



Hello!! Welcome to the fifth issue of *Animals & Us*. Kids all across Canada are reading this newspaper. Visit our website 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).

## Living Lawnmowers

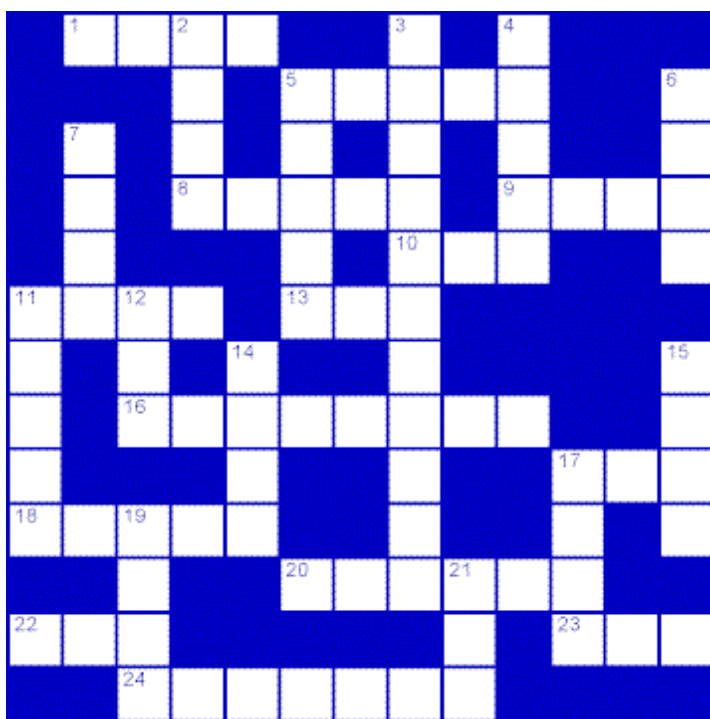
September 12, fifty sheep walked through downtown Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. They were saying goodbye before returning to their farm for the winter.

Every summer for the past ten years, a flock of sheep have spent their summers eating grass on municipal land in this small city near Edmonton. A shepherd and sheep dogs look after the sheep around the clock.

The sheep are environmentally friendly lawnmowers. Instead of polluting the air like gas lawnmowers, they fertilize the ground as they go! And they eat weeds as well as grass so the city doesn't use herbicides in the areas the sheep graze.

The sheep are also a tourist attraction. People come from all over to meet the sheep and watch the herding dogs work.

## Crossword



### Clues Across

Answers on p. 4

- 1 Young dogs.
- 5 Whale with the largest brain. (See p. 3)
- 8 A group of them is called a flock. (See p. 1)
- 9 Ontario's official bird. (See p. 2)
- 10 Great horned or great gray. (See p. 2)
- 11 Operation for female dogs and cats. (See p. 4)
- 13 Number of horses chosen for Musical Ride. (See p. 3)
- 16 Horses need many years of this. (See p. 3)
- 17 Dog you'll find at a disaster. (See p. 4)
- 18 Rock.
- 20 Province with snowy owl as official bird. (See p. 2)
- 22 Smallest mammal is as small as this. (See p. 3)
- 23 Extinct bird. (See p. 2)
- 24 Young RCMP horse. (See p. 3)

### Clues Down

- 2 There are more than 12 million in Canada. (See p. 3)
- 3 The kind of owners pets need. (See p. 2)
- 4 Not large.
- 5 What a tracking dog follows. (See p. 1)
- 6 Horse unit of measurement. (See p. 3)
- 7 The mounties. (See p. 3)
- 11 What a farrier puts on horses' hooves. (See p. 2)
- 12 Veterinarian's assistant. (See p. 2)
- 14 Animal that is hunted for sport. (See p. 2)
- 15 Female horse. (See p. 3)
- 17 Humane society. (See p. 2)
- 19 Finished.
- 21 Smallest mammal is one. (See p. 3)

## Dogs to the Rescue

Dogs help people in many different ways. They are good friends. They love us no matter what. They help us exercise. They make us feel better when we're unhappy.

Some dogs have actual jobs that help people in other ways as well. Following the terrible disaster in New York City, search and rescue dogs have been in the news. Working with their human handlers, these dogs looked for people buried under the rubble.



SAR dog Asta practices searching rubble under the watchful eye of his handler, Kevin George.

