

What are some Ways To Make Life Better For Animals In Your Community?

Just Look in the Mirror

Last year, 11,800 animals were taken in by the Arlington Animal Shelter. More than half of them were euthanized.

It doesn't have to be that way.

There are a number of ways to make life better for animals in our community, and it doesn't start with innocent animals or with shelters, which are doing their best. It starts with us. Irresponsible owners are usually the reason for unwanted animals.

Responsible pet owners must spay and neuter their animals. I know that things do happen to bring pets back to shelters, like allergies. I can only have a dog with a certain kind of hair. If a friend can't be found to take the animal, call a rescue group for the breed or locate an animal shelter.

Before getting a pet, study it first. Find out what it likes and dislikes, what kind of personality it has, and whether it will be good for your family.

My sister and I have guinea pigs. I learned about guinea pigs from my old school. I read books about guinea pigs. I learned that it is a social animal, so we got two. I learned that they need space, so we got a large cage.

Another way to make life better for animals is to volunteer in shelters. At the Arlington Animal Shelter, you can volunteer to help socialize the dogs and cats, or groom them, or just give them love. I'm a Junior Naturalist at River Legacy Science Center. Animal Shelters should have programs like that to help kids learn about animals and how to care for them.

You can also make donations. You can have a fundraiser at your school. Or you can get things like treats or toys for shelter animals. SPCA should do presentations in schools to tell students about the right way to take care of animals. Schools should take field trips to animal shelters to learn how they work. Teach kids at a young age to understand what to do as adults.

We also can't forget about the wild animals of our community. A park is in the back of my house. Whenever I play in our woods, I see glass bottles, plastic bags and containers. To a turtle or armadillo, these things look like food. It's not good to eat it. Littering can cause animals to die.

We have a responsibility to take care of all living creatures, even if you don't like them. They need to decent life, too.

I saw on the news that in Ferris, Texas, police officers can kill aggressive stray dogs. I think police should shoot them with tranquilizer guns instead of killing them. But Ferris feels it has to do this. The choice of starving or being run over by a car or shot by a police officer is not a choice to me.