

# ANIMAL BITES

ISSUE 07  
WINTER 2016

**SAFE YOUTH**  
Kids' Voice 4 Animals



THE SAFE YOUTH NEWSLETTER - FOR KIDS WHO KNOW THAT ANIMALS MATTER.

## Welcome to Issue Seven of the SAFE Youth newsletter.

You might have noticed that we have a new name for the SAFE Youth newsletters – *Animal Bites* is the newsletter for young people who are interested in animal rights. *Animal Bites* will be sent to primary school libraries, so keep an eye out for it.

This issue is all about dogs. Dogs are common companion animals and most people love

them. They are intelligent social animals, who humans have had as companions for thousands of years. Many dogs, however, face abuse or cruel treatment.

Let's learn all about dogs and some ways we can help our animal friends – who are so often part of the family.



## ANIMAL PROFILE: DOGS

### Scientific name:

*Canis lupus familiaris*

### Lifespan:

On average dogs live between 10 and 14 years. Smaller dogs usually live longer than bigger ones.

### Ancestry:

Domestic dogs are descended from the grey wolf. Dogs and wolves are thought to have begun to separate around 30,000-40,000 year ago and might have been domesticated more than once. Scientists are still trying to understand the origins of domestic dogs; the difficulty being that they freely bred with wolves and still do so.

How wolves or dogs came to be domesticated is still debated. Some believe people found and raised wolf pups, then through successive generations selected individuals with friendlier looks and behaviour. Another theory says that dogs-sort of-domesticated themselves. Ancestors of modern dogs likely hung around humans feeding on leftovers; friendlier ones probably received more food, so over time they would have become tamer. Either of these relationships with wolves could have, over time, led to the dogs of today.



### Human breeding of dogs:

Humans have been intensively manipulating dogs' characteristics through breeding for the last few centuries. The *Fédération Cynologique Internationale*, the world's governing body of dog breeds, recognises 339 separate breeds of dog. These breeds range from the Bloodhound with its extraordinary sense of smell, to the Greyhound – the fastest breed in the world, to the Labrador – probably the world's most popular dog. Intensive breeding has also resulted in some serious health problems for certain breeds, such as: increased risk of cancer, breathing problems, overheating, and heart problems, among others.

### KURĪ:

New Zealand once had its own dog, the Kurī or Polynesian dog. Brought to New Zealand on the ancestral Māori canoes, once in Aotearoa these dogs became bigger and more active than their Polynesian ancestors. It is unclear when these dogs vanished, but it is believed that cross-breeding with introduced dogs led to their eventual disappearance.



**KURĪ**  
National Museum of New Zealand,  
Te Papa Tongarewa.

# DOG

## CHARACTERISTICS

## AND BIOLOGY

### EYESIGHT

Dogs generally have poor eyesight. They are about half as sensitive to light as people; tend to be nearsighted, meaning objects in the distance are blurry; and see the world in yellow and blue.

### WHISKERS

Dogs' whiskers or feelers are technically called 'vibrissae'. They are sensitive to touch, like a human hand. Dogs use them to detect things close to their face and help them locate objects, especially when their muzzle blocks their view.

### SMELL

Dogs can smell somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 times better than humans, depending on breed. Humans have only six million smell sensors in their noses, while dogs have up to 300 million.

### HEARING

Dogs can hear around three times the range of sounds humans can, and hear sounds better, what you can hear at six metres a dog can hear at around 24 metres.

### INTELLIGENCE

Dogs are very intelligent; they can problem solve well and can even learn the meaning of around 250 words. One famous Collie, Rico, who could recognise the names of hundreds of objects, was able to fetch a new object that he had never heard of before.

### EMOTION

Dogs display many types of emotions; they feel shame, jealousy, grief, joy and have even been found to laugh when playing, which can calm other dogs or make them playful. Dogs are social animals that live in groups (like your family) and displaying and understanding emotion helps them get along.

### PAWS

Dogs' paws are composed of fatty tissue that insulates them from hot and cold temperatures. They also offer protection from rough ground and provide grip on all types of terrain.

### MOUTH/TEETH

Like humans, dogs have baby teeth when young, which fall out, and adult teeth that come in fully at about six or seven months. Though smaller, dogs' teeth are basically the same as their wolf ancestors.



## ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

### PUPPY MILLS

Unfortunately, the dog breeding industry often keeps dogs in small overcrowded, barren cages. Mother dogs can end up producing litter after litter and are deprived of proper exercise, bedding and socialisation with other dogs. Worse still, their puppies are taken away from them too young and the mother is forced to produce more puppies. Animals might also have their tails removed, just for the sake of looks. These puppies are sold in pet shops or on online trading sites.

### OVERPOPULATION

Thousands of dogs and puppies are killed each year because shelters and pounds cannot find homes for them. This is because there is an overpopulation of companion animals. Backyard breeders can struggle to sell or home the animals they breed. Too many people don't have their animals de-sexed (meaning they can no longer have babies) which can lead to unwanted puppies. Both of these contribute to overpopulation and overcrowded animal shelters.

### DOG RACING

Greyhound racing is a profit-driven industry. Dogs are forced to race from as young as 18 months old and are routinely put at risk of serious injury during training and racing. Because they race in groups and at high speed, Greyhounds can bump, trip, or hit each other into rails, posts, or the ground.

These accidents result in skin tears, wounds, fractures, and other trauma. Injuries can be career ending – some might die from them; others are put down because the industry can no longer use them.

Every year high numbers of racing Greyhounds are killed because they are: too slow, not winners any more, not suitable for breeding, or won't chase the lure. Normally living for 12 to 14 years, racing Greyhounds often only live a fraction of that time. Even breeding dogs are often killed at around five or six years old. They can, also, spend most of their time in cages travelling, some up to eight and a half hours just to get to a race track.

### EXPERIMENTS

In 2014, 1006 dogs were used in experiments in New Zealand. Dogs can be used for a range of experiments, such as medical and product testing. Some of these animals die as part of these experiments, others are killed afterwards. Beagles are often used for experiments because of their small size and trusting nature; a loving nature repaid with cruel experiments.



BEAGLE



## TIPS TO HELP ANIMALS

1

### ENCOURAGE OTHER PEOPLE TO AVOID GREYHOUND RACING

You can help the Greyhounds in the racing industry by never going to dog races and encouraging others not to as well. You can also write to the sponsors of greyhound racing and ask them to stop supporting this cruel industry.

2

### ONLY BUY CRUELTY-FREE PRODUCTS – FREE FROM ANIMAL TESTING

Buying cruelty-free products (ones not tested on animals) is a great way to help save animals. If you need help finding cruelty-free products you can check out SAFeshopper, SAFE's New Zealand cruelty-free buying guide. You can find a link to it on the SAFE home page: [safe.org.nz](http://safe.org.nz)

3

### SUPPORT ANIMAL SHELTERS – ADOPT ONLY SHELTER DOGS OR OTHER ANIMALS

Don't buy animals from pet shops or breeders – you can save animals by adopting them from animal shelters. You could also ask pet shops not to source dogs from puppy mills and to de-sex and vaccinate all their animals. Talk to your friends about adopting animals from shelters rather than pet shops, and cruel puppy mills.

4

### LEARN TO STAY SAFE AROUND DOGS

Staying safe around dogs is not just important for your sake, but also for dogs. Dogs that attack people can be killed because they are seen as dangerous. This can happen even if it is an accident, or if they are being teased or hurt. For tips on dog safety check out [www.dogsafety.govt.nz](http://www.dogsafety.govt.nz)

5

### LEARN TO PROPERLY CARE FOR YOUR DOG

Caring properly for your companion animals is really important. Make sure your dog has been:

- Vet checked
- Vaccinated
- Treated for fleas and worms
- De-sexed
- Microchipped
- Trained
- Regularly exercised
- Socialised
- Sheltered from the weather
- Fed and watered regularly
- Loved and cuddled





## Peanut Butter Cookies

### UTENSILS:

- 1 large bowl
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoons
- A stirring spoon

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup white or brown sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- ¾ cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ cup water or plant-based milk
- ¼-½ cup dark chocolate chips (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 180°C.
- Mix the peanut butter and sugar for one minute, or until creamed, then mix the vanilla essence through.
- Add the dry ingredients (flour, salt, baking soda) and combine until a crumb-like mixture forms.
- Next add the water or plant milk (and chocolate chips), and mix until combined.
- Grease a baking tray or line one with baking paper.
- Then roll 1-2 flat table spoons of dough into balls.
- Flatten gently on the baking tray/paper (for a pattern do this with a fork).
- Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until golden brown.
- Let cool, then enjoy.
- Store in an airtight container.

### TIP!

If you are allergic to peanuts you could try other nut-butters.