### The Nose Knows

Of course, they didn't actually 'look'. Unlike people, dogs use their noses not their eyes. Dogs have powerful noses. They have 45 times as many olfactory or smell-sensing cells as people do. One eighth of their brain is concerned with the sense of smell.

According to veterinarian Richard Long writing in the *Edmonton Journal*, "A well-trained human nose could differentiate between old sweat socks and Roquefort cheese. Fido can tell whose sweat socks they were and from what goat's milk the cheese was made."

Trailing and tracking dogs find people who are lost. These are the dogs you see wearing harnesses and long leashes, noses to the ground, pulling their handlers along. Before they start out, tracking dogs are given an article to sniff to get the person's scent. They follow the scent in tiny bits of skin cells left by the person as he or she travels. Amazingly, these dogs can tell the scent of the person they're following from the scent of other people.

Air scent dogs work at disaster sites where people are buried under rubble. They find people by picking up traces of human scent drifting in the air. They work off-leash. They follow the scent to the place where it is strongest then alert their handlers by barking and digging. They can smell people trapped many feet below the surface.

(Continued on page 4)



**Q** Where do sheep go for vacation?

**A** The Baaaaaaaaa-hamas!

Thanks to Sarah Ullstrom, a lone Guide living in Taiwan, for this joke and the ones on p. 3. Do you have an animal riddle or joke to share?



# Who Does What?

Would you like to work with animals when you grow up? You don't have to be a veterinarian! Here are ten of the many careers you could choose. Match each career with its description. Write the number of each career title in the box next to its description. **Answers p. 4**

- trains dogs or teaches people how to train their dogs. They may work with family pets or do specialized training such as service dogs.
- runs a humane society, zoo, breed registry, or other organization related to animals. May be called an executive director or manager.
- provides technical support to veterinarians by caring for animals and assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of animal health disorders. They work in veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, animal shelters, zoos and animal research laboratories.
- trims and shoes horses' feet. Most are self-employed. They work at riding stables, race tracks, and anywhere horses are kept.
- teaches people about animals and the human-animal bond. They usually work for humane societies.

1. fish and wildlife officer
2. zoologist
3. animal health technologist (AHT)
4. animal care worker
5. animal photographer
6. dog trainer
7. animal control officer
8. farrier
9. humane educator
10. CEO of an animal organization

- takes pictures of animals. They may take portraits of people's animals or may specialize in taking photographs for magazines and books.
- enforces the federal and provincial regulations established for the protection of fish and wildlife. They work for federal and provincial government departments.
- enforces municipal bylaws relating to animals. They work for towns and counties or for private companies that contract with municipalities.
- feeds, handles, cleans up after, trains and grooms animals. They work wherever animals are kept – veterinary clinics, animal shelters, kennels, research laboratories, zoos
- conducts scientific studies of animals. They work for universities, governments, zoos, resource companies.

You could specialize in animals in other careers as well. How could you help animals as a writer? internet designer? lawyer? receptionist? computer programmer? police officer? politician?

## It's Official

What do the Atlantic puffin, the snowy owl and the blue jay have in common? They are all official provincial birds.

Every province and territory has an official bird. Most of them were chosen by surveys or contests where people voted for the bird they thought best represented their province. What bird do you think best represents your province?

The Atlantic puffin is Newfoundland's provincial bird. It is related to the great auk, a bird that became extinct in 1844.

Newfoundland is the only province to also have an official game bird, the ptarmigan. Game birds are those that are hunted for sport. Do you think the other provinces should have official game birds too?

Nunavut, the newest territory, has the rock ptarmigan as its official bird. Saskatchewan's bird is also a bird that is hunted. The sharp-tailed grouse, also called a prairie chicken, was made the official bird twice, first in 1945 and then again in 1988.

People in the Yukon Territory chose the raven as their territorial bird. The raven is important in native mythology. It's also in the Bible.

The Northwest Territories chose the gyrfalcon, a bird of prey that is one of the few birds to stay all winter. Nova Scotia also chose a species of hawk. Their official bird is the osprey.

The owl is a popular provincial symbol. The snowy owl is Quebec's provincial bird. Alberta chose the great horned owl and Manitoba chose the great gray owl. Owls are spectacular birds, Have you ever seen one?

Jays are the official birds in two provinces. British Columbians chose Steller's jay as their provincial bird. The blue jay is Prince Edward Island's provincial bird.

