

JOSEPHINE, TÖRTLE AND THE ANIMALS

20x12'



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About

Format: 20 x 12'

Genre/Subgenre: Junior/Animation

Target Audience: Kids 6-9

Technique: 2D Animation

Key Words: Comedy, Culture Clash, Animals & Humans

Spin-Off of the series Törtle:

<https://zdf-studios-presents.com/toertle>

12-year-old Josephine loves animals and has a special bond with them through her tortoise, Törtle. Josephine's mother is a vet in Muddlemere and taught her how to care for animals. The idyllic village on Muddlemere Lake borders a forest and is therefore home to many different animals. When one of them gets into trouble, it is Josephine who comes to the rescue. Her detective instincts lead her to the all-too-often man-made cause of the incident. With her big heart and tenacious dedication, she makes sure it never happens again.

The series Josephine is a spin-off of the series Törtle, which is based on the children's book series of the same name by Wieland Freund.

- **Exciting stories with a heart for nature.**
- **Josephine shows that small actions can make a big difference.**
- **Making environmental awareness fun and engaging.**

zdf-studios-presents.com/josephine



Characters

Josephine

JOSEPHINE BUDAK (12) – is a spirited, kind-hearted 12-year-old girl with a deep love for animals and a passion for the environment. Her empathetic nature makes her a trusted friend to both humans and animals. She cares for neighbors' pets and nurses injured birds back to health. An adventurer at heart, she enjoys nature through biking and swimming. She courageously advocates for animal rights and environmental protection. Her special bond with her tortoise Törtle helps her find solutions. She dreams of becoming a veterinarian.



A colorful illustration of a young boy with brown hair and freckles, wearing a blue t-shirt with white stripes on the sleeves, brown shorts, and white sneakers with blue accents. He is running happily towards the left. The background is a warm sunset sky with orange and yellow tones. To the right, there is a large, leafy green tree. In the foreground, there are some bushes and flowers.

