



Marvellous Aunt Maneka

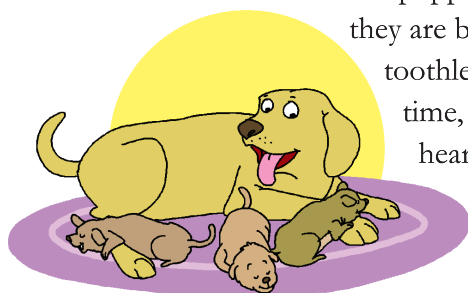
Aunt Maneka is an environmentalist, a Minister of State, and an animal lover. She is here to answer all your questions on animals and birds so that you can take better care of the animals around you and be a better friend of nature.

Q. I have a pet dog. She gave birth to three puppies. They are now 14 days old. They have not yet opened their eyes or started walking. They drink milk the entire day and sleep for hours. What should I do so that the puppies can walk?

Kunal Kadam, 12 years, Arvi

Dear Kunal,

A. This is natural. When puppies are born, they are blind, deaf and toothless. In course of time, they will develop hearing, open their eyes, and begin teething. They will start walking by themselves after another week. They need to just be kept warm, sleep and stay with their mother. Make sure that you are feeding the mother well.



Q. When I saw a dog on the road, I got scared and ran. The dog also ran after me. Now I am too scared to go out. What should I do?

Soumya, 10 years, Bhopal

Dear Soumya,

A. You should never run from a dog as it will think that you are playing with it and so, it will



run after you and jump as well. The next time you see a dog, do not look into its eyes; turn your face away from the dog. Just stand still for a few minutes and slowly back away.

Q. Why do we see only crows and pigeons in cities?

Shashikant Darekar, 12 years, Navi Mumbai

Dear Shashikant,

A. Globally, the population of more than 1,300 bird species are threatened. Cutting down trees and increasing pollution are affecting bird population everywhere. The birds are left with no place to build their nests and food is scarce too.



Crows are extremely adaptable and can survive on a wide variety of food sources. Pigeons are comfortable around humans and are adept at building their nests in concrete structures common in cities.

If you have questions about pets/animals/birds, write to us and we'll ask Aunt Maneka to answer.

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