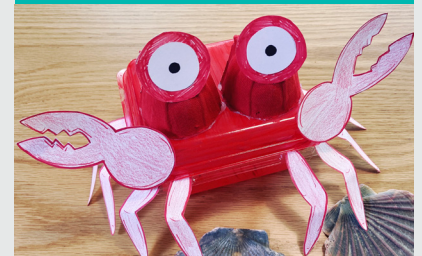
A Closer Look at: SPCA Fiji Islands

Learn about the life saving work this team does.



Kind Conservation: Ocean, Coastal and Beach Habitats

- Learn about the challenges facing these habitats.



Craft: The Trashy Crab
Make your very own crab out of recycled materials from around your home!

and much more...



Visit www.sPCA.nz/kids for more animal information!



Take a Closer Look: SPCA Fiji

Did you know that SPCA's exist all over the world? One such shelter is in Fiji, where they work tirelessly to give strays and abandoned animals a second chance at life.

SPCA Fiji Islands provides a temporary home for up to 120 cats and dogs, offering them treatment and rehabilitation before they are adopted.



The Problem of Overpopulation

A major challenge in Fiji is the overpopulation of animals, particularly in cities like Suva. This issue leads to thousands of stray animals. SPCA encourages animal guardians to desex their animals to prevent more unwanted litters.

Veterinary Care and Desexing Services

SPCA Fiji runs a veterinary clinic that provides essential care for both owned and stray animals. The clinic offers vaccinations, wellness checks, and desexing services to help keep animals healthy and reduce the number of unwanted animals.



Photos from SPCA Fiji Islands®

Taking Care of Communities

SPCA Fiji is more than just a shelter and clinic. In 2019, they launched the CLAW programme - *Communities, Legislation, and Animal Welfare*. This programme sends volunteer vets to villages to help animals in need. The vets provide wellness checks, vaccinations, deworming, and desexing for dogs and cats. CLAW helps SPCA care for animals even if they can't bring them all into the shelter, making a real difference for both animals and people.



Photo from Tom Vierus®

While shelters like SPCA Fiji are doing their best to help, they need our support too. By supporting your local SPCA, encouraging responsible animal guardianship, and learning about animal welfare, we can all make a positive difference in the lives of animals worldwide.



Book Nook

Title: Elastic Island Adventures: Plantation Island Resort

Author: Karen McMillan



Join Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan as they journey to beautiful Fiji on 'elastic island,' a magical way to travel across the ocean. This time, they're accompanied by Blong the Cat and Heathcliff the Dog.

Upon arriving at Plantation Island Resort, they meet Lepani, a small hermit crab who is terrified of plastic and wants to escape his crab life. The kids are determined to help him reunite with his family, but first, they must let him enjoy the 'day life' with them. But they soon discover that he is accident-prone, and their biggest challenge will be keeping him alive!

Did you know....

There are an estimated 20,000 - 30,000 dogs in the capital of Fiji, Suva.



Kind Conservation: Ocean, Coastal and Beach Habitats



New Zealand is surrounded by the beautiful Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea. These amazing waters create all sorts of different habitats where thousands of marine creatures live and breed.

Along with the underwater world, the beaches and coastal areas - where the land meets the sea - offer the perfect spots for both water-loving and land-dwelling animals. Animals use the beach sand, rocks, seaside plants, and cliffs to nest, rest, and take care of their young. It's a busy, exciting place where all kinds of life thrive!

Challenges: Sadly, many of the species living in these habitats are facing challenges that are leaving them threatened/ endangered. It's extremely important to protect the areas where these animals live.

Plastic pollution: Plastic of all shapes and sizes ends up in our ocean, coastal, and beach habitats, polluting the water, and harming precious wildlife. In fact, the ocean is filled with about eight million tonnes of plastic each year. To give you an idea of just how much that is - a single elephant weighs 2-7 tonnes. That's a huge amount of plastic, creating a huge problem!

Did you know:

- Animals often eat plastic, thinking it's food. For example, turtles might mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, which they usually

eat. This can cause blockages in their stomachs and can lead to starvation.

- Seabirds eat small pieces of plastic and feed it to their chicks. They think it's food, but unfortunately, it can be deadly.
- Wildlife can become entangled in plastic items which can cause life-threatening injuries and/or drowning as well.



Other pollution: Pollution from cities and farms, like pesticides, detergents, and oil, ends up in the ocean, causing harm. It can smother coral reefs, harm plants, and create "dead zones" where animals can't survive.