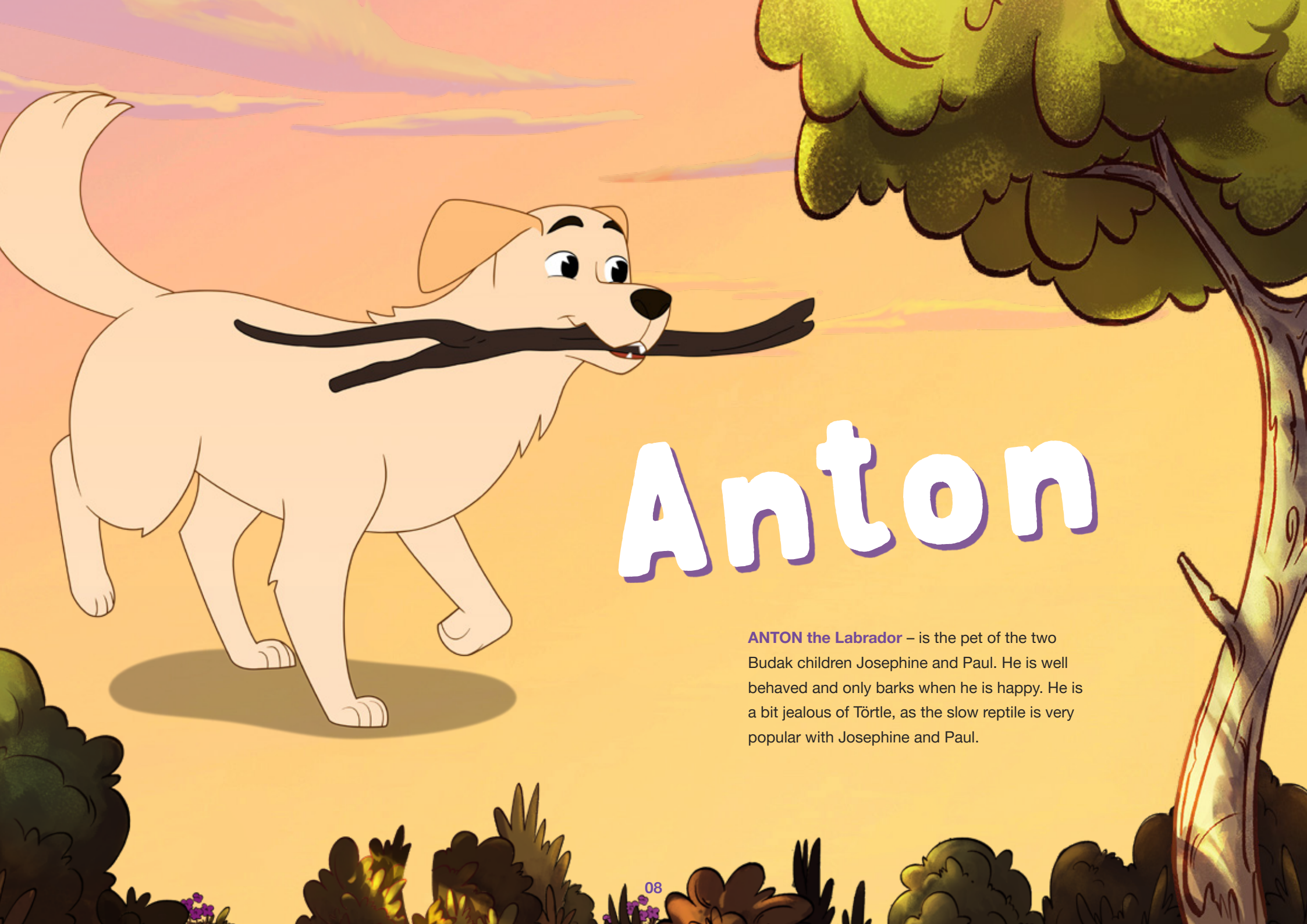
Paul

PAUL budak (9) – is Josephine’s brother. The siblings are lively, bright kids who spend most of their free time outdoors. Sporty Josephine is the reigning swimming champion in her age group, while Paul is better at school, which often annoys his sister. Paul also finds Josephine’s love of animals a bit exaggerated.

Törtle

TÖRTLE the TORTOISE – is an excellent listener with a great „animal-human understanding“, making him an ideal mediator between the two worlds. Törtle has a special relationship with Josephine. She likes to tell him what’s on her mind and Törtle’s calm manner puts her at ease. This often helps her to find a solution.





Anton

ANTON the Labrador – is the pet of the two Budak children Josephine and Paul. He is well behaved and only barks when he is happy. He is a bit jealous of Törtle, as the slow reptile is very popular with Josephine and Paul.

Anna

ANNA BUDAK (38) – Josephine’s and Paul’s mother is a compassionate and skilled veterinarian. Her practice at home intertwines her personal and professional lives, reflecting her love for animals. Intelligent and organized, she’s a trusted figure in her community. Anna sets practical boundaries regarding animal welfare and balances support with her daughter’s passions. Her close friendship with Fritzie Vogel strengthens her connection to nature.





Mario

MARIO BUDAK (42) – Josephine’s and Paul’s father fled Croatia with his family when he was a boy and has since lived in Muddlemere, where he works in the local building authority. Together with his wife Anna, he is involved in animal welfare and is an active member of ISEGRIM association for the protection of wolves, which are a thorn in the side of many local residents.

Fritzie

FRITZIE VOGEL (32) – is the spirited and passionate forester of Muddlemere. At 1.60 meters, her petite frame contrasts with her vibrant personality and determination. She combines charm and authority. Fritzie is the go-to person for animal and nature matters, confidently enforcing environmental laws. She enjoys mentoring passionate individuals like Josephine and is a vital part of the Muddlemere community. Anna Budak is a close friend.





Wendy

WENDY the VIXEN – lives with TÖRTLE in an abandoned garden shed. She is a thoughtful but also very curious character. She is smart and clever. But she can also be a bit sneaky and is always looking out for her advantage. If someone talks nonsense, she lets them know it. So Wendy often comes across as stuck-up to others.



