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Animal Rascals

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p.18



Inside

18 7 Animal Rascals

You'll never forget these mischief-makers.

22 The Truth Behind the New Movie *Rango*

A fast-talking chameleon convinces some crazy desert animals that he's going to save the day. How would real critters respond? Find out here.



24 Dolphin Rescue

Concerned volunteers save several helpless dolphins stuck in mud.



26 The Greatest Heists of All Time

These supervillains managed to steal some of the world's richest treasures—but still got caught.



SPECIAL FAMILY VACATION SECTION

13 Trips Around the World | 14 Wacky American Road Trips | 16 Fun Pet Trips

Departments

- 3 **Weird But True**
- 4 **Sports Funnies**
- 6 **Bet You Didn't Know**
- 8 **Guinness World Records**
- 9 **Naughty Pets**

- 10 **Amazing Animals**
- 12 **Just Joking**
- 17 **Incredible Animal Friends**
- 28 **Fun Stuff**
- 29 **What in the World?**

Just for KIDS online!

Go online to do some amazing "eggs-periments," play Recycle Roundup, and upload your funny April Fools' pictures to NG KIDS' My Shot photo community.

kids.nationalgeographic.com

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On the Cover

A mischievous raccoon can end up in funny situations.

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Check out these outrageous facts.

Bubble Wrap
was originally invented
as wallpaper.

THE UNIVERSE IS ABOUT 13.7 BILLION YEARS OLD.

LOBSTERS CAN REGROW MISSING CLAWS.



An athlete swam the entire Mississippi River—from Minnesota to Louisiana—in 68 days.

A GECKO CAN USE ITS TONGUE LIKE A WINDSHIELD WIPER FOR ITS EYEBALLS.

ADVERTISEMENT

BY KELLEY MILLER

Celebrate

facts about wild cats

Naughty Pets



BY KELLEY MILLER

NAME Kirby

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Destroying things
with Tippy the horseFAVORITE TOY
Tippy's tail

PET-PEEVE Leashes

LET'S GO
TRAMPLE THOSE
FLOWER BEDS
TOGETHER!



I FEEL STUFFED.

NAME Squeaks

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Digging tunnelsFAVORITE TOY
Ham-and-cheese
croissant with a
flaky crustPET PEEVE
Burned toast

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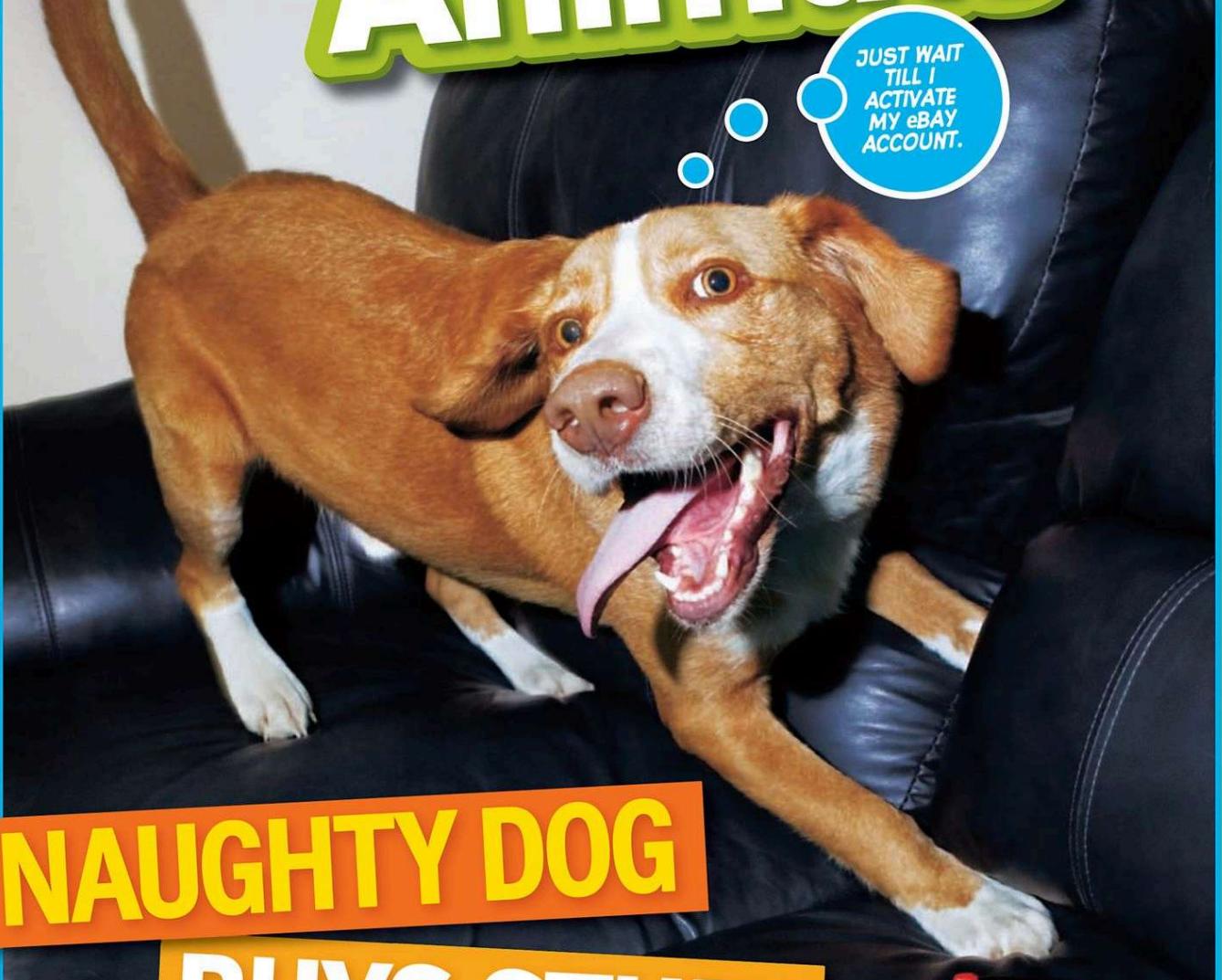
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Amazing Animals

