

Focus on the Family
clubhouse

JR



**Hard Act
to Follow**

APRIL 2016

clubhousejr.com



7 00001 93214 9

page 24

You've probably heard of a guard dog. These smart dogs watch over sheep or defend valuable property. But dogs aren't the only animals that make great protectors. Check out these curious caretakers.

Beware of Guard . . . Llamas?

Believe it or not, llamas love to look after chickens, goats and sheep. Ranchers in the United States often use them to guard against predators such as coyotes, foxes and wolves.

Llamas usually live in groups. When a llama is taken away from its herd, it "adopts" other barnyard animals as its new family. Then the loyal llama becomes very protective of the herd.

When an enemy approaches, the llama cries out to warn its furry friends. Mama llama stands between predator and prey, kicking and spitting until the threat leaves. Sometimes one llama will guard 300 sheep at a time! >>>

CAUTION
ANIMALS
ON GUARD

by Shari Talbot



Did you know?

Llamas don't have hoofs. They have two toenails on each foot and a leathery pad underneath.



Stubborn as a Mule

Have you heard the saying “stubborn as a mule”? Well, it turns out mules have lots of good qualities, too, such as being calm and trainable. When treated kindly, these animals are gentle, trusting and obedient.

Mules are super smart and can see and hear quite well. They don't like dog-like animals, so they are great at keeping away coyotes and wolves. That's why ranchers sometimes use mules to protect cattle, sheep or goats. When mules sense danger, they bray loudly. They may even kick, chase or bite to keep their companions safe.

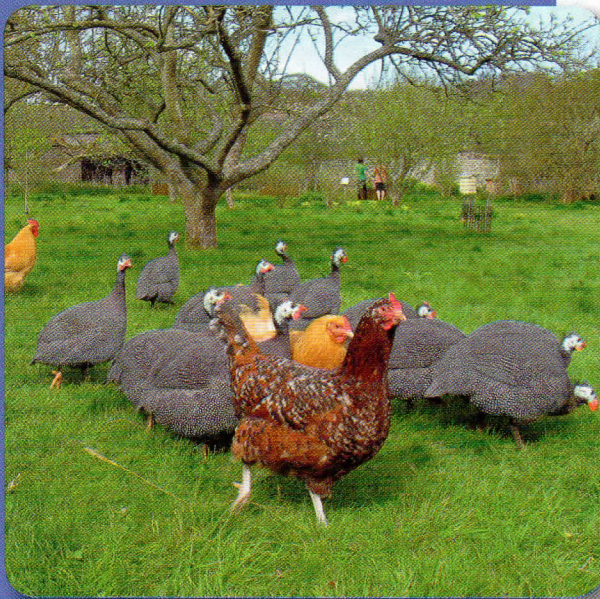


Did you know?

A mule is **half horse, half donkey**.

Mules get their **athletic ability** from the horse.

Their extra **strength** and super **smartness** come from the donkey.



God protects His creation in so many ways. Do you have a “mama llama” or “guard daddy” who watches over you to keep you safe? Your parents and other trusted grown-ups help protect you from harm. Who are the guardians in your life? Thank them for watching over you. And thank God for His safekeeping. The Bible says,

“Under the feathers of his wings you will find safety. He is faithful. He will keep you safe like a shield or a tower”

(Psalm 91:4). 🇺🇸

Guard Bird?

Protecting chickens has gone to the birds. Many farms now use guinea fowl to guard their feathered flocks. These interesting, colorful birds from Africa like to perch high in a barn or a tree. They squawk loudly to warn smaller birds and scare off predators such as eagles, foxes, rodents and snakes.

If squawking isn't enough to scare away enemies, guinea fowl will scratch, peck and flap their wings. Guinea hens are also great at protecting animals from deer ticks that cause disease. Guinea hens can eat up to 1,000 ticks every day!

Did you know?

Guinea fowl can **run really fast**. So when they see an enemy coming, they run (not fly) to **safety**.

