

ANIMAL BITES

ISSUE 11
SPRING 2017

SAFEYOUTH
Kids' Voice 4 Animals



THE SAFE YOUTH NEWSLETTER

FOR KIDS WHO KNOW THAT ANIMALS MATTER.

THIS ISSUE OF ANIMAL BITES IS ALL ABOUT SHEEP. SHEEP ARE AMAZING ANIMALS...

DID YOU KNOW...

The leader of the flock is not the strongest male but an elderly female? She is the most important sheep in the flock because of her many years of experience and the love and care she shows for the younger sheep. This fact will probably make you want to hug your grandmother! Hope you enjoy learning more about our sheepish friends.

ANIMAL PROFILE: SHEEP

Scientific name

Ovis aries

Lifespan

Sheep live around 10-12 years.

Ancestry

Sheep domestication (taming by humans) began between 10,000 and 11,000 years ago; dogs are the only other animal to be part of our lives for longer. Goats are sheep's closest relatives and became a different species around four million years ago.

Did ewe know?

A female sheep is called a ewe (pronounced like 'you') and a male sheep is called a ram, while young sheep are called lambs.

Sheep in New Zealand

Sheep farming used to be New Zealand's most important agricultural industry. Early English settlers cut down native forest for pastures to farm sheep for wool and meat. At the peak in 1982 there were more than 70 million sheep in the country, around 22 sheep for every person. In 2016 there were only around 28 million sheep in the country.



SHEEP CHARACTERISTICS AND BIOLOGY

INTELLIGENCE

Sheep are very intelligent animals and are capable of problem-solving. If you place a sheep in a maze, they will have no trouble finding their way out. They are nearly as clever as pigs, who are smarter than dogs.

BODY SIZE

Sheep grow to between 90 and 140cm long and can weigh between 40-130 kg.

HEARING

Sheep have excellent hearing and move their ears to the direction of the sound.

SMELL

Sheep have a great sense of smell. They recognise the smell of predators and can find their young with only their noses.

EMOTION

Sheep feel many emotions, and like humans, appear to prefer relaxed or happy faces over angry or sad ones.

SOCIAL

Sheep are highly social and like to be in a group. They are also precocial, which means they are highly independent from birth.

MEMORY

Sheep have incredible memories. They can remember over 50 different sheep's faces (and even humans). Even after being separated for years they can still remember each other, and their human friends.

EYESIGHT

Sheep have a great range of vision, and can see nearly all the way behind themselves without turning their heads. But they cannot see in front of their noses.

TEETH

Adult sheep have 32 teeth. Like other ruminants they do not have top front teeth but have a dental pad for picking off vegetation.

FEET

Sheep have scent glands between their hooves. This means they leave their smell on the ground wherever they go, which is important for maintaining bonds in a flock and especially for the bonds between a ewe and her lambs.

WOOL

Sheep's wool is amazing. The fibres keep the animal cool in hot temperatures and warm in cold. When wet, wool even produces chemicals that increase its temperature.



ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

WOOL

Sheep farmed for wool can be roughly handled when being shorn, which is traumatic for these sensitive creatures.

SHEEP FARMED FOR MILK

Though there are far fewer sheep farmed for milk in New Zealand than overseas, there are still more than 30,000 dairy sheep. Sheep milk is a growing industry in New Zealand. Sadly, like cows, sheep farmed for milk have to have their babies taken away from them so the milk can be sold to humans. Like dairy cows they can suffer from painful udder infections and lameness (not being able to walk) as well.

SHEEP FARMED FOR MEAT

Many sheep in New Zealand are farmed for their meat. Nearly 20 million lambs and three million mutton (adult) sheep were killed for meat in 2016. Sheep farmed for food only live a very short amount of what their natural life would be; for lambs that is less than a year.

LIVE EXPORT

Live export for slaughter has been banned in New Zealand since 2003. But live animals are still being exported for breeding purposes. These animals can still face horrifying journeys, crammed on ships for weeks, even months, at a time. In one shipment in June 2015, 50,000 sheep and 3,000 cows were sent to Mexico for breeding. These animals are often slaughtered, after giving birth, in painful ways that would be illegal in New Zealand.





