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5th Grade

Thousands of animals live in my community of Arlington, Texas. Most of them are household pets like cats and dogs. Unfortunately, some animals do not have owners or homes. They must roam the streets and parks to find food and shelter. Since there is little food, these stray animals struggle to live and often get sick or injured. Every year, thousands of animals end up in shelters. Some are adopted, but 50% of the dogs and 70% of the cats are destroyed. There just isn't enough room or money to care for them. As an animal lover and proud owner of three Boston Terriers, I have created a plan to help the animal population of my community.

First, we need to teach people to be more responsible pet owners. We can start by making our own yards safer by checking the fence to make sure our pets can't get out and get lost. Getting to know our pets better by going to training classes and researching in books and on the internet can help us recognize their needs and risk factors. We can also keep the pet population down by spaying and neutering our pets so they cannot reproduce and have more babies. By visiting the veterinarian regularly we can help our pet be healthier and prevent the spread of animal diseases. Our pets and our home are a good way to start improving our community for all animals.

Next, we can help animals by supporting shelters and rescue programs. Donating time and money to these places is important because many do not have the funds to stay open. When we see a stray animal, we can rescue it or call someone to help us rescue it. Lost pets can be returned to their owners. We can often help abandoned or stray animals find a new home. Participating in a rescue program to help a specific breed or type of animal is a really great way to help in your community. These groups need families to nurse animals back to health and give them homes until they are adopted.

The last part of my plan is to aid the wildlife in our community. We can learn about wild animals by visiting or volunteering at places like River Legacy Park. At home, we can help by feeding ducks, birds and other animals. Feed stores can provide us with information and supplies to do this appropriately. Stopping pollution and the destruction of the natural habitat of animals will keep them from coming into our neighborhoods where they often get hurt. We can also buy products that are safer for animals or give part of their profits to animal conservation.

Basically, each person should start with himself. Just one person can make a huge difference. So save a stray and find a volunteer opportunity in your area and start helping the animals in our community today.