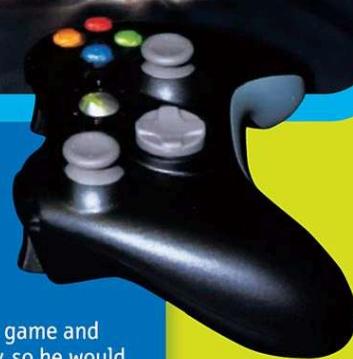


NAUGHTY DOG BUYS STUFF

Richmond, Virginia

Christine Payne and Greg Strope had a mystery to solve. An email confirmed a \$62.50 purchase of 5,000 Xbox points. The problem was they hadn't bought a thing. They searched for clues and found the game controller on the floor, covered with bite marks and dried slobber. Also at the scene was a likely suspect: Oscar the dog.

Turns out Strope had left the tempting controller on the coffee table, and Oscar, a hound-Labrador retriever mix, couldn't resist. He chewed until he turned on the video game and clicked through the screens, accidentally buying points on the system. "He was a puppy, so he would chew anything he could reach: shoes, clothes, paper," Payne says. In the end, the video game company refunded the money and, just for fun, set up the pooch with his own screen name: Oscar the K9.



HALF ZEBRA, HALF DONKEY

I'M
ROCKIN'
THIS
STRIPED
LOOK.



Dahlonega, Georgia

When Pippi was born, her owners naturally expected a donkey. After all, that's what her mother is. But her striped legs suggested a different kind of animal: a zedonk—half zebra, half donkey!

In the wild, different species do not breed, and it's rare in captivity. "Donkeys and zebras have been living together here for years without breeding, so Pippi was a big surprise," says C.W. Wathen, Chestatee Wildlife Preserve founder and manager. "When I saw her little striped legs that night, I thought something was wrong with the flashlight."

Zebra, donkey, or both, Pippi's donkey and camel friends just seem to like Pippi for Pippi. She's smart and stubborn like a donkey, usually outsmarting anyone trying to wrangle her. And she "barks" like a zebra. Says Wathen, "My wife often wonders if her donkey mama knows what she's talking about."



CRITTER CREATIONS

IT'S WILD HOW
SCARLET'S FEATHERS
MATCH THE GRAY PAINT.



Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Marsha the black rhino paints with her pointy upper lip. Wiley the grizzly bear steps in paint and lumbers across a canvas. Then there's Midge the sea lion, who furiously paints with a brush in her mouth, then "signs" her work with a noseprint.

It's all part of an enrichment program at the Oklahoma City Zoo, in which dozens of animals express their wild side and keep from getting bored through art. "They all have their own artistic style," says zoo spokesperson Tara Henson. Take Scarlet the African gray parrot. He makes masterpieces with delicate strokes, holding a small brush with his beak. "But if the canvas isn't set up when he's ready, watch out," Henson says. "Scarlet will paint whatever's closest: a wall, a trash can...even his keeper walking by."

I'M
CALLING THIS
ONE "SELF-
PORTRAIT."



Black-backed
jackal

Just Joking

KNOCK,
KNOCK.

Who's there?
Wooden shoe.
Wooden shoe who?
Wooden shoe like to
know!



ANOTHER LAME JOKE

DOCTOR You need new glasses.

PATIENT How do you know? I haven't told you what's wrong with me yet.

DOCTOR I could tell as soon as you walked in through the window.

Q What do planets
read?

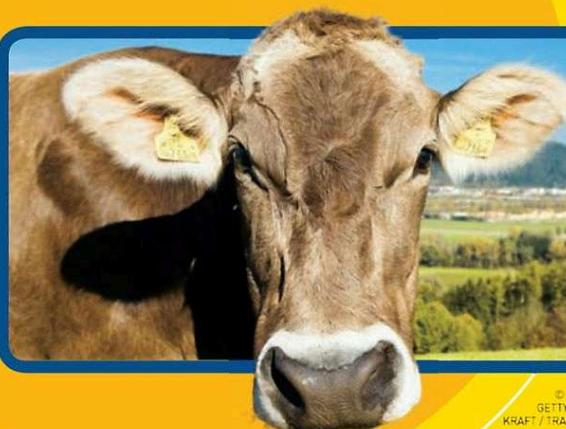


A Comet books.

