

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter May, 2021

ANIMALS TO THE RESCUE

If you believe animals can't communicate with us, lack intelligence or can't feel empathy towards their human friends, these few examples should make you think again.

Yang Yun was taking part in a diving competition in North-East China. The tank she was competing in was over 6 meters deep and the temperature was sub-zero. She developed cramps in her legs and could not get back to the surface. She started to run out of air and to sink further. Mila, one of the Beluga whales sharing the tank with the competitors noticed Yun's predicament and came to her rescue.



Yang Yun survived unharmed and Mila is forever her hero.

You may think of rabbits as no more than a good meal, but for Simon Steggall living in England, a rabbit stew is the last thing he would eat. Mr. Steggall, who is diabetic, was watching TV with his wife when Dory, their pet rabbit, jumped on him and started furiously thumping on his chest. Just prior to this, Mr. Steggall had fallen asleep, at least that's the impression his wife had had, but Dory's behavior – he is never allowed to jump onto the furniture - made her take notice. She tried to revive her husband, but couldn't. She then called an ambulance service and Mr. Steggall was saved. Like I said, no rabbit stew for this family, ever!



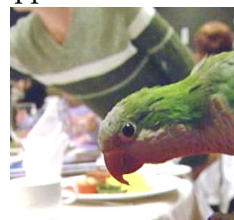
How did these animals know that their human pals were in danger? And what instinct (was it instinct?) drove them to come to the rescue?

There are many other examples of animal heroism reported in the media and in the internet. Take for example the Californian toddler who was being mauled by a neighborhood dog. His family cat suddenly leaped at the dog and chased it away saving the 4-year-old from serious injury. The whole scene was captured on the family's security camera, and you can watch this extraordinary scene on YouTube, just tap in "A Cat Saved My Son".

Not to be outdone by the feline species, Khan, an Australian Doberman, proved his metal by saving the family's 17-month old toddler from a venomous snake. The child and the dog were playing in the backyard when the dog noticed the snake. He tried to push her away but with no luck, so he grabbed her nappy and flung her a meter away over his shoulder. The baby was saved, but the snake struck the dog. Khan was rushed to a vet in time and survived. His behavior is all the more impressive when you consider that the family only adopted Khan from an animal shelter just 4 days before this happened.



"Mama, Baby!" cried Willie the parrot when he realized that Hannah, his owner's child, started choking on some food. Hannah's mother had just left the room, but came rushing back at the sound of Willie's distress call. The little girl was turning blue but Mom was able to dislodge the obstruction in the child's windpipe in time, thus saving her.



Willie is one more example to enter into the records of amazing animal heroes. But, how do they know something is wrong, and why do they intervene to help us?

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Check out the hero cat from California here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckDVpihCPq8>

Some Thoughts for the Month

Joshua Says: Have you wondered why we say “bless you” in English, or “gesundheit” in German when someone sneezes? Why would a sneeze be a prompting for divine intervention? It comes from the belief that people once had that sneezing was a prelude to the soul leaving the body and thus, to death! Isn’t it fascinating to think how language evolves over time?

Junko Says: A milestone in housing has been set. On April 30th in Holland, tenants received their keys for the first 3D printed house. A 3D printed house can be built much quicker and more affordably than usual houses with more flexibility and potential for design including curves. In India, around 56m² of housing was built in just 5 days. This is a big step forward in the field of construction. Next month, I'll introduce 3D food in this column!

Marek Says: The rainy season has descended upon us much earlier than anticipated. In fact, rainy season in Shikoku started 3 weeks earlier than usual, the earliest it has ever happened, since the records began. However, an early start does not always translate into early end, as past records show that often the early rainy season will continue until its initially expected end date. The first serious deluge has already wrecked my freshly established garden, so I have to rethink my landscaping strategy.

Mandcy dit: Comment garder le moral pendant la période morose du confinement??? Hé bien, la réponse est simple. Il faut s'occuper!!! Voici quelques idées. 1- apprendre à jouer d'un nouvel instrument 2- regarder des films cultes que vous n'avez jamais eu le temps de voir 3- lire des livres célèbres 4- se balader sur le bord de mer ou dans la montagne. 5- faire du camping ou un BBQ 6- dessiner, peindre, écrire, faire des vidéos et les partager sur le net. 7- apprendre la cuisine française 8- faire beaucoup trop de sport Bon courage à tous!!!

- Find the**
- 1 very difficult situation
 - 4 extremely poisonous
 - 6 great courage facing danger
 - 7 related to the cat species
 - 9 forcefully remove
 - 12 to get involved and cause change
 - 14 moving at high speed
 - 16 painful muscle contractions
 - 17 inborn non-rational behavior
 - 18 experiencing pain or faced with danger
 - 19 worn by infants

DOWN

- 2 action with a heavy, dull sound
3 regain consciousness
5 a young child
7 throw forcefully
8 compassionate understanding
10 something that blocks progress
or movement
11 acting extremely or violently
13 attacked and injured badly
15 earlier in time (print version)

Riddles!

See if you can answer these riddles.

(The answers are in the column to the right. Write the correct answer's number next to each riddle.)

- What can you keep after giving it to someone? ____
- I will always closely follow you and copy your every movement, but you can never touch me. What am I? ____
- What gets bigger the more you take away? ____
- What kind of coat is best put on wet? ____
- What kind of band never plays music? ____
- What goes through cities, fields and the countryside, but never moves? ____
- What has a head and a tail but no body? ____
- What is so fragile that saying it breaks it? ____
- What can you catch but never throw? ____
- What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a bed but never sleeps? ____
- What has many teeth but can't bite? ____
- What has one eye, but can't see? ____

1. A rubber band



2. A coin



3. A comb



4. A cold



5. A hole



6. A needle



7. Your shadow



8. Your word



9. A coat of paint



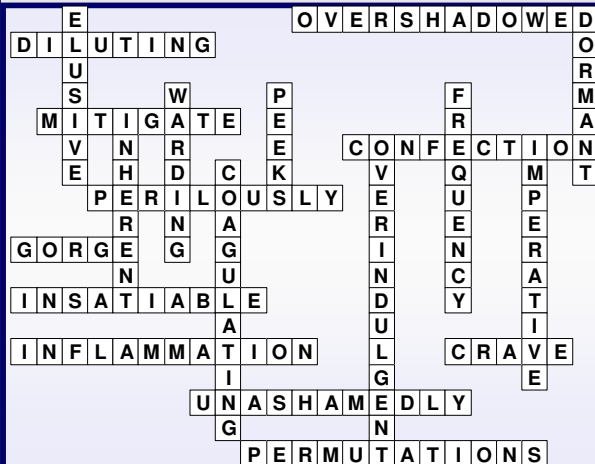
10. Silence



11. A river



12. A road



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 2 cause to seem smaller
- 4 lessening the strength
- 8 lessen the seriousness
- 10 a rich, sugary food
- 14 dangerously
- 15 overeat immodestly
- 16 impossible to satisfy
- 17 painful, swelling caused by injury
- 18 a great desire
- 19 without shame
- 20 changes in character or conditions

DOWN

- 1 difficult to catch
- 3 inactive for the time being
- 5 watching over or protecting from danger
- 6 brief glances
- 7 the number of occurrences with a time period
- 9 in the nature of something
- 11 enjoying to excess
- 12 urgently requiring attention or action
- 13 changing from liquid to solid



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.