TIPS

TO HELP ANIMALS

1 FIND ALTERNATIVES TO LAMB AND OTHER SHEEP MEAT

There are lots of great alternatives to meat. You can try simple things such as beans, lentils, or chickpeas or you can find plant-based 'meats'. These have a similar texture and taste to meat but are made from plants so no animals are harmed.

2 WHAT WOOL YOU CHOOSE?

Keeping warm without wool is easy. There are lots of warm winter fabrics now to choose from. You could try bamboo clothing – it is highly durable, soft, sustainable and will keep you nice and warm.

3 TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT HELPING ANIMALS

Talking to others about helping animals is really important. You can talk to them about avoiding wool in clothes or show them how delicious plant-based food is.

4 EAT PLANT-BASED MILK AND CHEESES



There is so much choice with plant-based milk and cheese, it is hard to decide which to try first. Soy, almond, coconut, oat and rice are all delicious, cruelty-free choices. There are many plant-based cheeses too. There is even one made here in New Zealand, called Angel Food. Their cheddar is really delicious. With all that choice, it is easy to eat with care.



KIND FOOD

The best thing you can do for animals is to stop eating them. You are going to love these super scrummy stuffing balls. They are fun to make and yummy to eat!



Super scrummy Stuffing balls

UTENSILS:

- Knife
- Chopping board
- Something to stir with
- Measuring cup
- Measuring spoons

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 small onion
- 1 small apple
- 80g margarine
- 1 Tbsp sage
- 1/3 cup cranberry sauce
- 2 cups bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup plant milk (try soy, almond, oat, or rice)
- 1/3 cup finely chopped cashews
- 1 flax egg (one tablespoon of ground flaxseeds and three tablespoons of water)
- 1 tsp whole grain mustard
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 Tbsp olive oil

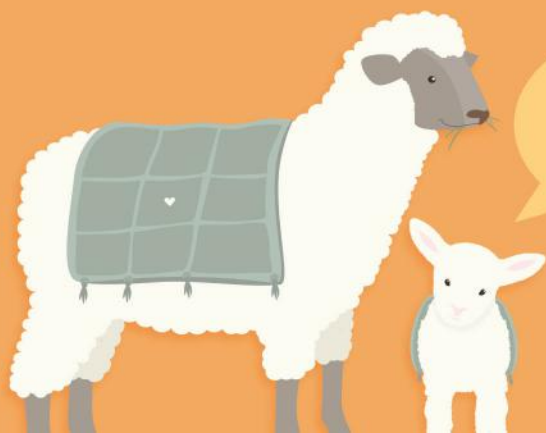
INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat oven to 200°C
- Mix water and ground flax seed and let sit in the fridge for 10 minutes
- Heat olive oil in frying pan and cook diced onion for 1-2 minutes
- Add apple and sage and cook for another 5 minutes
- Add the margarine to the pan and once melted transfer contents to a bowl
- Add the remaining ingredients to bowl (cranberry sauce, bread crumbs, plant milk, cashew nuts, flax egg, mustard and salt and pepper)
- Mix well
- Roll into balls
- Bake in oven for 20-30 minutes
- Serve with roast vegetables and gravy for a delicious meal.

ENJOY!

Pick The Answer

Write the letter of the correct match next to each problem.



THE ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 6

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. RABBIT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H | A. KID |
| 2. ELEPHANT | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. KIT |
| 3. PIG | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. PUGGLE |
| 4. HEDGEHOG | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. LAMB |
| 5. TIGER | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. PIGLET |
| 6. GOAT | <input type="checkbox"/> | F. FOAL |
| 7. SHEEP | <input type="checkbox"/> | G. CALF |
| 8. PLATYPUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | H. KITTEN |
| 9. FOX | <input type="checkbox"/> | I. CUB |
| 10. HORSE | <input type="checkbox"/> | J. HOGLET |

SAFE KIDS FOR ANIMALS

This is where we recognise your action for animals.



