

Pals with Paws



Hayden Roland started a youth volunteer group that helps animals in a Montana community.

LEXILE: 910L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individual Development and Identity

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6–8.1, RI.6–8.3, SL.6–8.4, W.6–8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Have students turn and talk about what they'd need to consider before getting a pet. Make a list on the board of the things that a cat or a dog would need (food, vet visits, grooming, etc.). Take a class poll. Ask: Do you think all pet owners consider the full responsibility of owning a pet before getting one? Let volunteers share. Then tell students they'll be reading about a kid who helped support his local animal shelter. How do students think shelters get all the things they need?

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Describe Hayden Roland's experience with pets. How did this influence him?
- For what reasons might animals end up in a shelter? What are the goals of an animal shelter?
- What impact has Hayden had with Wagging Tails? What do you predict is next for him?

EXTEND LEARNING

Have a class discussion about why there are so many animals in shelters. Students may use details from the article or share their own ideas. Point out that some people might not be properly prepared for their animal's behavior, and might not know what to do. Invite students to create tip sheets for prospective pet parents, using the guidelines from the Animal Care Centers of NYC at ti.me/PetBehavior.

Do students know of any animal shelters in their area? If so, ask them where. If not, invite kids to do research to identify one or more. Do these shelters have a web page sharing what they need? Invite students to come up with a plan to support a local animal shelter. This can be anything from making toys to collecting food or bedding. Donate the items to the shelter along with the tip sheets the students made.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. C (RI.3) **2. A** (RI.1) **3. B** (RI.2) **4. D** (RI.4) **5. C** (RI.6)
6. A (RI.5) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.3)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week’s cover story, “Pals with Paws,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. What event caused BunBun to join Hayden Roland’s family?</p> <p>A. He got too big for the shelter.</p> <p>B. His owner had to give him up.</p> <p>C. He was injured by a cat.</p> <p>D. Hayden saw him in a shelter while working for Wagging Tails.</p>	<p>4. What does <i>rehome</i> mean in paragraph 6?</p> <p>A. abandon</p> <p>B. shelter temporarily</p> <p>C. take care of</p> <p>D. find a permanent place for</p>
<p>2. How many years old is Wagging Tails?</p> <p>A. one</p> <p>B. five</p> <p>C. three</p> <p>D. two</p>	<p>5. Which person in the text believes animals should have a voice?</p> <p>A. Pam Volk</p> <p>B. Aria Roland</p> <p>C. Hayden Roland</p> <p>D. Maclean-Cameron</p>
<p>3. What’s the main idea of the section “Pets in Need”?</p> <p>A. Six million animals were adopted in 2024.</p> <p>B. Many animals end up in shelters and need new homes.</p> <p>C. Hayden donates his birthday money to rescue facilities each year.</p> <p>D. Hayden won a youth philanthropy award.</p>	<p>6. Why did the author write this article?</p> <p>A. to inspire kids with a story about someone helping their community</p> <p>B. to find homes for 6 million pets</p> <p>C. to provide instructions for starting an animal shelter</p> <p>D. to explain why animals end up in shelters</p>

7. Write a story about an animal that has ended up in an animal shelter.