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5th Grade

We all love animals, so let's take care of them. There are a number of ways that we can help animals in our community. The first thing we should do is learn about them, and realize there are different things that affect different animals. Then we can better understand how to help them. There are three different kinds of animals found in our community: domestic pets, stray animals, and wild animals.

You can help domestic animals in your community starting with your own pets. Pay attention to your pets – do not neglect them. Make sure they get enough exercise, food, water, and love. Try to keep your cats and dogs from running loose. Spay and neuter your dogs and cats to prevent unwanted babies that can lead to more stray animals. You can help sick or elderly neighbors care for their pets by offering to walk or feed them.

You can help stray animals in your community by knowing what to do when you find a stray animal. First, try to find its owner. Check for identification on a collar-tag or have a vet check it for an id-chip. If there's no identification, post flyers in your neighborhood and at vet's offices to try to locate the owner. If no one claims it after a while, and you can't adopt it, take it to the humane society or animal shelter, so they can take care of it and hopefully find someone to adopt it.

There are various wild animals in the community. There are wild birds and squirrels in our neighborhoods, and ducks and even bobcats and other wild animals in parks that are near our homes. They all need clean habitats and clean water in ponds and rivers. Keep litter out by using closed-lid trash cans, and keep harmful chemicals out of the water by not dumping harmful chemicals and by using natural fertilizers. For birds you can provide food and bird baths, as well as nesting materials. Put stickers on windows to keep birds from hitting them. Plant plants that support wildlife like butterflies and birds. Encourage the creation of parks that are more about nature, not just a playground. Keep out invasive plants and animals. Promote use of native vegetation, because that is what native animals eat.

Finally, there are ways that you can help all animals in your community. Check for oil and antifreeze leaks in cars to prevent animals from drinking these harmful chemicals. Drive carefully and don't speed to avoid hitting any stray or wild animals. Donate to or volunteer at one of the many organizations in your community that are already setup to help animals like an animal shelter or a wild animal rescue group. Report illegal activities like hunting or abuse or neglect or any animals. And spread the word! Tell your friends and family what they can do to help animals in our community.