



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

# Kids Caring for Critters

*PHS/SPCA's Service Ideas and Tips for Youth*

## What kinds of animals are cared for at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA?

Every year we take in over 13,000 animals. This includes cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rats, rabbits, hamsters, mice, parrots, iguanas, turtles, snakes, squirrels, raccoons, hawks, songbirds, ducks, skunks, goats, chickens, pigs, sheep...even animals like monkeys!

## What can you do to help?

*Collect and donate any of the items on this wishlist! You might get your classmates or neighbors involved by making colorful posters and bins for school or elsewhere.*

- Clean used blankets and towels
- Old newspapers
- New rope toys, hard rubber balls, Kongs and Nylabones
- Nylon leashes, collars, and harnesses
- Unopened soft dog treats to use for training classes
- Tennis, golf, and ping-pong balls
- Large shoe boxes for cats to nap in
- Booda Comfy Perches for exotic birds
- Paper towels and toilet paper for nests
- Electric heating pads
- Empty tissue boxes
- Untreated wicker plate holders, heavy plastic toy keys and shower curtain rings for rabbits



The third grade students at Belle Haven Elementary School baked and sold homemade dog biscuits (see recipe inside), and donated the proceeds to PHS.

## Fundraising for Shelter Animals

*Medicines, vaccinations, bedding, bowls and food for thousands of animals costs a lot of money! Every penny that you contribute helps. Here is what kids in our community have done:*

- Share a birthday with homeless animals. Kids like Carly Foehr, Sophia Kazan and Charley Peebler asked their friends and family to bring money or supplies for the animals instead of gifts for themselves.
- Organize a "penny drive" at your school
- Donate a portion of the profits from a class play, sporting event, candy sales
- Recycle cans and bottles for cash
- Plan a community car wash
- Set up a lemonade stand or bake sale
- Participate in humane society events like *Mutt Strutt* (a walk-a-thon with dogs)

Ten-year-old Lauren Gonsalves donated \$73 to help the animals at PHS after saving her allowance for over a year. Impressive!

# Caring for Critters

photo: www.badrap.org



## Homemade dog biscuit recipe

*Make a batch of these cookies for your dog or the ones on your block. Or sell them to raise money for your favorite animal cause.*

- ◆ 2 cups whole wheat flour
- ◆ ½ cup cornmeal
- ◆ 6 tablespoons oil
- ◆ ⅔ cup water
- ◆ ¼ cup peanut butter (optional)

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Roll out to about ¼ inch thick. Use cookie cutters or design your own shapes. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes or so. Allow to cool. Best if served within a week.

## Catnip Socks

*Here is a simple toy to make for your cat, or give as a gift to your friend's cat. If you like to sew, making "mice" from fabric is fun too.*

- ◆ Get a small sock (like baby bobby socks)
- ◆ Put ½ tablespoon of catnip into toe of sock
- ◆ Add a ball of cotton inside the sock
- ◆ Tie the top of the sock in a tight knot (if you tie thread tightly around sock instead, cut off the ends so kitty doesn't get tangled)

**Do your caged animals a favor!** Give them *big* cages, safe toys, healthy treats and your attention.

## Create a display

*Help inform others, without speaking a word! Most people want to be responsible animal guardians and kind to animals, but some may not know HOW to do so.*

Make an educational display for your classmates, after-school group, or the public to teach about matters such as: preventing pets from getting lost; pet overpopulation and spaying/neutering; sparing animals from fights or performances; buying cruelty-free products; preserving natural habitats, etc.



**Did you know...** you don't have to cut up animals for science class? California students have the right to request alternatives to dissection. Check out [www.navs.org](http://www.navs.org) or [www.humanestudent.org](http://www.humanestudent.org).