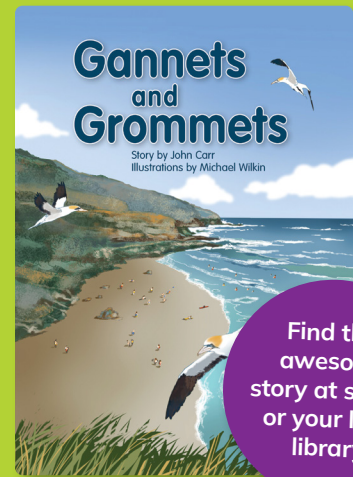
Climate change: This is warming our oceans, which is bad for sea life and their homes. Warmer waters change how plants grow and how animals behave, making it harder for some species to survive.

Fishing: When fishing isn't done carefully, it can harm wildlife and habitats. Animals can get trapped in or swallow discarded fishing gear like hooks and nets, which can seriously injure or kill them. Find out more [here](#).

Book Nook

Title: Gannets and Grommets
Author: John Carr
Illustrator: Michael Wilkin

While on holiday with his Pop, Josh discovers the dangers of fishing gear. While surfing, he spots a gannet tangled in fishing line and weights that he realises are his own! Josh and his best friend team up to rescue the bird and stop other accidents like this from happening. Will they succeed in their mission? Dive in to find out!



Find this awesome story at school or your local library!



Crab in plastic - Photo credit Dr Jennifer Lavers

Be a Guardian of Our Oceans!

Did you know that our oceans, beaches and coastal habitats are not just beautiful to look at, but they're also super important for everyone - animals and humans alike? The ocean gives us clean oxygen to breath, food to eat, and jobs for many people. Plus, countless incredible creatures depend on these watery wonders for their survival.

So, how can you help protect our oceans and the amazing wildlife that calls them home? Here's your mission: become an ocean advocate! Check out these fun and easy ways to make a big difference.

1. ADOPT THE SIX R'S:

These are key ways in which we can help limit our waste:

- **Reduce:** Use less plastic! Choose items that come in reusable containers.
- **Reuse:** When you're done with an item, stop and think, "Can I reuse this?" Get creative! Turn old containers into fun art or storage.
- **Recycle:** This is when waste is transformed into something new again. Always place your recyclables in the correct bins.



Photo from WWF®

If you're ever unsure, you can ask an adult for help!

- **Refuse:** Say no to single-use plastics, like straws or plastic bags, choose reusable items instead, such as reusable drink bottles and reusable bags when you go shopping.
- **Rehome:** Give your unwanted items a new life by donating them.
- **Rot:** Compost your food scraps to keep them out of landfills!

2. TAKE CARE AT THE BEACH:

Stay well away from any nesting birds, watch where you walk and don't let your dog chase birds or wander into dune areas.

3. ORGANISE A BEACH CLEAN-UP:

Grab your friends and whānau, and head to your local beach to collect rubbish. Remember to bring gloves and bags for all the litter you'll collect.



Photo credit Neustockimages®

4. WRITE TO YOUR LEADERS:

You can be a voice for the oceans! Write a polite letter or email to your local government asking them to protect our beaches and marine life.

5. SPREAD THE WORD:

Talk to your friends, family, and even your classmates about how important it is to protect our oceans. The more people who know, the more we can achieve together!

Excited to find out more? Check out the [Kids' Portal](#) for tons of cool information and tips on how to be a responsible guardian of our oceans!



True or False?



How well have you read this issue of Kind Matters? Find out by taking the quiz! Colour or circle the correct answer.

1. The Six R's are: reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, rehome and rot.

T

F

2. There are an estimated 10,000 dogs in the capital of Fiji, Suva.

T

F

3. Lepani is a small hermit crab who is terrified of plastic.

T

F

4. Over 77% of New Zealanders supported the ban on greyhound racing.

T

F

5. In 10 minutes, the temperature inside a car parked in the shade with the windows down can rise from 21°C to 31°C.

T

F

6. The corn crab is the smallest known species of crab.

T

F

SPCA Animal Sudoku











This sudoku works just like a regular sudoku, but instead of numbers, you need to figure out where the animals go!

The sudoku is divided into 4 blocks that are made up for 4 squares each. You can only have one of each animal in every block of 4, as well as in each row and column.

Can you figure it out? Draw the animals in the appropriate squares!



