Reptiles!

Meet Edna

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Reptiles!
Do you want to learn more about cats and dogs through the adventures of Raja? Ask an adult if you can download *The Restricted Adventures of Raja* book and game apps!
Lillian Barden (they/them) cares for tiny kittens. The kittens are from their local animal shelter. They feed them. They clean up after them. They play with them in their bedroom. When the kittens are old enough to be adopted, they go back to the shelter. The shelter helps them find a home.
A reptile breathes air. A reptile has scaly skin. Snakes, lizards, turtles, and alligators are all reptiles.
WHEN JEREMIAH THOMAS WAS FIVE, HIS FAVORITE MOVIE HAD A DRAGON IN IT.
That year, he got a bearded dragon. A bearded dragon is a reptile from Australia. Reptiles are animals with scales or bony plates on their bodies. Snakes, lizards, and alligators are reptiles. Jeremiah named his new friend “Spike” after his spiky beard. “This was the best present my parents ever got me,” he says.

Jeremiah had a lot to learn about what Spike needed to be happy and healthy. He needed a hot, dry place to live. He also needed the right food. Spike eats carrots, strawberries, leafy greens, waxworms, and hornworms.

Now 13, Jeremiah has two more reptiles. He has a crested gecko named Phoenix. He also has a ball python named Mulan. “Sometimes when I watch YouTube, Mulan watches with me. She rubs her body on the screen,” says Jeremiah. “They love screens.”


REPTILE CHECKLIST
Do you want to add a reptile to your family?

- **Do you have the time?** If you have time to care for a cat, you probably have time to care for a reptile.

- **Can you create a happy place?** Reptiles need plants, perches, and bedding. You must also keep the right heat and moisture where they live. Some need a place to exercise.

- **Did you do your homework?** Find out more about the reptile you like. There are many reptiles who need homes. A quick Google search can lead you to your local rescue or herp society.

*Checklist is from Jessica Watters at the San Diego Herpetological Society.*

Jeremiah’s mother wrote a book about Jeremiah and Spike! [TheAdventuresofSpikeandJeremiah.com](http://TheAdventuresofSpikeandJeremiah.com).
What type of pet should you get?

Take this quiz to find out which type of pet would be the best fit for you!

1. Which activity looks the most fun with your pet?
   - A. Dog playing
   - B. Hands playing with a puzzle
   - C. Chameleon

2. Where would you like your pet to spend most of their time?
   - A. Rabbit in a cage
   - B. Snake in a terrarium
   - C. Fish tank

3. Which of these pets do you like the best?
   - A. Cat
   - B. Guinea pig
   - C. Chameleon

Count up your answers!

How many of each did you answer?

If you got mostly A, you should get an active pet! Think about adopting a dog, cat, or rabbit. You can spend lots of time with these best buddies.

If you got mostly B, you should get a small pet! Think about adopting a rat, mouse, hamster, or guinea pig. They mostly live in cages or enclosures, a contained home. They can be lots of fun to feed and play with.

If you got mostly C, you should get an exotic pet! Think about adopting a reptile (tortoises, snakes, or lizards), an amphibian (salamanders or frogs), a fish, or a bird.

ANSWER: I AM A SHEEP.
CURIOSITY CORNER

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHIPMUNK AND A SQUIRREL?

Squirrels usually live in holes in trees.
Squirrels usually do not have stripes.
Chipmunks always have stripes.
Chipmunks always live in burrows on the ground near trees.

CHIPMUNK
Can you tell the difference between a squirrel?

Label each photo "squirrel" or "chipmunk"

1. I get my name from the sad sound that I make.
2. I like to eat seeds.
3. I stay with my mate for life.
4. With my long, pointed wings and tail, I can fly very fast!

WHAT AM I?

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Meet Edna!

By Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Outreach Coordinator

I helped rescue a large group of dogs in Florida. There were 145 dogs living together. They were not being cared for. When I first saw Edna, I got down low to the ground and talked softly to her. Her tail started wagging. She jumped up and licked my fingers through the fence.

When Edna was moved to a nearby animal shelter, I took her into the play yard. She ran fast and gave me a big smile. I snuggled with her. Soon, she gained weight. Her coat shined and her eyes were brighter. Then, Edna found a family and a home.

To the RESCUE!

Edna is happy now!

Kind Questions

Now that you have read *Kind News*, challenge yourself with these questions.

1. What do you think it means to take good care of a pet? How does reptile owner Jeremiah show that he cares about his pets? How does Humane Hero Lillian show that they care about kittens? What is one way you have taken care of someone else?

2. How did Devon from RedRover show kindness to Edna the dog? What is something kind you have done for someone you just met? What could you do to show kindness to someone new to your school or neighborhood?

Have a story to share about something kind you’ve done? Tell us about it at RedRover.org/shareyourstory