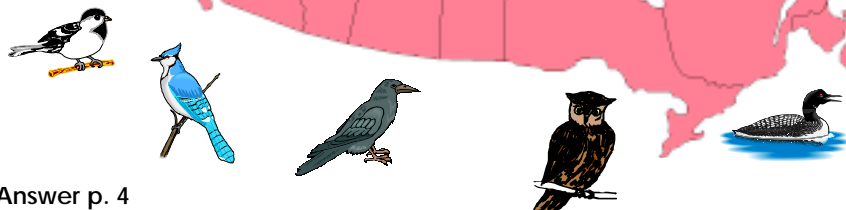
New Brunswick was the only province to choose a songbird. The black-capped chickadee is its official bird.

Ontario's provincial bird is the common loon. The dollar coin is called a "loonie" because of the picture of a loon on the back. Loons are protected from hunting.

You can learn more about these birds from the Canadian Wildlife Service. You'll find lots of information on their website at [www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hww-fap/](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hww-fap/).

A good place to learn more about animals chosen as symbols by different countries and states is [www.geobop.com/Symbols/](http://www.geobop.com/Symbols/).

Can you match birds with provinces? Draw a line from each bird to the province or territory for which it is the official bird.



Answer p. 4

## Mutts for Me!

Looking for a dog? Can't decide between a German shepherd and a Labrador retriever? How about a little bit of each?



Mixed breed dogs, better known as mutts or mongrels, are just as good as purebreds, and your local SPCA or humane society shelter has both mutts and purebreds looking for homes.

Many people prefer purebreds because, when you get a puppy, you know what it's going to look like when it grows up. With a mixed breed puppy, you never know what it will grow into! Sort of like human babies. You never really know what babies will look like when they grow up. If you don't like surprises, shelters have adult dogs too. They've already grown up so you can see what you're getting.

In some ways, mutts are better than purebreds because of something called hybrid vigor. Many dog breeds have genetic problems. For example, many German shepherds suffer from a disorder called hip dysplasia that causes arthritis to develop in the hip joint. Labrador retrievers can inherit a form of muscular dystrophy. Mix their genes together, though, and the bad genes will probably be sorted out.

Mutts are great dogs. It's sad that there aren't enough homes for all of them. You can help by having your dog spayed or neutered. There will still be mixed breed dogs to adopt because there will always be people who let their dogs have puppies irresponsibly.

# 10 Ways to Help Animals

1. Be a responsible pet owner.
2. Don't attend circuses that use animals.
3. Speak up for animals.
4. Protect the environment.
5. Don't step on bugs.
6. Learn all you can about animals.
7. Know that your choices affect animals.
8. Be a good example to younger children.
9. Don't shop at stores that sell puppies or kittens.
10. Act kind, speak kind, think kind.

## Did You Know?

### Quick Fact 1

The smallest mammal in the world is the bumblebee bat. It weighs only 2 grams.

### Quick Fact 2

According to the most recent census figures, there are 1,041,300 sheep and lambs, 12,340,600 pigs and 14,635,200 cattle and calves on Canadian farms.

### Quick Fact 3

The sperm whale has the largest brain of any animal. It weighs 5 times as much as a human brain.

## Animal ABCs

All the RCMP horses born this year were given names starting with the letter V. How many good horse names can you think of beginning with V?

What are three good names for cats starting with the letter A?

- A \_\_\_\_\_
- A \_\_\_\_\_
- A \_\_\_\_\_

What are three good names for guinea pigs starting with the letter B?

- B \_\_\_\_\_
- B \_\_\_\_\_
- B \_\_\_\_\_

What are three good names for dogs starting with the letter C?

- C \_\_\_\_\_
- C \_\_\_\_\_
- C \_\_\_\_\_

- Q** What do you call a young male manatee?  
**A** A boyatee!
- Q** What do you call two happy peregrine falcons?  
**A** A pair-a-grins!

# A Proud Canadian Tradition

Men and women in red coats riding black horses in all kinds of patterns – what a sight! That's the RCMP musical ride, a proud Canadian tradition.

## Watch a Performance

Has the RCMP musical ride visited your town? Every year, 36 horses and their riders travel to different parts of Canada to perform for delighted crowds. Sometimes, they also travel to other countries. A farrier always travels with the horses to look after their feet.

This year, the Musical Ride visited towns in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Next year, they'll be going to Quebec and Saskatchewan.