Answers on page 10

Fun Facts: Crabs!



Lepani is a small hermit crab in our featured book, *Elastic Island Adventures: Plantation Island Resort*. Curious to know more about crabs? Check out these cool facts below!

1. Crabs are decapods from the crustacean family. Decapod means "ten-footed". Crabs have 10 legs! However, the first pair are its claws which are called chelae.
2. Crabs have a thick external skeleton called an exoskeleton. This helps to protect them from predators.
3. Crabs usually have a sideways walk. However, some crabs can walk forwards or backwards, and some can even swim!
4. The collective name for a group of crabs is a cast.
5. The Pea Crab is the smallest known species at just a few millimetres wide. The largest species is the Japanese Spider Crab, with a leg span of up to 4m.



Japanese Spider Crab: Photo from Wikipedia®

Habitat Creator

Check out the [Animal Care](#) section of the Kids' Portal and read all about what animals need to be happy and healthy, then draw, paint, collage, or even create their ideal environments!

Habitat Creator - Fur Seal

New Zealand fur seals (kekeno) spend a lot of time on rocky shores. Read all about Ocean, Coastal, and Beach Habitats [here](#) and create the perfect environment for Cora the fur seal!



SPCA Kids

SPCA Storybook Jigsaw Puzzle

Have a go at solving this awesome puzzle of our featured Book Nook story, [Gannets and Grommets](#).

There are loads of other puzzles from SPCA's Storybook Series, so make sure you check them out [here](#)!

Remember that you can adjust the difficulty level of the jigsaw so you can challenge yourself to become a puzzle master!



Gannets and Grommets >



Greyhound Racing to End in New Zealand

Great news for animals in New Zealand! In December 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters, announced that greyhound racing will be banned.

New Zealand's ban on greyhound racing will officially come into force in August 2026, following a 20-month wind-down period. This wind-down period will allow time for rehoming greyhounds and for those involved in the industry to transition to new roles. Rehoming efforts will continue beyond this period to ensure all greyhounds have the opportunity to find loving homes.

Greyhound racing involves greyhounds racing around a track, chasing a mechanical stuffed toy called a 'lure'. People place bets on which dog will win. But unfortunately, greyhound racing is very dangerous for the dogs. They can get badly hurt, and even die because of the intense physical demands of racing and training.

SPCA has been working hard for many



Greyhounds racing.

years to call for improvements to the lives of greyhounds in racing, as well as retired and non-racing dogs. Greyhounds are loving dogs who deserve better than to be treated as part of a dangerous gambling activity. SPCA Scientific Officer, Dr Alison Vaughan, said it was about time that greyhound racing was banned. "SPCA worked with the industry for years to try to help them make things better for the greyhounds," she said. "But the racing industry hasn't done enough to take care of the dogs. The best way to stop the harm to greyhounds is to ban racing altogether."

A recent survey showed that over 75% of New Zealanders supported the ban on greyhound racing, showing that most people

would prefer to see these dogs as pets. Dr. Arnja Dale, SPCA's Chief Scientific Officer, praised the decision, saying, "Thank you, Mr. Peters, for making this challenging but right decision for greyhounds and for paving the way for these dogs to live a good life."

Now, these greyhounds will have a chance to live peacefully in homes where they can be loved and cared for. SPCA is excited for what the future holds for these special dogs!

For more information about animal advocacy and the greyhound racing ban, check out SPCA's page here: <https://www.spcan.zk/advocacy/details/greyhoundracing>

Dogs die in hot cars - if you love them don't leave them

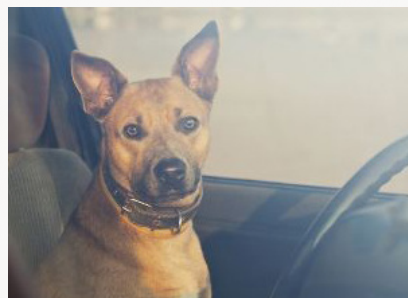
SPCA started a new campaign in the summer to stop dogs from suffering and dying in hot cars. In 2023, SPCA got more than 400 complaints about dogs in hot cars, so they want everyone to be careful during the summer.

Dr. Corey Regnerus-Kell, SPCA's General Manager Animal Services said, "We always say the same thing, but tragically dogs still suffer. It's simple, never leave animals in cars."

It is against the law to leave a dog in a hot car if they are showing signs of heat stress, such as panting a lot, drooling, breathing fast, or trying to find shade.

