

the BUZZ

BY HANNAH SCHARDT



Puma-Proof-Pen

Pumas—also called *cougars* or *mountain lions*—are shy animals. They usually steer clear of places where people live. But when a puma gets hungry, it may prey on goats, sheep, and other livestock. And that can get the big cat into big trouble with farmers.

There are ways to protect livestock AND pumas. One of the best is to keep livestock safely locked away at night, when the cats are most likely to prowl. But not just any pen will do. A puma can jump a fence as high as 15 feet!

This spring, a group of kids in California spent a day building a super-secure, puma-proof pen.

It's on a small farm run by a group called Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue. People visit the farm to learn about wildlife-friendly farming.

With a little help from grownups, the kids built four strong walls with a sturdy gate. They dug a trench all the way around the walls and lined it with wire mesh to keep hungry animals from digging in. And they topped it all off with a roof. Once the pen was done, two goats that live on the farm moved right in.



Now visitors to the farm see that pumas and livestock can live near each other safely. And any puma that shows up will get the message: *Shoo, kitty—it's better for everyone!*

JAK WONDERLY (3); BEE ART BY DANIELLE JONES

In just one day, these kids built a pen to keep livestock safe from hungry pumas.



Two goats and their sheep buddies run to check out the new puma-proof pen.