This recipe comes from [blissfulbasil.com](http://blissfulbasil.com)



## Homemade Dog Treats

These dog biscuits are an easy treat for your dog friend. They are tasty and you could even eat them yourself! Though they might not be very sweet.

This recipe is from [vegaprocity.com](http://vegaprocity.com)

### UTENSILS

- Bowl
- Measuring cups
- A teaspoon
- Something to stir with

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup smooth peanut butter (without additives and extra salt or sugar)
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ cup water

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- Combine ingredients and mix thoroughly.
- Roll out the dough and cut with a biscuit cutter.
- Line an oven tray with baking paper.
- Put the cut dough on the baking paper lined tray.
- Bake for 10 minutes.
- Flip the biscuits then bake for another 10 minutes, or until golden brown.
- Let the biscuits cool completely before feeding them to your dog.

### TIP!

Though peanut allergies are rare in dogs, don't feed your companion these biscuits if you suspect they have an allergy.

If you have a favourite vegan recipe you would like us to put in the next newsletter, send it to [alex@safe.org.nz](mailto:alex@safe.org.nz), along with pictures of your dish.



# SAFE KIDS FOR ANIMALS

This is where we recognise your action for animals. ★★



## CLARA (12) MURIWAI

Clara wrote a vegetarian cookbook to help encourage people to take up a more compassionate lifestyle. *Clara's Cookbook* has been named the best children's cookbook in the world at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2016. Clara and her book have also been featured in the June issue of *Total Girl*



magazine. Inspirational! Wonderful work, Clara.

For more information about *Clara's Cookbook* see: [clarascookbook.co.nz](http://clarascookbook.co.nz)

## GODWIN (9) OXFORD



Godwin has been raising money for SAFE. He has been busking in Rangiora and Oxford, and recently raised \$50 for SAFE and Oxford Bird Rescue. Great job, Godwin!

## REUBEN (10) URENUI



Reuben has been talking to his friends about all the great meat-, egg-, and dairy-free options out there. He has even got his cooking teacher on board too and they now have vegan options on their menu for food technology classes. That's amazing, Reuben!

## ANGELIQUE (11) CARTERTON



Angelique rescued a bird she found trapped on the road. She fed, sheltered, and cared for the bird for a few days until he recovered and was strong enough to fly, then released him. Fantastic stuff, Angelique.

THANK YOU ANGELIQUE!



# WORD SCRAMBLES

Unscramble these 12 dog-related words from throughout this newsletter. You can find the answers on the bottom of page 6.



- goD
- nderFi
- oDg tfaeSy
- hriocMdipecp
- aiAlmn hseSerlt

- edouyGhrn
- lrCyeut erFe
- deBrse
- Dgo awsP
- loduoBohnd
- Baegel
- yGer lfoW
- ilyamF
- cindatceaV
- onpnoamCi

# SAFE YOUTH PROFILE

**Name:** Shem Hansen

**Age:** 12

**Hometown:** Urenui

**Favourite animal:** Dog

**What got you interested in wanting to help animals?**

Learning about how animals suffer in the meat, dairy, egg and fish industries; from seeing SAFE interviews on TV; and looking up about it on the internet. I decided that I didn't want to eat or use animals or animal products anymore.

**What is your favourite veg food?**

Vegan burgers

**Anything you want to share about animals?**

Animals have feelings and we should look after them not harm them, because it is better to see them free and happy.



SHEM HELPING A WILD PIGLET



## HOW TO JOIN SAFE YOUTH

If you would like to join SAFE YOUTH, please fill out the form below and send it to SAFE Youth Coordinator Alex Woodham.



I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SAFE YOUTH.

**Name:**

**Date of birth:**

**Street address:**

**Suburb:**

**City:**

**Phone number:**

**Email:**

**Name of Parent/Guardian:**

### JOINING SAFE YOUTH IS FREE!

We will send you three newsletters per year and keep you up to date with any SAFE Youth events.

**SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM TO:**

Alex Woodham

SAFE  
PO Box 13366  
Aragh  
Christchurch 8141

Ph: 03 379 9711  
Fax: 03 374 9290

Email: alex@safe.org.nz

**SAFE YOUTH**  
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safe.org.nz



Answers to Word Scrambles:  
Dog, Friend, Dog Safety, Microchipped, Animal Shelters, Greyhound, Cruelty Free, Breeds, Dog Paws, Bloodhound, Beagle, Grey Wolf, Family, Vaccinated, Companion

