



PAWS4KIDS
Activity Pack

Introduction

We hope you will find this pack is a wonderful resource to keep your children engaged at home during this challenging time.

We created the original version of this pack to promote our Paws4Kids matched giving day on Wednesday 22 April to schools. We wanted to invite schools to learn more about our use of therapy dogs to help vulnerable children and fundraise for the campaign.

For obvious reasons, these resources won't achieve their original goal. But it would be great to think these activities might be an asset to parents in our community.

The following pages include a range of activities and ideas that you can use with your kids. The activities are designed to help kids understand our Paw Pals program and how it can help kids in their own community who might be less fortunate, as well as to give them ideas for fundraising if they wish to help us reach our goal and make the program available to every child who needs it.

Pages with the blue paw prints 🐾🐾 are designed for you to print and hand out to the kids. If an answer key is required it will be provided on the following page.

If you and your family do wish to support the campaign, visit paws4kids.org.au on or before Wednesday 22 April to see your gift multiplied by 3 on the website as you give.

Otherwise, we hope your family will enjoy some of the activities and discover how MacKillop Family Services are helping vulnerable children in your community.



Paw Pals

For some children, school isn't always an easy place to be. Many find it hard because beyond the school gate, they're dealing with some tough issues: family violence, neglect, living out of home or other social and emotional challenges, which mainstream schools find difficult to manage.

However, MacKillop is thinking outside the box when it comes to engaging at-risk young people in learning. Through our specialist school in Maidstone and educational outreach programs, each year we support hundreds of children living in Melbourne's west to get the best education they can.

We do this through tailored - and sometimes unconventional - programs like Paw Pals.

What is Paw Pals?

With the help of businesses, schools and individuals, MacKillop Family Services raised \$212,000 last year to fund the pilot Paw Pals: an innovative canine-assisted learning program that can make school and learning an appealing and positive experience.

Paw Pals provides animal assisted learning to support vulnerable students - such as children growing up in our residential care homes and those being excluded from classrooms - to quickly develop trust and increased self-esteem as an independent learner. Many of the children living in residential care have been given every reason not to trust adults. In fact, only 1/3 of the children living in our residential homes are attending school full-time, despite the fact that it is both a legislative requirement and a basic human right. But we're seeing that our therapy dogs can open doors that our teachers couldn't alone.

Through individualised learning sessions students work in partnership with a therapy dog and program facilitator to develop enhanced skills in the areas of behaviour regulation, social and emotional learning, numeracy and literacy.

If we want to give Australia's most vulnerable children hope for a brighter future, we must give them the education they deserve. And while you may not be able to teach an old dog new tricks, Paw Pals is already showing that you can teach children new ways to learn!

That's why on Wednesday 22 April 2020, we'll be holding our second Paws4Kids matched giving day and calling on everyone in our community to help us raise \$300,000 to continue and grow our use of therapy dogs to support kids who have experienced abuse, neglect or other childhood trauma.

Watch our video at www.paws4kids.org.au to learn more.





Paws4Kids: Animal Pals

It's not just dogs that help people. Draw lines connecting the animal with the kind of service they provide or have provided to people.



Bees



This creature's home is designed to catch the insects which spread disease and eat our food. This creature's venom might also be developed into safe insecticides.



Canary



This animal provides meat and dairy products that we eat and drink, and their skin is made into leather which we use for clothing and accessories like belts and handbags.



Carrier pigeon



This creature helps scientists monitor ocean temperature, saltiness and other data, which is much cheaper than using a submarine. The US Navy is also using them to find underwater explosives for them.



Chicken



Before cars, this animal was humanity's main source of transportation. We still refer to this animal when talking about the strength of an engine.



Cow



These insects help humanity by pollinating grains, fruit, and other foods that people eat. Their tastiest contribution to humanity is probably honey.



Horse



Because of its ability to find its way to a familiar destination across long distances, people tied messages or small parcels to this bird's feet and used them as 'flying posties'.



Rat



This creature, on its way to becoming a moth, wraps itself in a cocoon made of a strand of highly-desired fabric, which is used to make shirts, ties, and other fashionable clothing



Seals



This non glamorous bird can survive in a huge variety of conditions all over the globe, and provides people with a ready source of food, both with its eggs and its meat. No wonder everything seems to taste like them!



Silk worm



This bird was used by coal miners as a warning system. If there were any dangerous gases in the mine, they would kill the bird first, warning the miners to get out of the mine.



Spider



This rodent is very helpful for science because it can learn, remember, press buttons, run mazes, pull levers and even ride a skateboard. It's the perfect choice for studying human behaviour.

Paws4Kids: Animal Pals

Activity answers

Carrier pigeon:

Because of its ability to find its way to a familiar destination across long distances, people tied messages or small parcels to this bird's feet and used them as 'flying posties'.

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Cow:

This animal provides meat and dairy products that we eat and drink, and their skin is made into leather which we use for clothing and accessories like belts and handbags.

Spider:

This creature's home is designed to catch the insects which spread disease and eat our food. This creature's venom might also be developed into safe insecticides.

