

# How You Can Help



## Here are a few ideas:

1. Organize a collection drive for your local animal shelter. These items will help animals:
  - Training Pee Pads
  - Toys
  - Dog/ Cat Treats
  - Clean towels
  - Cat Litter
  - Dog/ Cat Food (Purina Chow)
  - Canned dog and cat foods
  - Plastic containers for cat litter
  - Grooming supplies
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 importance of identification tags, microchips, city licenses, and rabies tags
3. 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
4. Report stray dogs and cats to the Laredo Animal Care Services at 956-625-1860 or dial 311, or (with the help of an adult) take them to the facility located at 5202 Maher 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.
5. What can you do about Number 3 and Number 4?
  - 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.
  - 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.