



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Kids Caring for Critters

What kinds of animals are cared for at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA?

Every year we take in over 13,000 animals. This includes cats, dogs, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, mice, chinchillas, fish, turtles, snakes, lizards, parrots, pigeons, doves, ducks, chickens, goats, pigs, sheep, wildlife... even animals like monkeys!

What can you do to help?

Collect and donate any of these items or find other ideas on our [wishlist](#)! Make flyers to get your friends, classmates or neighbors involved.

- Clean used blankets and towels
- Old newspapers
- Kongs and Nylabones
- Nylon leashes, collars, and harnesses
- Unopened Charlie Bear treats to use for dog training classes
- Ping-pong balls for cat toys
- Large shoe boxes for cats to nap in
- Rope perches for exotic birds
- Paper towels and toilet paper for nests
- Sturdy food dishes
- Untreated wicker objects, heavy plastic toy keys and woven grass mats for rabbits

FUNDRAISING FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

Medicines, vaccinations, bedding, bowls, and food for thousands of animals costs a lot of money! Every cent that you contribute helps. Here is what kids in our community have done:

- Share a birthday with homeless animals. Kids like Rachel Lee, Julia Bowler and Brynn Bowler asked their friends and family to bring money or supplies for the animals instead of gifts for themselves.

- Organize a “penny drive” at your school
- Donate a portion of the profits from a class play, sporting event, candy sales
- Recycle cans and bottles for cash
- Plan a community car wash
- Set up a lemonade stand or bake sale

Riley and Eli Myers held an art show and sold their pastel portraits of adopted and adoptable cats and dogs, raising \$850 for PHS/SPCA. So thoughtful!

CREATE A DISPLAY

Help inform others, without speaking a word! Most people want to be responsible animal guardians and kind to animals, but some may not know HOW to do so. Make an educational display for your classmates, after-school group, or the public to teach about matters such as: preventing pets from getting lost; pet overpopulation and spaying/neutering; sparing animals from fights or performances; buying cruelty-free products; preserving natural habitats, etc.

Did you know?

You don't have to cut up animals for science class? California students have the right to request alternatives to dissection. Check out www.navs.org or www.humanestudent.org.

HELPING WILDLIFE

Every year, our Wildlife Care Center receives ~4,000 injured, sick or orphaned wild birds and mammals from all over the peninsula. Learn more [here](#).



What can you do?

- Pick up litter and dispose of it safely; even loose balloons can be lethal
- Plant native flowers and trees
- Reduce, re-use, recycle! Put bottles, cans, and paper in recycling bins; try to pack your lunch in reusable containers; rinse out and crush plastic yogurt cups; cut through the rings of 6-pack holders
- Find humane ways to keep pests away
- If you put up birdfeeders, sanitize them regularly to prevent spreading disease among wild birds
- Keep your cats indoors to prevent them from preying on wildlife
- Read, watch movies, search the internet to learn more about wild species
- Leave healthy wild animals alone

This baby raccoon was at our facility because her mother was run over by a car. DO NOT throw food out of car windows—the tempting leftovers may lead a hungry animal into danger.



WHAT IS AN “EXOTIC ANIMAL”?

An exotic animal is simply another country’s wildlife. Common exotic pets include iguanas, snakes, turtles, tortoises, parrots, frogs & fish. Exotic animals would probably prefer to stay in their natural habitat, which may be a rainforest, coral reef, the wetlands, or a desert, rather than be stuck in a cage or tank for life!



Helping Exotic Animals

Think once, twice, three times before bringing an exotic pet into your home. These animals have very special needs and can get sick or even die young if not cared for properly. You can help by doing the following:

- Don’t support the market for exotic pets by buying one. Learn about the suffering involved in the trade of wild animals.
- If you do decide to care for an exotic pet, adopt one from a shelter, rather than buy from a pet store. Or call a reptile or bird rescue organization. There are already millions of homeless animals at shelters across the country. Pet stores that sell animals ADD to that problem. See our adoptable pets [here](#).
- Learn about what the animal’s life is like in the wild. Can you create similar living conditions for the animal in captivity? What does it eat, and how? Does it live in social groups? What sort of climate does the animal thrive in? Where does it hide? How far does it travel, and how much space can you provide? What is the animal’s lifespan?

Did you know?

Do your caged animals a favor!
Give them big cages, safe toys,
healthy treats, and your attention



HELPING FARM ANIMALS

Did you realize that over 10 billion farm animals in the United States are raised for food every year? Sadly, most are inhumanely treated in terribly cramped and stressful places.



Farm animals need you!

- Eat less meat. Period.
- Learn about factory farms and where your meat, milk and eggs come from
- Search for the “Certified Humane” label on food products
- Buy clothing and accessories that aren’t made from animals
- Get to know rescued animals at a farm sanctuary LEARN and TEACH about animals!

START AN ANIMAL CLUB

Students from Burlingame High formed an Animal Rights Club at their school. Their efforts include spreading awareness to the student body about issues related to animals. Members have participated in beach clean-ups to lower the chances of marine life becoming entangled or choking on garbage mistaken for food. The club has also raised hundreds of dollars for the shelter animals.



Work together with a friend or a group, and plan activities to help animals! Here are some things your club can do:

- Create a newsletter about animals
- Write an article for your school paper or a letter to the editor
- Set up a booth or table and share information at special events
- Make animal fact bookmarks for the school or public library
- Ask animal professionals to come talk to your class (speakers may include: humane educators from PHS/SPCA, a veterinarian, animal control officer, or wildlife rehabilitator)
- Do an art project about animals such as a mural, collage, or photography exhibit
- Display pictures of adoptable shelter animals at a P.T.A. meeting or educational fair
- Organize a litter clean-up day at your school, local park or beach
- Explore issues such as the use of animals in circuses & rodeos or in science fair projects. Discuss humane concerns and solutions with your classmates.

Why not create your own animal website? Share animal stories with your relatives and friends! Perhaps you could add a link to an animal-related site that matters to you.

Search your library for interesting books and magazines about animals. Ask your teacher or librarian to display good books about animals, especially during Be Kind to Animals week early in May.

Maybe you can give a report on your favorite species or share all the things you do to take excellent care of your pet!



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANIMALS, THEIR CARE, AND HOW TO HELP,
CHECK OUT THESE WONDERFUL WEBSITES:**

www.phs-sPCA.org - Your friendly local humane society

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals> - Fun facts about wild animals and more

www.sfbaywildlife.info - Wildlife watching in our area

www.animalplace.org - News about rescued farm animals

www.loveyourdog.com - A kid's guide to dog care

www.catfriendly.com - All about cats and caring for them

www.rabbit.org - All about caring for bunnies

www.rattieratz.com - Resources for pet rats

www.mickaboo.org - Companion bird rescue and care

<http://crabstreetjournal.org> - Hermit crab newbies guide and essentials

www.kindnews.org - Humane magazines for K-6 classrooms

Participate in shelter youth programs through our Education Department. Learn more [here](#).

Questions? Call the Humane Education Department at 650-340-7022 ext. 369