A dog's normal body temperature is around 38.5°C. If it goes over 41°C, it can get heatstroke, which is very serious and can even be deadly. Dogs cool down by panting, but in a hot car, even with a little bit of air and water, it's not enough. Their temperature can go up quickly and cause damage or death.

In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside a car parked in the shade with the windows down can rise from 21°C to 31°C! And in



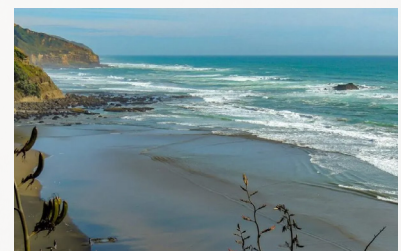
30 minutes, it can soar to 40°C. This occurs even in the shade and if your windows are open.

Dr. Regnerus-Kell recommends planning outdoor activities carefully to make sure dogs stay safe. "Check if the place is pet-friendly, and if you're not sure, consider leaving your dog safely at home."

SPCA wants animal lovers to talk to friends and family about the dangers of leaving dogs in hot cars. "Don't leave dogs in hot cars - if you love them, keep them safe."

If you are concerned about a dog in a hot car, talk to your parent or guardian and call the Police or your local SPCA on 0800 SPCANZ.

Dogs attacking penguins at Muriwai Beach



Muriwai Beach.

This summer, at Muriwai Beach in Auckland, there have been cases of dogs attacking penguins because some guardians are not following the rules.

The beach is home to penguins, seals, and gannets, and some areas are off-limits to dogs to protect the wildlife. But some people ignore the signs. Recently, a baby penguin was found injured, likely from a dog attack. Another penguin was seen being shaken by a dog. Locals are upset and want people to follow the rules to protect the animals. The Muriwai Environmental Trust is reminding the public to respect nature and follow the guidelines to keep wildlife safe.

Meet a Pawesome Supporter!

SPCA is extremely thankful for the pawesome support we receive during the year from tamariki across Aotearoa. This month we're shining the spotlight on Annabelle and the amazing fundraising she has done to support the animals in need at SPCA. From everyone at SPCA, thank you Annabelle!

Annabelle is an incredibly inspiring 12-year-old who, despite undergoing treatment for a brain tumour, continues to share her love and commitment to helping animals in need at SPCA. Keep reading to learn about Annabelle's heartwarming journey, passion for animals and her awesome fundraising!

You've been through a lot with your health. Can you tell us a little about your journey?

At the end of 2023 I started to get bad headaches and vomiting. I had a brain scan that showed there was a tumour, so I flew to Starship and stayed there for 3 months. After a long surgery, the tumour was tested in America and found to be cancer. I then had 6 weeks of radiation and 4 months of chemotherapy. When my tumour was taken out, parts of my brain were damaged and I got something called Posterior Fossa Syndrome. I couldn't talk, swallow, walk or move my arms and legs. I also had double vision. I spent two and a half months at a rehabilitation centre to improve my speech and movement. I have a wheelchair now and a tube that sends food down to my tummy. I am getting stronger every day.

How do animals make you feel better when things are tough?

Animals don't judge or stare. They just want to make you feel happy. They are very comforting and soft. I had visits from therapy dogs on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Starship and I really looked forward to it.

What made you decide to donate part of your pocket money to SPCA?

I wanted to do it because

everyone deserves a chance - everyone. I also enjoy reading the letters and updates from SPCA.

How did you come up with the idea to decorate a collection box for SPCA at your local supermarket?

When I did Brownies, there was a volunteer badge. I was too young to volunteer at SPCA but I wanted to help animals so we came up with the collection box idea.

"Animals don't judge or stare. They just want to make you feel happy. They are very comforting and soft."

What's your favourite part about making toys for your animals at home?

I like trying them with my cat and watching her figure out what to do. I made her a pom pom and a treat finder. I like that the toys are made out of recycled materials that I have around the house.

Tell us about your visit to SPCA Auckland (Māngere) Centre.

It was so much fun. I learned about owning a dog and my favourite part was getting to meet



Lisa, a one eyed dog with a very kind personality.

What advice would you give other tamariki who want to help animals?

