



A Commitment to Caring *Since 1899*

# How YOU Can Help Animals

## Here are a few ideas:

1. Organize a collection drive for your local humane society. These items will help animals:

- Newspapers
- New dog toys
- Dog treats
- Clean towels
- New cat toys
- Cat treats
- Canned dog and cat foods
- Rawhides made in the U.S.A.
- Grooming supplies

The dogs and cats at The Anti-Cruelty Society are on special dry-food diets. As a result, dry food is not needed. Canned food is used for animals that are not accustomed to eating dry food or are recovering from injuries or illness.

2. Educate others about companion animals. Subjects to consider are:

- Pet owners' responsibilities
- The dangers that pets allowed to roam loose may encounter
- How dogs housed in yards may become bored or lonely, and possibly not have proper shelter, care, or companionship
- The annual vaccinations pets need to protect them from rabies, distemper, and other diseases, plus heartworm, flea, and tick preventatives
- The health benefits of spaying or neutering, and the role these surgeries have in combating the overpopulation problem
- The Anti-Cruelty Society's low-cost spay/neuter clinic
- The importance of identification tags, microchips, city licenses, and rabies tags

3. Take a survey of your fellow students to determine what they know about proper pet care. Questions you might include are:

- Do you have a pet? If yes, what kind?
- Does your pet have an appropriate habitat?
- Do you know your pet's nutritional requirements? Exercise needs? Illnesses they may get? Life span?
- Do you have a veterinarian for your pet?
- If you have a dog or cat, are they spayed or neutered?
- Does your cat go outdoors?
- Is your dog allowed to run loose in the neighborhood?
- Does your dog live in the yard?
- Does your dog or cat get annual vaccinations?
- Does your dog or cat have an up-to-date identification tag, license, and rabies tag?

Display a chart of your survey responses. Provide information about each of these points. You can create flyers about proper pet care to distribute to student and neighborhoods.

# How YOU Can Help Animals (page 2)

4. Become aware of how companion animals are exploited. Some exploitations are against the law, others are not. Several examples are:
  - Pet theft
  - Dog fighting
  - Rooster fighting
  - Junk yard dogs
  - Guard dogs
  - Puppy mills
  - Selling stolen animals to research facilities
  - Animals used as bait to train fighting dogs
5. Report stray dogs and cats to the Chicago Animal Care and Control by calling 311, or (with the help of an adult) take them to that facility located at 2741 S. Western Ave. Some strays have been without homes since birth. Others may have escaped their homes, been stolen, or abandoned. Stray animals can be confused and frightened by unfamiliar surroundings. Searching for food and shelter is a constant struggle. Strays may be hit by cars, injured, or killed by cruel people, or attacked by other animals. Trapped or frightened animals may bite people who approach them. Strays can catch diseases from other animals, and they can spread them too.
6. What can you do about Number 4 and Number 5?
  - Form a group, or organize a class project to perform community service by alerting your neighborhood to these situations, and providing solutions to these problems.
  - Study the laws that protect animals from cruelty and exploitation. Determine if these laws are enforced in your community.
  - Write letters to local, state, and federal government officials who pass and enforce animal-related laws. Explain your concerns, offer suggestions for new laws, and ask for increased enforcement of current laws.
  - Send letters to local newspapers about proper animal care, what constitutes cruelty, and how to protect animals from cruelty and abuse.
  - Write an article about the humane treatment of animals for your school newspaper.

Another way to help animals is by encouraging people to adopt pets from shelters. Shelter animals have passed health exams, have their shots, and are neutered or spayed.

Additionally, if you are aware of animal cruelty or abuse, help the animals and people by reporting the incidents to Chicago Animal Care and Control or The Anti-Cruelty Society.

You can obtain more information by contacting The Anti-Cruelty Society's Humane Education Department at [education@anticruelty.org](mailto:education@anticruelty.org).