

Name _____

A Way with Words

What comes to mind when you hear the word *beast*? Something hairy and scary? Long ago, that's what people called animals. As we've learned to appreciate animals, our word choices have changed. The same holds true for how we speak about companion animals and the people who care for them. That's why KIND Star Kristen Bell, star of the hit TV show *Veronica Mars*, says people should think of themselves as *guardians*, rather than *owners*, of their pets. "I want to help restore the dignity animals deserve," Kristen told us. "Animals aren't just things."

Read the paragraphs below and circle the words that are different. (We did one to get you started.) Then answer the questions below.



I'm this dog's owner. We rescued it from the dog pound. It was roaming the streets when the dogcatcher caught it. A kennel worker at the pound told us that Fluffy still needed to be housebroken.

I'm this dog's guardian. We adopted him from the animal shelter. Fluffy was roaming the streets when the animal care and control officer picked him up. An animal caretaker at the shelter told us that Fluffy still needed to be housetrained.

How do the newer words reflect a more positive view of animals and animal shelters?

Why might it upset animal shelter staff when people say they "rescued" a pet from a shelter?