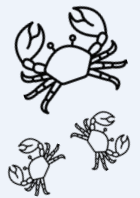
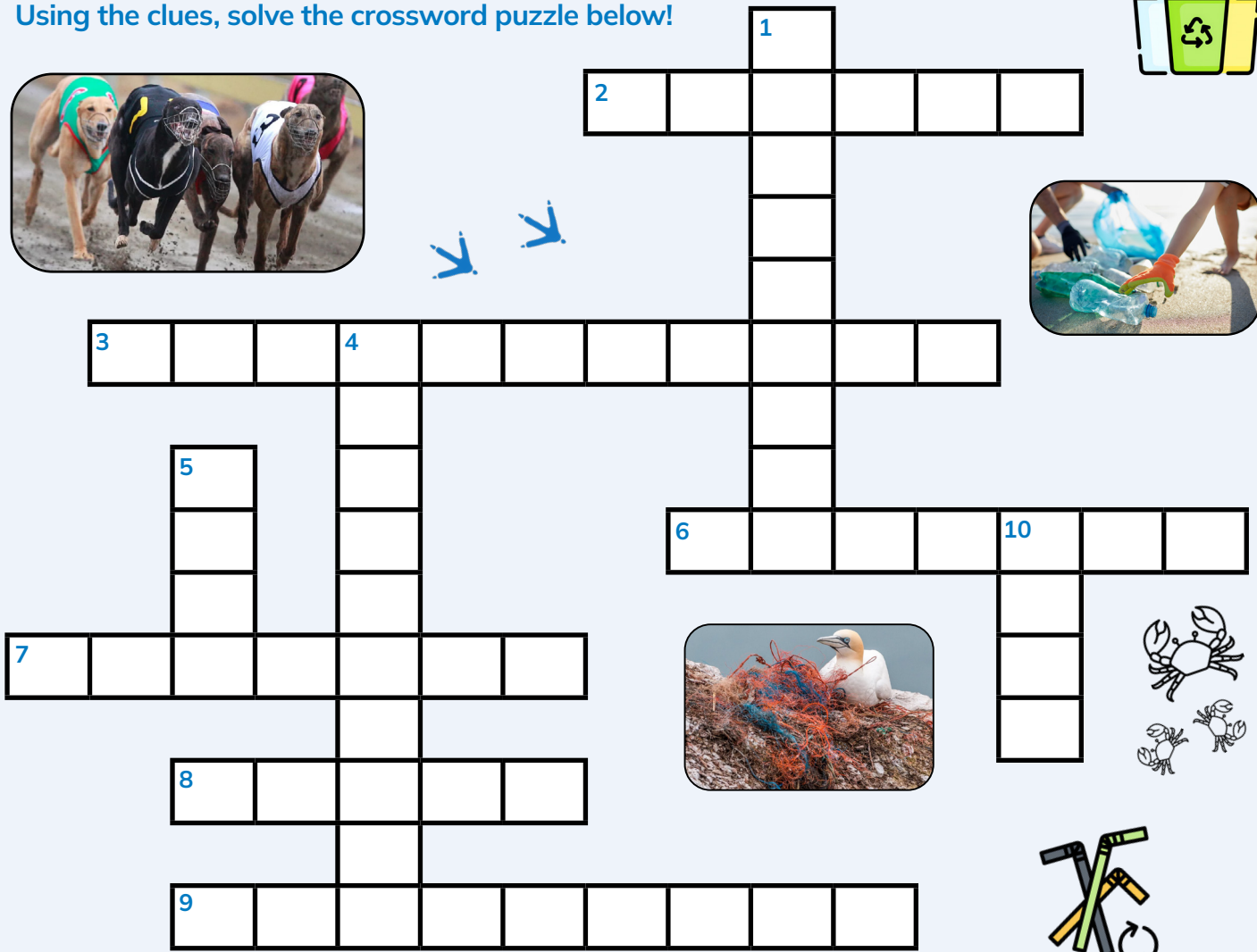
Look at the [Kids' Portal](#) because there are lots of great ideas there. I would recommend donating your pocket money because SPCA only gets a little bit of funding from the government and the rest is all from donations. Another cool idea is asking for pet food or toys instead of birthday presents. These can be donated to SPCA!



If you have done something to help animals in need, we'd love to hear about it! Send us a photo of your amazing efforts to education@spca.nz

Crossword

Using the clues, solve the crossword puzzle below!