## The Horses

If you've seen the Musical Ride, you know all the horses look similar. The first thing you notice is that they're all black. They are big horses standing between 16 and 17.2 hands in height and weighing 523 to 725 kilograms. (A hand is four inches or ten centimetres.) Some are geldings (neutered male horse) and some are mares (female horse). None of them is younger than six years, and some are in their early twenties.

The RCMP raises all its own horses because it needs special horses for the musical ride. Black horses are not very common. In fact, only 5% of all horses in the world are black. RCMP horses also need a special type of personality. They have to get along with other horses and people and be able to travel to strange places without getting sick or upset.

At the RCMP breeding farm, all horses born in the same year are given names starting with the same letter. All foals born this year were given names starting with the letter V. Every year, the RCMP has a "Name the Foal" contest. Watch for it next spring. Maybe you could name one of next year's babies.

Every horse has an official Regimental Number and a microchip. This invisible identification is implanted into the horse's neck and stays with him for the rest of his life.

## Training

It takes many years of training to be good enough for the Musical Ride.

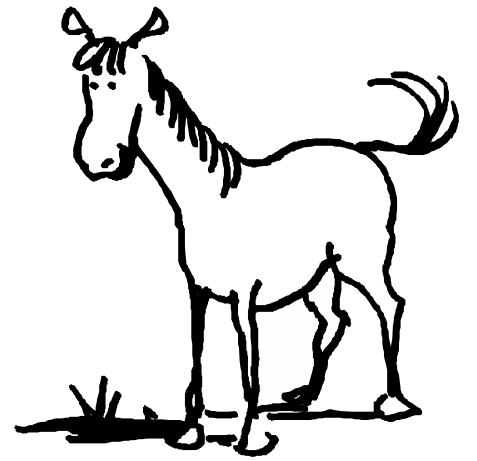
From birth to three years old, the horses live on the RCMP farm. They are called *remounts*. They are handled and groomed. They are taught how to lead and how to walk onto horse trailers. They learn to like and trust people.

When they're three years old, the remounts who are suitable for the Musical Ride move to the Musical Ride

Training Centre. There they receive two and a half years of training. First they learn to walk, trot and canter with a rider. Then they are given a break. After their break, they come back for eighteen months of more advanced training.

At six years of age, about ten of the horses are chosen to continue their training with the Musical Ride. They are not considered fully trained until they have finished one tour with the Ride.

## The Horses Who Don't Make It



Not all the horses born on the RCMP farm become part of the Musical Ride. The rest, including those that aren't black, are too small, or don't have the right kind of personality, find other jobs. They are still wonderful horses.

Some are kept by the RCMP to teach new riders. Others are sold to horse people in the general public. Horses from the RCMP farm are very popular.

## Riding in the Musical Ride

Would you like to join the RCMP Musical Ride when you're older? First you have to become an RCMP officer.

The riders are full time policemen and women who have volunteered to be part of the Musical Ride. Over 800 apply every year! Only 45 are chosen to complete the Basic Equitation course. Of those, twelve to fifteen are chosen to attend the Intermediate Equitation course and go on to the Musical Ride. They stay with the Ride for three years and then return to regular police work.

## Visit the Musical Ride Centre

You can visit the RCMP stables and riding school in Ottawa. There you can meet the horses, visit the farrier shop, and see the carriages used for ceremonial occasions.

## Learn More about the Musical Ride

You can visit [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/musicalride/home.htm](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/musicalride/home.htm) to learn more. You can even ask questions to a rider.

## 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 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!

Last issue we asked for phrases that described animals. Here are some you sent:

- Mini mice** Larissa Daigle, Ottawa, ON
- Dizzie lizzie** Karissa Ibey, North Cobalt, ON
- Slithery snakes** Shonagh McCrindle, Aylmer, QC
- Funny bunnies** Megan, Calgary, AB
- Cuddly cuties** Erika Henry, Brampton, ON
- Piggly wiggly** Venis, Minerva

## Your Turn

If your province adopted an official domestic animal, what should it be and why?

All the provinces and territories have official birds, but only two have official animals. Nova Scotia has an official domestic animal. It's the Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever. Nunavut has an official mammal, the Canadian Inuit dog.

If your province adopted an official domestic animal, what should it be? Why? Write your answer to this question and send it to **Animals & Us**. You could see your name in print!