Silk worm:

This creature, on its way to becoming a moth, wraps itself in a cocoon made of a strand of highly-desired fabric, which is used to make shirts, ties, and other fashionable clothing.



Paws4Kids: Word Search

See if you can find all the different dog breeds listed below. They can run horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and backwards.

G D D S H V E U C Z E H E S G O R S F E
D V W M V L E O F N F F C O E O J G C L
P R W B G E R K W Y Q N L Z M W P Q F D
Z Y A A F G C T M B D D D E Y C O C R O
R W E N I D R E H P E H S N A M R E G O
G B M Y R S D M P N Z D M V S E S M U D
G R A R A E P T R M X M Z R L A D F P A
O A E Q E M B E B N L Y G I Q I V C V R
D K S Y A I T T N A M R E B O D T G N B
L I R Q H R R G N Z H W Y K S U H D C A
L T D K I O Y R R I T E D J A A U H B L
U A X E S V U Y E T A F A V O U I Z C K
B N V G C F W N O T A S C T U H W D D L
V E X L B P J R D H K G H Z U B N W M S
R C P B W D O A H V Q U S A P J A A X U
R B B L K U L O Z Y S A H C O L L I E F
N E N N I N P E D Z E U U G R I X X K N
J N X W J I N L B L A D N S H M F O O N
B L O O D H O U N D E Z D T U T V W S H
N N F W B R L K L S G F O Y Z Z M T G N

Akita
Beagle
Bloodhound
Boxer

Bulldog
Chihuahua
Collie
Corgi

Dachshund
Doberman
German shepherd
Golden retriever

Greyhound
Husky
Labradoodle
Poodle

Pug
Rottweiler
Saint bernard
Terrier



Paws4Kids: Word Search

Activity answers

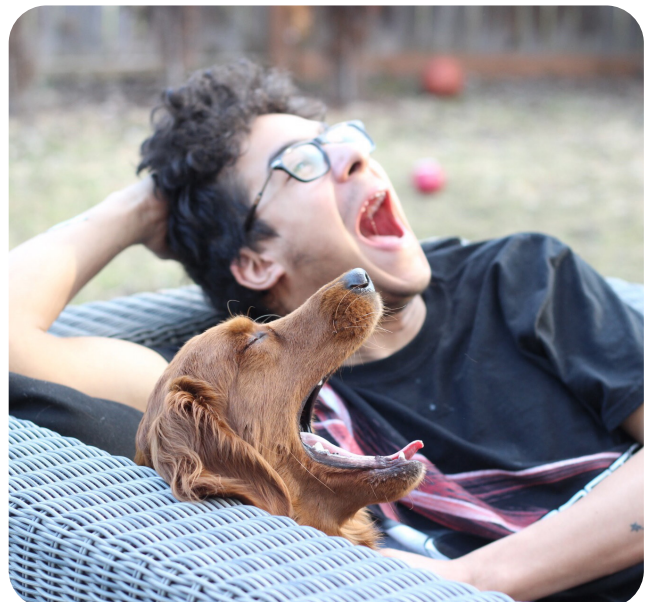
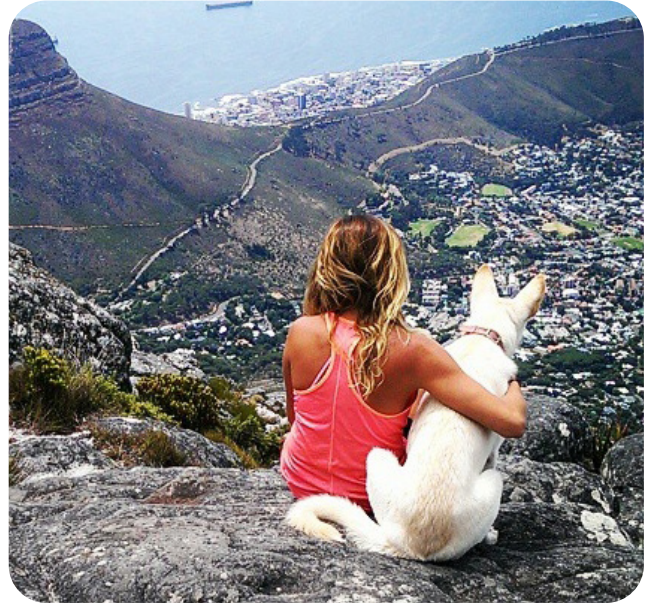
G D D S H V E U C Z E H E S G O R S F E
D V W M V L E O F N F F C O E O J G C L
P P W B G E R K W Y Q N L Z M W P Q F D
Z Y A A F G C T M B D D D E Y C O C R O
R W E N I D R E H P E H S N A M R E G O
G B M Y R S D M P N Z D M V S E S M U D
G R A P A E P T R M X M Z R L A D F P A
O A E Q E M B E B N L Y G I Q I V C V R
D K S Y A I T T N A M R E B O D T G N B
L R Q H R R G N Z H W Y K S U H D C A
L T D K I O Y R R I T E D J A A U H B L
U A X E S V U Y E T A F A V O U I Z C K
B N V G C F W N O T A S C T U H W D D L
V E X L B P J R D H K G H Z U B N W M S
R C P B W D O A H V Q U S A P J A A X U
P B B L K U L O Z Y S A H C O L L I E F
N E N N I N P E D Z E U U G R I X X K N
J N X W J I N L B L A D N S H M F O O N
B L O O D H O U N D E Z D T U T V W S H
N N F W B R L K L S G F O Y Z Z M T G N