SAFE YOUTH
Kids' Voice 4 Animals

LUCY (10)

On a stormy night, Lucy's cat Clyde brought a large fluffy ball into the house. The fluffy ball was a baby morepork who had fallen out of her nest in the storm. They kept her dry and warm for the night before taking her to Bird Rescue, where she was nursed back to health, before releasing her back to the wild. She even starred in their Christmas video.



MADLINE (10) AND ISOBEL (8)

Inspired by SAFE's Caged Being social experiment (where 40 volunteers stayed in a cage for 40 hours), Madeline and Isobel locked themselves in a cage for 24 hours. They managed to raise \$312. Fantastic stuff!



ANI (10)

Ani started an animal rights group at his school. It has 11 members. They have made a bunch of posters to hang up at their local library. Amazing action, Ani!

LILY (12)

Lily was worried about her bunny getting lonely while she was at school and her parents were at work, so she adopted another rabbit from the SPCA. They are introducing them slowly to reduce aggression and they are nearly ready to live together. She has also been talking to her friends about caring about animals and several have gone vegetarian. What kind-hearted stuff, Lily.



SAFE YOUTH PROFILE



Kaia, dressed as Catwoman for her school disco.

Name: Kaia

Age: 11yrs

Hometown: Napier

Favourite animal:
Dachshund
(Sausage Dog)

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

I have always loved and been interested in looking after animals. I like to help at the SPCA when I can. I usually just get to pat the cats and kittens so they get some love, and take in old blankets and towels for the beds.

What is your favourite veg food?

Hot Chips!

Anything you want to share about animals?

Animals should not be in cages unless it is for their protection.

SKY BY ONDINE SHERMAN

Review by Holly, age 13

BOOK REVIEW

Overview

Sky, lover of dogs, activism, and everything animal rights, is facing a change bigger than anything she had ever imagined. The tragic death of her mother leaves her horrified, and to make things worse, she has to move out into the countryside to live with her strange aunt Paula. It only gets worse when she realises her aunt has forgotten she is vegan. As an up-and-down path unfolds, you will follow Sky through the struggles of starting a new school, popularity, guys, and standing up for what is right. The friends she makes and the family she creates, animal and human, will keep you engaged throughout Sky's captivating journey.

Did you like the book?

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, feeling it was powerful and thought provoking. The fast-paced plot fitted together beautifully, both capturing the fact that there is not always a perfect ending and restoring my faith in humanity. It nicely balanced the two main elements of the story, animal rights and social life. The only thing I disliked, really, was the ending, which seemed, perhaps, a little longer than necessary. But this did not affect the impact and general good vibes I got from the book.

Would others like this book?

I think there is only one answer to this: absolutely! I would recommend this to anyone and everyone who loves a good book. It holds obvious appeal for anyone who is already passionate about animal rights and could easily serve as an introduction to activism for someone who is not.

Who might like this book?

I think anyone 12 and over would enjoy this book. It does contain some vivid descriptions of animal cruelty and mild description of animal pain. On the social side, as Sky is 16, most of the issues she faces at school would be more interesting to those of high school age or older.



PUZZLE ANSWERS:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabbit | Kitten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep | Lamb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgehog | Hoglet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pig | Piglet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse | Foal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger | Cub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox | Kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platypus | Puggle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goat | Kid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant | Calf |

MY
SCORE:

10

IT'S FREE!

JOIN SAFE YOUTH

If you are 8-14 you can join SAFE Youth for free. Sign up online at SAFE.org.nz/safe-youth, or email alex@safe.org.nz.



Animal Tales Competition

We are celebrating the launch of the Animal Squad website - play our Animal Tales game and be in to win great prizes!

SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz

WIN
ONE OF THREE MAJOR PRIZE PACKS OR ONE OF SEVERAL SPOT PRIZES!

TO ENTER
Head to SafeAnimalSquad.org.nz, play the Animal Tales game, send us your creation and be in the draw to win!
The competition starts 16th October and closes 3rd November.
To enter you must be 8-14 years old.