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:

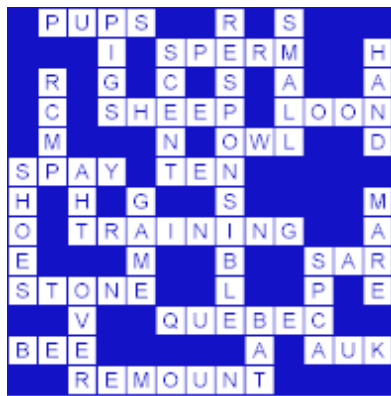
### How can kids help animals in circuses and other shows?

Kids are really the only people as such who wish to go to the circus. If more children did not want to go, the circus would make less money and would only take the show where they did make money. Parents would also like this if they did not feel it was important to go because they would save a great deal of money.

Max, CBS, Newfoundland

## Answers to Puzzles

### CROSSWORD (p. 1)



### WHO DOES WHAT? (p. 2)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 6  | 5 |
| 10 | 1 |
| 3  | 7 |
| 8  | 4 |
| 9  | 2 |

### PROVINCIAL BIRDS (p. 2)

Clockwise from top left

- Atlantic puffin – Newfoundland
- great horned owl – Alberta
- blue jay – Prince Edward Island
- loon – Ontario
- black-capped chickadee – New Brunswick
- raven – Yukon Territory

### CATS GALORE (p. 4)

- Number of cats at end of first year: **14**
- Number who could give birth to kittens next year: **8**
- Number of cats Zoe's people want: **not that many!!!**

## Cats Galore



Has your cat or dog ever had an operation? Hopefully, yes. Hopefully, she or he had a spay or neuter operation to prevent babies. Here's a math puzzle to show why it's necessary.



In March, Zoe the cat has three kittens. One is male and two are female. The male is named Casper and the females are Missy and Tao. In November, Zoe has another five kittens. Jake, Frizzy and Patch are male. Ezzie and Sam are female. Zoe's kittens from the first litter are now old enough to have babies of their own. Missy has one male kitten. Tao has four kittens, one male and three females.



How many cats are there at the end of the first year? How many could have their own kittens next year? How many cats do you think Zoe's people want? **Answer below**



## Dogs to the Rescue from p. 1

Unlike tracking dogs, air scent dogs can't tell one person from another, so each dog and handler team works its own area. Other people have to leave the area at least fifteen minutes before the dog starts the search. Otherwise, the dog could find another rescue worker by mistake.

Most dogs are trained to be either ground scent or air scent dogs. Some learn to do both.

### It's Not Easy

It's not easy becoming a search and rescue team. Both dog and handler have to work very hard. It takes years of training and experience.

Dog and handler are a team. They work very closely together. The dog has to learn to give an "alert" to tell the handler he's found someone. The handler has to understand what his or her dog is saying.

SAR dogs, as they're called, can be any breed or mixture of breeds and either male or female. What's important is that they want to work and they like people.

SAR dogs need a naturally strong drive to hunt down or retrieve prey. Hyper dogs don't work, though, because they have to be able to focus on what they're doing. Size is important. They have to be big enough to do the job but not so big they can't be lifted.

Most are mid-sized dogs in the 70 to 130 kilogram range. Common breeds include German shepherds, border collies, Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers.

### Working for Love

Most search and rescue teams are volunteers. These dedicated people and dogs spend long hours training and preparing so they are ready when they're needed. Then they donate more time for the actual rescue operations.

Search and rescue volunteers belong to one of several organizations in Canada. You can learn more about SAR dogs from the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Alberta at [www.sardaa.ca](http://www.sardaa.ca).

## Make a Wreath

Make a wreath to hang on your wall. You will need:

- pictures of animals that you have drawn and coloured or pictures from old calendars or magazines
- cardboard or non-coated paper plates
- scissors
- string or yarn
- glue

### Directions

1. Cut out a wreath shape from a piece of cardboard or use a non-coated paper plate and cut out the centre.
2. Put a small hole in the top of the circle. Thread string or yarn through the hole to make a hanger.
3. Glue your pictures on the wreath.
4. You could also put a small banner or ribbon across the front of the wreath with a message on it.

**Suggested themes:** pets (Pets depend on us), insects (Insects have a life too), farm animals (Animals deserve respect), endangered species (Help save endangered species), wildlife (Share the world), fish (Watery worlds are important too), your favourite animals (Be kind to \_\_\_\_)

