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# ISAIAH SAINA

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1st Place – 5th Grade

**Mary Moore Elementary**

**Teacher – Julia Helen**

Have you ever seen those horrible commercials on tv where animals are in cages, cold, and starving? Every time I see these commercials it makes my blood boil in anger because I don't understand how people can treat animals this way! The first images that popped into my mind when given this assignment, were the horrific ones in those tv commercials. So that got me to thinking – what can I do to advocate, protect, and improve the lives of animals, not just in my own community, but all over the world? So I started doing some research and I think I've found a few ways that we can make positive changes in the lives of animals:

#### Silence Hides Violence:

When you see animals being abused or neglected, don't stay silent! Report them as fast as you can to your local animal control department, animal welfare agency, or the police. Animals being chained all day without food, water, or shelter – that's cruel. People who keep a large number of animals in one home or small area (called hoarding) and do not care for their basic needs – that's cruel. Animals being beaten and tortured – that's cruel. Reporting animal cruelty, not only helps improve the lives of animals, but it also could help improve the lives of humans. My mom is a family violence advocate for the United States Air Force and she says that when she sees an animal being abused in the home then that usually means the person abusing the animals might be abusing the children and other family members in the home as well. You never know how many lives you could be saving by reporting possible animal cruelty.

#### Save a Pet's Life and Adopt Instead of Shop:

I'm sure you've heard of "puppy mills" and "backyard breeders". Well these people breed animals for the pure purpose of profit and usually do not care whatsoever for the animal's health and welfare. They only care about how much money they'll be able to get from the sell of the animal. Unfortunately, a lot of pet stores that have puppies, kittens, baby gerbils, etc., have gotten them from companies or individuals that operate puppy mills or large breeding facilities. When you adopt a pet from the shelter you are saving millions of pets lives and giving them the opportunity for a forever home.

#### Enjoy the Circus? Well, the Animals Don't!

DO you enjoy the zoo, circus, or aquarium? Well to the animals it's like jail. These animals are typically removed from their natural environments and placed in confined, and often brutal, living quarters and forced to "perform" ridiculous acts for the pure purpose of human entertainment. One experience me and my family had recently was when we went to Cancun, Mexico for Christmas. We wanted to participate in the dolphin excursion and found ourselves very excited. However, we quickly declined the opportunity when we saw the dolphins caged in small quarters and only released to swim in a small area to entertain the "guests" and take pictures with the humans. Me and my family made it very well known to the hotel management staff that their treatment of the dolphins were inhumane in our eyes and that we would not promote this in anyway.

As you can see, these are just a few ways to advocate, protect, and improve the lives of animals.