



WILD FACTS

HEAR THE ROAR



Dear Patricia

Plastic has been all over the news lately, but why is it so controversial? Plastic is lightweight, strong and cheap to make. It's used in endless ways including mobile phones, toys and pens, and it's really long-lasting – a plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to decompose.

But this is why plastic can cause problems. Half of the plastic used, we use just once and throw away. Plastic clogs up rubbish tips and litters our countryside and oceans. This can be a big problem for wildlife and habitats, but there are lots of ways you can take action to help.

From

Laura

Laura Gosset
Wild Crew



Plastic problems

Experts think by 2050 plastic in the ocean will weigh more than the fish that live there. Animals can get trapped in plastic rubbish or mistake it for food – marine turtles eat plastic bags thinking they are jellyfish. Howard the fox got caught in a discarded cereal dispenser, while Samantha the hedgehog got her head stuck in a plastic ring from a bottle top. Thankfully both were rescued and returned to the wild.



How you can help

Always dispose of plastic carefully. There are many ways we can try to avoid new plastic, for example, only buy drinks in cans instead of plastic bottles – even better, buy a reusable bottle and use it again and again. Buy second-hand plastic toys – take a look in your local second-hand shop. Try to re-use plastic bags – always take a bag when you go shopping. Additionally, try to avoid plastic food packaging – for example, put apples in a paper bag instead.

Click [here](#) for more ideas on how you can take responsibility for plastic pollution.

Don't forget to [download](#) your free copy of *Hear the Roar* magazine, see page 10 for more facts about plastic and complete the crossword.



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