Episodes

Episode 5

A Stray Dog

When Josephine hears about an old stray dog wandering around, she sets out to find it. Josephine finds the poor animal and brings it to her mum's vet practice.

Finding someone to give the dog a new home is not easy, but Josephine finds the perfect candidate – a lonely old lady. Now they both have company and the future looks great.



Episode 10

Palace of Lights

Törtle leads Josephine to the palace, where she discovers a swan stuck on the roof. After rescuing the swan, it flies back up. It must have something to do with the bright lights on the roof.

After rescuing the swan, Josephine tries to persuade Mrs Gruber to turn off the lights, but she refuses. Tonight is her big sales night. Undeterred, Josephine hatches a plan to solve the problem.

Episode 12

Found and Lost

Josephine must find the nest of an owl chick, that urgently needs its mother to survive in the wild. Unfortunately, only the missing Mrs Fitzwitz knows the exact location of the nest. Josephine joins forces with dog Nefertiti and forester Fritzie for the search.

When they finally find Mrs Fitzwitz's mobile phone and darkness falls, they discover a nest, and Nefertiti follows the trail of its owner.





Episode 15

House Mates

Josephine and Anton rescue an injured Maisy after she is hit by a falling roof tile. Josephine investigates the vacant and mysterious house looking to find the cause of the falling tiles.

Josephine and her father discover that three raccoons are responsible for the disturbances. With the help of the forester and a council officer, they safely clear the house of the furry intruders.

Episode 17

Forest Fire

Josephine and Paul discover a fire in the forest. A raccoon is stranded in a tree, threatened by the fire below. Josephine calls the fire brigade and her mother, Anna, for help.

While the firefighters tackle the fire, Josephine and Alina try to help the animals. When Anna arrives, the sick animals are taken to Anna's veterinary practice. A couple leaving a barbecue unattended are held responsible.



Episode 20

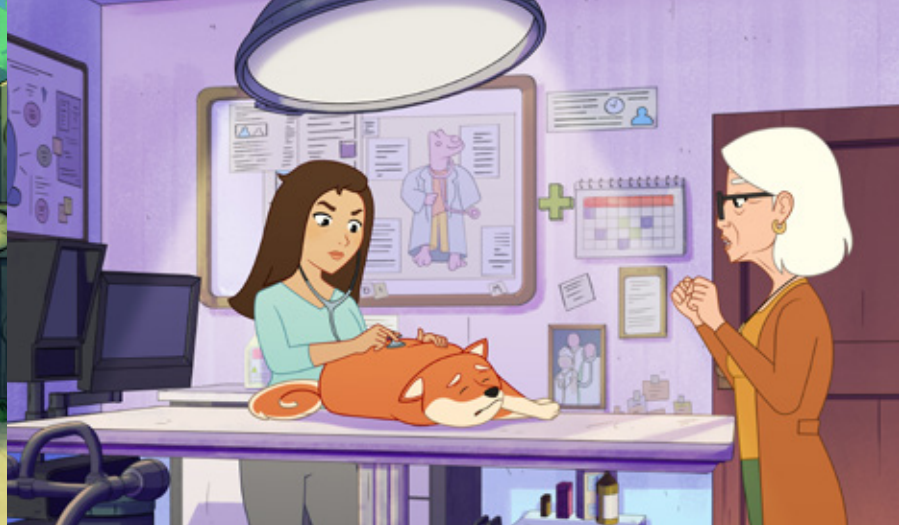
Hedgehog Hurdles

Carelessly pensioner Luttkewitz injures a hedgehog. Josephine takes care of the animal and is surprised when the grumpy old man commits himself to caring for the animal alongside her.

When the now well-fed animal is released back into the wild, Josephine takes the happy event as an opportunity to draw attention to the general plight of hedgehogs.



Gallery







Credits

Based on:

The original books “Törtel” by Wieland Freund

Executive Producers:

Gabriele M. Walther, Marcus Hamann

Producer:

Karen Mitrega

Producer ZDF:

Catharina Martin, Götz Brandt

Director:

Hubert Weiland

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