



Community Service Action guide

Provided by the Education
Department of the Santa Cruz SPCA



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The purpose of this guide.....

Animals in Santa Cruz County and all over the world need all the help they can get. If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of animals, there are ways to start helping today!

Some of the community services outlined in this guide are not glamorous and don't involve hands on with animals but they are **NECESSARY** to the well being of our animal friends. It is services like these that shelters, rescues and animal advocacy agencies depend on to assist them in the push to better the plight of all living things. Any one of these services will assist animals in your community and we can't do it without your help.

IMPORTANT-Before attempting to assist any of the local agencies listed please contact them first and find out how you can help. If you are collecting goods for them, many have a wish list that you can access on their website or by calling them directly. For projects that don't have a time attached, the animal agency may be able to write what you did but hours may need to be assessed and signed for by a teacher or parent. To mark your hours you may use the sheet provided by your school or the one we have provided in the back of the guide.

Thank you so much for your willingness to do what you can to help animals. Your actions are an excellent model for others who want to become involved. Know that you are making a difference!!

Here are local animal agencies that may be able to use your help. *Please contact them directly before pursuing a project:*

Santa Cruz SPCA
831-465-5000
www.spcasc.org

Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter
831-454-7303
www.scanimalshelter.org

CAPE-Center for Animal Protection and Education
831-336-4695
www.capeanimals.org

Project Purr
831-423-MEOW
www.projectpurr.org

Native Animal Rescue
831-462-0726
www.nativeanimalrescue.org

Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter (FOWAS)
www.fowas.org

Rabbit Haven
831-440-0282
www.therabbithaven.org

Friends of Santa Cruz County Animals
831-457-7617
www.foscca.org

Animal Friends Rescue Project
831-333-0722
www.animalfriendsrescue.org

Animal Shelter Relief Rescue
www.animalshelterrelief.org

Pregnant Mare Rescue
408-540-8568
www.pregnantmarerescue.org

Annie's Blankets
831-442-8098
www.anniesblankets.org

Peace of Mind Dog Rescue
831-718-9122
www.peaceofminddogrescue.org

Marine Mammal Center
831-633-6298
www.marinemammalcenter.org

I have listed some craft and activity ideas below to get you started thinking about helping animals in the community. Please feel free to call the education department at 831-566-3753 or e-mail us at education@santacruzspca.org for more information or ideas!

Make toys for shelter cats.....

Community Service Hours: 1.5 Hours

Materials: Baby socks
Cotton balls or cotton batting
Loose catnip
Needle and string

Fill your old or new baby socks with cotton and about a teaspoon of catnip. Then sew the end together and cut off any extra thread. You can also tie the end with some colorful string and cut off any excess string. Make sure it is wrapped around the end several times and is tied very tight. If a cat or kitten gets the string off they can ingest it and make themselves sick.

Make toys for shelter dogs....

Community Service Hours: 1-2 Hours

Materials: Old t-shirts
Fleece fabric sheets
Scissors

Cut your old t-shirts or fleece fabric into long or short strips. Take three strips and tie them together with a knot, using one to tie around the other two. Then braid the three strips. Tie another knot at the end and cut off any excess material. Makes a great chew or tug toy for dogs!

Collect Blankets, Toys and Food for the local shelters.....

Shelters are constantly running out of supplies and they don't have a very big budget so any donations are appreciated. They take blankets, sheets, towels of all sizes and any cat, dog or rabbit toys you can get. They will take food donation as well but you may want to call ahead and find out what they feed their animals. Some shelters feed only one type of food and give or sell the other donations to clients. You can always check the wish list for each shelter by calling the agency or checking their website. You can also set up donation bins in high traffic areas with a poster about donating to a local shelter.

Hold a Bake Sale.....

Shelters can always use monetary donations, especially non-profit shelters that are run by donations only. Any sale to raise donations is hugely appreciated whether it be a bake sale, a garage sale or a lemonade stand. When you present your donation to the shelter they will often feature you in their newsletter!

Make bookmarks....