Creative Writing Activity

Choose a couple of the following writing prompts that children can respond to. We have also included some photos on the following page that your children can use for inspiration for a story. ➡

- How may having a pet make your life more positive or exciting?
- Share about a time when you felt sad or angry about something and your dog/pet helped you feel better.
- Share about a time when your dog/pet gave you the strength or courage you needed to overcome a challenge.
- Share about a time when your dog/pet made you feel good about yourself.
- Share about a time when your dog/pet seemed to understand you better than anyone else.
- A day from the point of view of my pet.
- Dog gossip: What I would want my dog to say about me to other dogs?
- "Be the person your dog thinks you are". What does this statement say about dogs? What might you need to do in order to live up to this idea?
- Do you believe the idea that 'there are no bad dogs, just bad masters'? Why or why not?
- Write a poem with the title: A dog I don't know is in my back yard.
- Persuade a friend to get a dog for themselves.
- In your opinion, what are three non-negotiables to being a good dog owner? Why?
- What effect might the COVID -19 have on the dogs of Australia?







Creative Writing Activity





Paws4Kids: Comic Strip Creator

Complete the comic strip below with your own ideas. Feel free to rearrange the photos below to tell your story better.

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Paws4Kids Photo Competition

During the first week of term 2, why not run your own Paws4Kids photo competition online?

- Invite other parents in parent's group to share a photo of their pet with their kids and help support our fundraising campaign so at-risk kids can have canine assistance to reengage with learning.
- you and your kids can put photo of your favourite pet . You could also share a sentence about why your Paw Pal is important to you. For those of you who don't have your own pet, you might like to enter a photo of a pet that a friend or neighbour lets your kids play with, or even their favourite animal at the zoo.
- Share all the pet photos on your group page in social media and/or on Instagram with #paws4kids you'll help encourage others to get involved too!

Paws4Kids Dog-Walk-a-thon



It can be a lot of work making sure our Paw Pals are ready to do the work we need them to do!

Your kids can get a small sense of the care our therapy dogs need by walking your dog (or a neighbour's) during the free time at home.

This could be a win-win working from home project - where kids can get a sense of the care our therapy dogs need and raise awareness for Paws4Kids, while the parents can get a break from walking the dog and do their official work!

If they have no dog to walk, they might like to do other tasks involving care for living things - like feeding the cat, cleaning the fish tank or bird cage, or even watering the plants.

A Paws4Kids success story

Since the Paw Pals team officially started in July 2019, our four therapy dogs, teacher and education support worker have engaged with a number of children and young people to help them re-engage with learning.

Paw Pals helps children to:

- gain social confidence and emotional intelligence
- improve self-regulation and behaviour
- increase engagement in academic based learning tasks
- experience positive learning and achieve academic success

One of these children was Ben* and his story is below.

Ben is an energetic little boy who was having a tough time getting along with the other children and teachers at school. He's living away from his birth family, and the transition has been hard for him to cope with. A lot of people hadn't been very nice to Ben when he was younger, so he had a hard time knowing how to be nice to other people. But Ben responded to our therapy dog Millie in a way he couldn't with people!

Ben was having a tough time at his school. The school work was okay for him, but he had a hard time getting along with the other kids. Because of his anger, Ben had been removed from the classroom, and this meant he lost his confidence too.

When Ben first met Millie, he was too rough. He would hit her sometimes or tug her ears; he didn't know how to be gentle with her. But pretty soon he learned to recognise her signals. When Millie's tail wags, she's happy. When she tucks her tail underneath her, she's sad. We even gave Ben a chart that reminds him of how Millie looks when she's feeling a certain way.

Ben has learned how to pick up on Millie's cues so that he can treat her how she wants to be treated. He's practicing that skill with people now too - learning to read their social cues. Ben knows he can learn how to get along with other kids because he's learned how to get along with Millie!

After a number of sessions with Millie, helping Ben to manage his feelings and be treat others as he wanted to be treated, Ben returned to the classroom with Millie. He had the chance to introduce her to each of his classmates, who saw how he and Millie got along, and were open to being his friend too.



See our teachers share Ben's story at youtu.be/Msx1zN6Gbg4

**note that Ben's name has been changed and some details modified to protect his privacy*

Discussion questions

- Why do you think that Ben pulled Millie's tail?
- What are some of the cues dogs give us to know how they feel? And what are some of the cues that we give to people around us?
- Is there a time when you've found it easier to share your feelings with a pet than a person?
- What are some ways we can make it easier for our classmates to share difficult feelings with us?