

30+ Great Ways Kids Can Help Animals

- 1. Make some cat mats for the APF kitties.** Any soft washable fabric like fleece works great. Just cut out 2 rectangles approximately 18" x 24", put the good sides of the fabric back to back and stitch around the edge, remembering to keep one side open. After you turn over, slipstitch shut. Or you can try the no-sew method by tying together.
- 2. Pet Food Pantry Project.** Many people are struggling to keep their pets. In an effort to help, the APF has partnered with the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) Food Pantry. We regularly donate hundreds of pounds of pet food for them to distribute to people in need. Much of this food was collected by kids and the demand has far exceeded the supply. To help, do a food collection in your area and bring it to the APF. Any amount or type of pet food or litter is helpful as long as it is not opened or outdated.
- 3. Write letters** to the editor of your local paper about the benefits of adopting shelter animals and the importance of spaying and neutering all your pets.
- 4. Help out an elderly neighbor** or relative with their pets by offering to walk their dog or help clean out the cat litter box.
- 5.** Put together a **basket of supplies** for foster kitten care.
- 6.** Make **"adopt me"** vests or bandannas for the APF dogs.
- 7.** Help put **flyers** about APF events up in the community.
- 8. Find additional businesses for our "dog house" donation boxes.** We have a master list where we have boxes now, but are always looking for new locations.
- 9. Make some dog house donation boxes.** We have samples and templates available.
- 10. Collect supplies from our "Wish List."** The latest version can be found on our website. We always need things like dog collars, leashes and kongs, laundry detergent and paper towels.
- 11.** Do a **bottle and can drive** for the APF in your neighborhood. With all the summer picnics and festivities, there are a lot of bottles and cans around and they really do add up fast!
- 12. Have a garage sale, car wash or dog wash** in your neighborhood and donate the proceeds to the APF.
- 13.** Or how about a **bake sale**? Make some people "puppy chow" chex mix, package it attractively and sell it.
- 14. Make dog biscuits to sell.** Selling homemade dog cookies is a yummy way to help the animals. After baking, package the cookies in bags with colorful ribbon to sell them to your neighbors. The APF can provide informational brochures to give out along with the cookies, so people can learn about the APF at the same time. Be creative with the packaging to make them more fun and festive. Find a healthy dog cookie recipe on the Internet or use the following: 2 cups whole wheat flour, ½ cup cornmeal, 6 tablespoons oil, 2/3 cups water, ¼ cup peanut butter (optional) Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Roll dough to about ¼" thick, then cut out shapes using cookie cutters or a knife. Bake for 35 – 40 minutes at 350 degrees.
- 15.** Start a **coin drive** at your school or better yet a penny war. Three local Schenectady elementary schools did this during the past spring and raised over \$3,000 for the animals!
- 16.** Put together a **raffle basket** and sell tickets.
- 17.** Start a **dog walking service** in your neighborhood.
- 18. Create** an "Animal Lovers Quilt" with a group to raffle off.
- 19.** Have a **read-a-thon**. Ask friends and family to donate money for each animal-related book you read.
- 20. Get creative** – create an animal-themed bulletin board, write a newsletter, story, poem or song about animal issues. Design a colorful poster to hang in local businesses about the benefit of adopting shelter animals.
- 21. "Adopt"** an animal at the APF that has been waiting for a home by creating flyers and posting them in the community and putting on your My Space or Facebook page.
- 22.** Ask your local library, nursery school or day care center if you can come in and **read animal-themed books to young children**. A great one is "Before You Were Mine" by Maribeth Holts.
- 23. Make a video** promoting adopting APF animals.
- 24.** We're looking for some good relaxing music for both people and animals. **Burn some CDs** with a nice mix of mellow music. Remember, we have people of all ages coming through here, so it has to have a wide appeal.
- 25.** We're always looking for **gift cards or gift certificates** to restaurants, entertainment and stores for our own use or to use in raffle baskets.
- 26.** Does your school have morning **announcements** or a tv broadcast? Ask if you can do a spot about the animals at the APF.
- 27.** Are you very organized? We are looking for some dedicated kids who can come and **help us organize** our supply closets.
- 28.** Are you good at **digital photography**, have a working knowledge of Photoshop and available Saturdays? We need reliable help to keep our website updated.
- 29. Make some colorful posters** for us to hang around the shelter reminding people not to touch the animals because it may transfer illness from one to another.
- 30. Be a role model.** Set a good example for others by being a responsible pet caregiver. Be kind to all animals and let others know that hurting an animal is wrong.
- 31. Sponsor** a school dance or movie night and ask participants to bring in pet food and supplies instead of charging an entry fee.
- 32.** Instead of having presents at your next **birthday**, ask guests to bring food and supplies for the animals.
- 33. Walk at the Fireplug 500 by yourself or better yet, with a team this September! This is a fun way to help fundraise for the animals and get the word out about the APF at the same time.**