Make bookmarks that encourage people to spay or neuter their pets and distribute them at an animal shelter or pet store.

Write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper...

If you feel strongly about issues affecting animals both locally and globally, write a letter to the newspaper expressing your views. Your views are important too!

Local papers: Santa Cruz Sentinel
Register Pajaronian
Good Times
Santa Cruz Weekly

Make Adoption Bandannas....

Community Services Hours: 2 hours

Materials:

- Colored Fabric Markers
- Solid Color Bandannas-Size will vary between dog and cat.
The bandanna should be folded once in a triangle and must be able to tie completely around the animal's neck. You can find doggie size bandannas on the internet.

Place the folded bandanna on a table and only draw on the side that faces up. You want these bandannas to be colorful with catchy phrases to attract attention from adopters. Here are some sample phrases:

-ADOPT ME
-I NEED A HOME
-TAKE ME HOME
-SHELTER DOGS/CATS ARE COOL
-I'LL BE YOUR BEST FRIEND

When done decorating the bandanna, let it sit flat for a few minutes to dry so it does not smear. Take finished bandannas to your local animal shelter.

Start a Humane Club at Your School....

You can start by getting together a couple of friends who are as interested in helping animals as you or look at putting something bigger together with the help of your teachers or guidance counselor. Some ideas on things to do:

- Create a newsletter about animal issues to distribute at school
- Make posters of animals available for adoption at local shelters
- Collect donations for local shelters per their wish list
- Do educational presentations at school about animals or invite animal experts to speak at your school
- Offer your services to help clean or walk animals at the shelter....

Volunteer at the animal shelter.....

Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter accepts volunteers, ages 15-17, accompanied by an adult, who want to spend some time socializing the shelter animals. They also accept volunteers 18 and over without a guardian. This is a great way to get your animal fix, fulfill your service hours and help make the animals stay at the shelter much less stressful. You will need to fill out an application and attend an orientation before starting. You can contact them at 454-7303 or check their website for more information, www.scanimalshelter.org The Santa Cruz SPCA accepts volunteers 16 and older to assist with socializing the animals, helping in the office and at our mall store, assisting at events and fostering animals. The SPCA holds a volunteer orientation on the first Monday of every month at 4pm. For more information visit our website at www.spcasc.org

Consider becoming a foster parent for shelter animals.....

Some shelter animals are in need of foster care before going up for adoption because they may be too young, injured, sick or under socialized. Families can all be involved in becoming foster parents for either a local shelter or a local rescue agency. Foster time periods vary from several weeks to several months so you will need to make it clear what kind of animals you are willing to foster and for how long. This is an excellent opportunity for families who can't have animals of their own to get their animal fix while assisting the shelter or rescue agency at the same time. Both shelters require an application to be filled out and an orientation to be attended before beginning as a foster parent.

Ride along with an Animal Control Officer for a day....

Call your local animal control agency and find out if you can ride along with an officer for a day. Then interview that officer during your ride along. You can then write an article in your school or local newspaper detailing the job of Animal Control and informing the public of this important service and how they can utilize it.

Start a recycling program at school or organize a beach or park cleanup with friends or classmates.....

This service not only helps animals it helps our local ecosystems to remain intact and healthy. Garbage left in parks, beaches or on the street can often be eaten by wildlife or even domestic animals and cause either illness or in some cases death. Picking up our trash and recycling it not only keeps animals safe it keeps our environment clean and reduces our overall waste.

Write to your lawmakers about passing animal protection laws....

There are laws being considered all the time for the protection of domestic and wild animals. The more contact lawmakers get from animal advocates, the harder they may push to get laws passed. You can find out about state, national and world bills on their way to becoming laws at:

<http://www.asPCA.org/fight-cruelty/advocacy-center>

<http://www.wspa-usa.org/>

<http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/>

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/stop-animal-abuse/advocacy/>

<http://www.californiastatehumane.org/legislation.htm>

<http://www.farmsanctuary.org/get-involved/>

<http://rootsandshoots.org/>

<http://worldwildlife.org/>