Q What do you call a freight train loaded with bubble gum?



A Chew-chew train.



Q What do you get
from a cow after
an earthquake?

A Milk shake.

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GETTY IMAGES (DOCTOR), © CORBIS / SUPERSTOCK (PLANET), TOM
KRAFT / TRANSTOCK (TRAIN); © IMAGEBROKER.NET / SUPERSTOCK (COW)



FUN PET TRIPS

Check out these pet-friendly places.

Heading on a family vacation but just can't part with your pet? You're not alone. More than 15 million Americans traveled with their pets last year. So pack an extra bag for Mr. Barksdale or Miss Meowster and discover one of these animal-approved vacations.

I'M
BAD TO
THE BONE.

Going With the Flow

Heading across the ocean for vacation? Embark on the *Queen Mary 2*, a luxury ocean liner that caters to pets. All animals onboard receive coats with the *Queen Mary 2* emblem and to-drool-for freshly baked biscuits. Your pet will be pampered by the ship's Kennel Master, who will take your pup on walks with an ocean view. Let's just hope your furry friend doesn't get seasick.



Dude, Surf's Up!

At the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in California, your pooch can ride the waves during a doggy surfing lesson. Dogs get gnarly board shorts or bandanas to wear, and after hanging ten—er, twenty—your dog can chow down on a vet-approved surf-and-turf dinner.



Everybirdy Welcome

Many hotels allow dogs and cats to stay as guests, but how many let snakes or toucans visit? At the Le Parker Meridian in New York City, they've had four-legged, two-legged, finned, and slithering guests. The hotel has a "Feed the Party Animal" menu with dishes for meat-eaters, vegetarians, and omnivores. Is your cat so tense it's ready to pounce? The Le Parker Meridian offers *Bad Hare Day*, a CD filled with tunes that help your pet relax in the Big Apple.

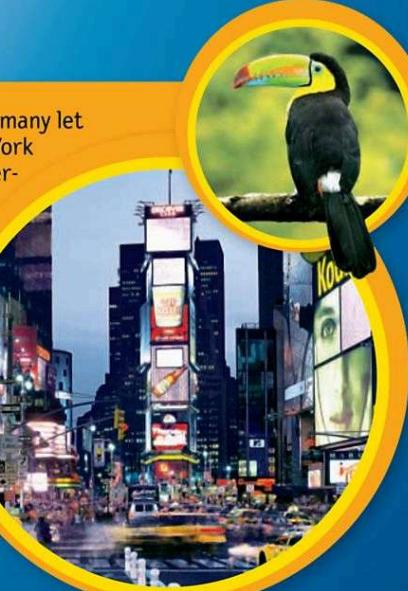
TRAVEL TIPS

At least ten days before you leave, schedule a checkup with your pet's vet to make sure all its vaccinations are up-to-date. Ask if your pet needs any health documents for traveling.

Make sure your pet wears a collar and tag with your family's address and phone number or has a microchip.

Carry a photograph of your pet in case it gets lost.

Traveling can be stressful on animals, so pack your pet's favorite toy or blanket to ease its nervousness.



CARDINAL (DOG ON SHIP); LOEWS CORONADO BAY RESORT (SURFING DOG, LOEWS RESORT); © M. COHEN/SUPERSTOCK (TOUCAN); © YOSHIO TOMI/SUPERSTOCK (TIMES SQUARE)

Incredible

BY AMANDA SANDLIN



Photo Find



Game On!

It looks like this family's game night got a little out of control. Find and circle these:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 5 ships | 6 soldiers |
| \$1,500 | red ball |
| top hat | 12 green houses |
| white apple | 4 black checkers |
| 6 dice | joker |
| 7 red hotels | car |
| timer | 6 jacks |

BONUS: Spell "winner" with the Scrabble letters hidden in the scene.

The Funnies



HIDDEN ANIMALS

Find them all!



NG KIDS MY SHOT



Back Talk

I guess
it's time we
got a cell
phone.

What do
YOU think
the elephant
is thinking?



1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to NG KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

HAYDON JONES / REX USA (ELEPHANTS); © ANUP SHAH / NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY (CHEETAHS)



From the August Issue

I don't think your insurance plan will cover that.

Julian A., 10
Poulsbo, Washington

Somebody needs a catnap!

Emma J., 11
Trussville, Alabama

Your joke wasn't that funny.

Jake K., 12
Cincinnati, Ohio

No more sardines.

Collin H., 11
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Dude, you are not scary.

Kristin C., 11
Dallas, Texas

You know I'm not really the orthodontist.

Emmalie B., 12
Portland, Oregon

Wow! When do I get teeth like those?

Gabrielle H., 13
Austin, Texas

Was that really necessary?

Lauren C., 10
Libertyville, Illinois

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