



RSPCA EDUCATION NEWS

ANIMAL NEWS FOR KIDS FROM RSPCA

MARCH 2023



Sundae is just rolling through life with a smile

Sundae the dog was born with significant deformities to his front legs. He is large breed of dog called a Maremma Sheepdog.

Sundae as a young puppy didn't let his disability slow him down, but as he got older, caring for him got harder and his owners realised that they could no longer care for him.

Sundae got surrendered to RSPCA Animal Shelter in South Australia and the expert Vet and Dog Care teams quickly realised that Sundae was going to need some help so he could move around without human assistance. The solution was a specially built dog wheelchair!

Sundae took to his new wheels with his trademark enthusiasm and through our team's hard work and training, Sundae gained some newfound freedom.

He quickly got adopted by his new owner Anastasia and now lives a full and happy life with Anastasia. another Maremma Sheepdog and some pet chickens.

We love your smile, Sundae!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Sundae keeps on rolling

What can we feed our animals?

Have you considered?

Working at RSPCA



Safe feeding for your pets



Did you know that some foods that people eat can make our animals really sick?

Just like humans, pets need a high quality, balanced diet to keep them healthy and feeling their best. The best diet for each animal is different- fish don't eat dog food, rabbits don't eat insects and cats don't eat gum leaves like koalas!

While eating most things they shouldn't will most often just give an animal a sore tummy, there are some foods that will make them very sick or could even be considered poisonous.

For our pets at home, it is important to seek advice from an expert like a vet, or from trusted sources online such as RSPCA Knowledgebase (<https://kb.rspca.org.au/>) to work out what suits them best. A good quality commercial food can be suitable for most pets, such as dog dry food or food pellets for rabbits, but there are also foods that should be avoided.

Some common human foods that pets should not eat;

Dogs- chocolate, onions, sultanas and grapes, macadamia nuts, caffeine, apple seeds

Cats- onions, garlic, chocolate, raw eggs, dairy, salt, caffeine, grapes

Rabbits- avocado, onion, mushrooms, raw potatoes, chocolate, dairy, meat, fruit seeds

Pet birds- chocolate, dried beans, alcohol, some vegetable leaves, avocado, mushrooms

Always do your research before adding a new food to your pets diet, it might save your pet from illness and you from vet bills.

Wildlife are best eating the food that is available in their natural environment as that is what their systems are used to. Sometimes human intervention is needed in the case of there not being enough food available, but people should always try to limit interactions with wildlife unless the animals needs help.

You take your water bottle to school each day to make sure that you have enough water to drink as getting dehydrated can make you really sick. Its the same for our animals, who should always have access to fresh, clean water to keep them happy and healthy.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED: A Guinea Pig?

Would you like a friendly, interactive small pet? One that you can brush, cuddle, make fun obstacles for and who also 'talks?' A Guinea Pig might be for you!

Guinea Pigs, also known as Cavies, are small animals native to South America.

Guinea Pigs have been in Australia for around 50 years and have grown in popularity as they can be suitable for families, those with apartments or small backyards and are lots of fun.

Have you seen a Guinea Pig do happy, wiggly jumps into the air? That's called 'popcorning' and is a sign that your Guinea Pig is feeling good.

Guinea Pigs also love to make noises. They will wheek, squeak, shriek, purr, rumble and chatter their teeth to let you and other Guinea Pigs know how they are feeling!

To keep your Guinea Pigs happy they will need;

- A large hutch or enclosure. Guinea Pigs can be kept inside happily, so can be suitable for people in apartments or with only a small yard. They need enough space to be able to run around and do their bounces and popcorns.
- A friend! Guinea Pigs are very social and are happiest when they live with at least one other Guinea Pig of the same gender
- LOTS of delicious hay and fresh vegetables to munch on, plus some special Guinea Pig dry food pellets.
- Your time. Guinea Pigs love your company, so make time each day morning and night to play, brush and hang out with your Guinea Pigs.



Working at RSPCA



Name: Nalika

Job: Senior Rescue Officer, South Australia

How long have you worked at RSPCA?: 30 years!

What is your favourite part of your job?: When I can rescue an animal from a dangerous situation, nurse an injured animal and return it back to its habitat, reunite a lost animal or find a caring new home for a vulnerable animal. Its a very rewarding job.

Favourite animal: Chickens

How many animals do you help each year?: About 1,500 animals come through our Rescue each year

Tell us about one memorable day in your time at RSPCA: I once rescued a kitten from down a storm water drain. It was too scared to come when I called it, so I used a recording of a mother cat meowing. She came towards the sound and got close enough that I could use some food to lure her within arms reach. A quick vet check and she was adopted not long after into her forever home.

Fundraiser Highlight

Shout out to friends of RSPCA, Chloe and Claire!

These two dedicated animal lovers decided to raise money for RSPCA as their school Genius Hour project.

The girls called their local shopping centre and got permission to hold a stall selling dog treats, yummy human treats, hand knitted beanies and lemonade.

They raised a huge \$800 and a FULL car of donations from their efforts and proudly presented it all to RSPCA to assist the animals in our care.

We are so proud of you Chloe and Claire and very grateful for your efforts.

