

Name _____

Date _____

PETA Honors Teens Who Rescued a Suffering Squirrel

Two New Brunswick, Canada, teens came across a squirrel in desperate need of help—but at first, they didn't even know he was a squirrel.

Jaydon Pettipas and Aidan Hart saw a group of people gathered near a car, and then they saw a nearly unrecognizable animal struggling to breathe and move: a squirrel who was almost entirely covered with hard foam insulation. When looking at the photographs, it's hard to **fathom** how this little animal could still be alive. But luckily, the teens sprang into action, quickly containing the squirrel and asking friends and family for advice.



Eventually, they were able to find a vet clinic that agreed to see the squirrel. They got him to the clinic, and after the foam insulation was removed and he was treated, the vet was able to release him back into the wild!

All animals have the ability to feel love, joy, pain, and fear and to value their own lives. And when an animal is in need, it's up to **good Samaritans** like Jaydon and Aidan to take action. When we see someone suffering, we should always try to help—regardless of the **species**—and that's exactly what Jaydon and Aidan did.

Without these two compassionate teens, the squirrel might never have received the help that he so desperately needed and deserved. For their compassion, PETA presented them with a Hero to Animals Award.

If you ever come across an animal in danger, please take action. If the animal is in **imminent** danger, contact your local police department immediately.

Key Vocabulary: PETA Honors Teens Who Rescued a Suffering Squirrel

Using contextual evidence from the passage, define the bolded terms in your own words.

fathom

good Samaritan

species

imminent

Comprehension Questions: PETA Honors Teens Who Rescued a Suffering Squirrel

1. According to the article, what do all animals have in common? What other similarities do they share?

2. Why do you think PETA presented Jaydon and Aidan with a Hero to Animals Award?

3. Why do you think the author of the article refers to the squirrel using the personal pronoun “he” rather than the impersonal pronoun “it”?

4. Have you ever seen an animal who needed help? What did you do, or what would you tell others to do in the same situation?

Answer Sheet: PETA Honors Teens Who Rescued a Suffering Squirrel

Key Vocabulary

fathom	understand
good Samaritan	charitable or helpful person
species	group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes
imminent	about to happen

Comprehension Questions

1. According to the article, what do all animals have in common? What other similarities do they share?

Answer: All animals require food, water, and shelter to survive and have the ability to feel love, joy, pain, and fear. (Literal) We all value our own lives and have a strong desire to live, protect our families, and avoid discomfort. (Inferential)

2. Why do you think PETA presented Jaydon and Aidan with a Hero to Animals Award?

Possible answer: PETA presented Jaydon and Aidan with the award to recognize their compassion and to inspire others to help animals in need. (Inferential)

3. Why do you think the author of the article refers to the squirrel using the personal pronoun “he” rather than the impersonal pronoun “it”?

Possible answer: The author aims to communicate to readers that squirrels and all other animals are living, feeling individuals, not inanimate objects. The personal pronoun “he” indicates that the squirrel, just like the teens who rescued him, is someone, not something. (Inferential)

4. Have you ever seen an animal who needed help? What did you do, or what would you tell others to do in the same situation?

Possible answer: Answers will vary. Upon discovering an animal in danger, students should stay on the scene (when safe to do so) and contact their local law enforcement agency. (Evaluative)