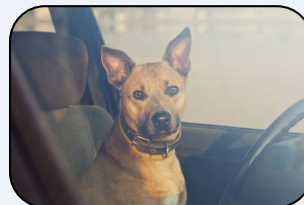


ACROSS

- Seabirds sometimes feed plastic to their _____
- Animals can get trapped in this
- When your rubbish/waste is transformed into something new again
- The ocean is filled with eight million tonnes of _____ each year
- The name of the cat in Elastic Island Adventures
- This animal racing has recently been banned in Aotearoa

DOWN

- Say no to these types of plastic
- If a dog's temperature goes over 41°C, it can get _____
- The capital city of Fiji
- A group of crabs is called a _____



Joke Time!



- How did the crab get to the party? *In a taxi crab!*
- How do we know that the ocean is friendly? *It waves!*
- How do crabs call their friends? *On their shell phone!*
- What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? *A nervous wreck.*
- Why did the hermit crab start a band? *It wanted to be a shell-ebrity!*



Tell your friends or family your favourite joke!

Craft: Recycled Trashy Crab

Are you feeling CRABBY? Well, this recycled crab might be just what you need. This fun craft activity is a great way to reuse rubbish you have at home.

Materials:

- An empty container
- Egg carton
- Red paint and brush
- Paper
- Hot glue gun
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue stick



Instructions:

1



Carefully cut two egg holders out of the egg carton.

2



Paint the egg holders and the inside of the container red.

3



Draw 2 small circles. Next, draw and colour 2 larger circles, 2 claws, and 8 legs in red.

4



Cut out the 4 circles, then draw a black pupil in each of the 2 small white circles.

5



Carefully cut out the claws and legs.

6



Glue the eyeballs to the the egg holders, then use a glue gun to attach the eyes to the container.

7



Glue the crab claws and legs to the container.



Seaweek is Coming!

1st - 9th March 2025

Seaweek is New Zealand's awesome week to celebrate the sea! It's a great chance to learn more about the ocean, its habitats, creatures, and all the cool things that live there.

Top tip: Why not organise a local beach or waterway clean up. Think of ways to get your school, whānau and community involved.

Want to know how to plan your own beach or waterway clean-up? Check out how to get started with DOC [here](#).



Activity Answer Key:

Crossword



Crossword grid with answers filled in:

```

    1 s
    2 c h i c k s
    n
    g
    l
    3 f i s 4 h i n g g e a r
    e
    5 s
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    v
    7 p l a s t i c
    r
    8 b l o n g
    k
    9 g r e e y h o u n d
    6 r e c y 10 c l e
    a
    s
    t
    
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Illustrations include: a recycling bin, crabs, and a kitten.



SPCA
Education
Webinars

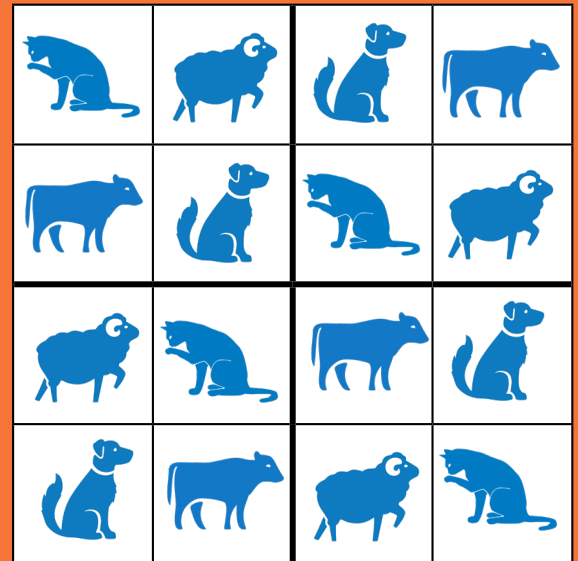
SPCA Education Webinars

Have you heard of our SPCA Education Webinars?

During these fun, exciting, and educational 30-minute webinars, you will learn about a variety of topics about animal welfare, responsible animal guardianship, and the role SPCA plays in the community!

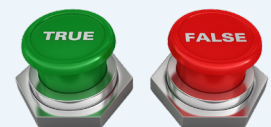
Ask your teacher or parent/guardian to visit www.sPCA.nz/schools to register you to a world of animal welfare!

SPCA Animal Sudoku



True or False?

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. T | 4. F |
| 2. F | 5. T |
| 3. T | 6. F |



Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of Kind Matters?

We'd love to hear from you!
Email education@sPCA.nz with you ideas!

Share your ideas!





SPCA Kids

KIND MATTERS sPCA.nz/issue35

First name: _____ Age: _____

City/Town: _____

