

# HOW CAN WE HELP ANIMALS?



The animal kingdom never fails to capture kids' imaginations—and their hearts. The plight of animals, from homeless cats and dogs to wild animals losing their wilderness, inspires profound empathy and makes children want to do something to help.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 65% of households have a pet.
- 77% of pets living in underserved communities have never seen a veterinarian.
- 6 to 8 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year.
- 4 million cats and dogs are adopted from shelters each year.
- In the next year, if just 1 of every 5 Americans who wanted a pet adopted a cat or dog from a shelter or rescue facility, not one single healthy, treatable cat or dog would lose his or her life in a shelter!

[http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet\\_overpopulation/facts/pet\\_ownership\\_statistics.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/pet_ownership_statistics.html)

“When kids **care** for living things - from babies to animals to plants - they exercise their **empathy** muscles. They learn through experience that 1) everything has **needs**; 2) these needs are not always identical; and 3) they can **help** meet those needs.”

—Deborah Farmer Kris, Boston University's Center for Character and Social Responsibility

## READ WITH ME

*The Little Blue Dog* by Karen J. Roberts tells the story of a shelter dog in search of his forever home.

- Have you ever been tempted to take home a puppy or kitten? Can you list all the things you should consider first?
- Have you ever felt scared and uncertain like the Little Blue Dog?
- Why is it important to help other living beings besides people?



## LET'S TALK

At mealtime or bedtime, or when you're on the way to help out, bring up these questions.

- Do you like being around animals? Why or why not?
- What are other ways we can show animals we love them?
- Let's discuss all the wordless ways animals show their feelings. What about pain? hunger? excitement? loneliness? How are these emotions and responses similar to our own?
- How have you shown kindness to animals?

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!

DGT™ will use your story to...

- Inspire others to make a difference!
- Make giving back seem doable.
- Lighten hearts and open minds on social media.
- Build excitement for more big-hearted good deeds!

**SUBMIT YOUR GOOD STORIES TO:**

[www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/](http://www.doinggoodtogether.org/good-stories/)

## MORE SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP ANIMALS:

Create Pet Toys

Make Birdseed Cookies

Bake Dog Biscuits

Foster Animals

**DOING  
GOOD  
TOGETHER™**