## Animals... Cell phones... what's the connection?

*Cell phones are made using a substance called coltan. In African wildlife parks, coltan is being illegally mined, which in turn is harming gorillas and their habitat. Millions of old cell phones are thrown out every year and that's bad for the environment too.*



You can make a difference by participating in a free collection program for used cell phones. Websites such as [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) will provide drop box locations based on your zip code. Donated phones are refurbished and resold or recycled.

This reduces waste, keeps hazardous materials out of landfills, and conserves natural resources! Tell your friends.

# Caring for Critters

## Helping Wildlife

Every year, the Wildlife Care Center at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA receives ~4,000 injured, sick or orphaned wild animals.



This baby raccoon was at our facility because her mother was run over by a car. **DO NOT** throw food out of car windows—the tempting leftovers may lead a hungry animal into danger.

## What can you do?

- Pick up litter and dispose of it safely; even loose balloons can be lethal
- Plant native flowers and trees
- Reduce, re-use, recycle! Put bottles, cans, and paper in recycling bins; try to pack your lunch in reusable containers; rinse out and crush plastic yogurt cups; cut through the rings of 6-pack holders
- Find humane ways to keep pests away
- Make a birdhouse for your yard
- Keep your cats indoors
- Read, watch movies, search the internet to learn more about wild species
- Leave healthy wild animals alone

## What is an “exotic animal”?

An exotic animal is simply another country’s wildlife. Common exotic pets include: iguanas, snakes, turtles, tortoises, parrots, frogs & fish.

Exotic animals would probably prefer to stay in their natural habitat, which may be a rainforest, coral reef, the wetlands or a desert, rather than be stuck in a cage or tank for life!



## Helping Exotic Animals

Think once, twice, three times before bringing an exotic pet into your home. These animals have very special needs, and can get sick or even die young if not cared for properly.

You can help by doing the following:

- Don’t support the market for exotic pets by buying one (learn about the suffering involved in the trade of wild animals).
- If you do decide to care for an exotic pet, adopt one from a shelter, rather than buy from a pet store. Or call a reptile or bird rescue organization. There are already millions of homeless animals at shelters across the country. Pet stores that sell animals ADD to that problem.
- Learn about what the animal’s life is like in the wild. Can you create similar living conditions for the animal in captivity? What does it eat, and how? Does it live in social groups? What sort of climate does the animal thrive in? Where does it hide? How far does it travel, and how much space can *you* provide? What is the animal’s lifespan?

## Helping Farm Animals

Did you realize that over 10 billion farm animals in the United States are raised for food every year? Sadly, most are inhumanely treated in terribly cramped and stressful places.



## Farm animals need you!

- Eat meatless meals at least one day a week
- Learn about factory farms and where your meat, milk and eggs come from
- Ask for “Certified Humane” food products
- Buy clothing and accessories that aren’t made from animals
- Get to know rescued animals at a farm sanctuary

# Caring for Critters

## LEARN and TEACH about animals!

Search your library for interesting books and magazines about animals. Ask your teacher or librarian to display good books about animals, especially during *Be Kind to Animals* week early in May. (We recommend Lucky Me, a children's guide to animal companionship and safety, by Christi Drue Dunlap.) Maybe you can give a report on your favorite species or share all the things you do to take excellent care of your pet!

## Check out these wonderful websites:

[www.phs-sPCA.org](http://www.phs-sPCA.org)

*Your friendly local humane society ☺*

[www.pleasebekind.com/candotohelp.html](http://www.pleasebekind.com/candotohelp.html)

*Actions you can take to help animals*

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals>

*Fun facts about wild animals and pets*

[www.sfbaywildlife.info](http://www.sfbaywildlife.info)

*Wildlife watching in our area*

[www.kidsplanet.org](http://www.kidsplanet.org)

*Endangered species fact sheets and games*

[www.animalplace.org](http://www.animalplace.org)

*News about rescued farm animals*

[www.loveyourdog.com](http://www.loveyourdog.com)

*A kid's guide to dog care*

[www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org)

*All about caring for bunnies*

[www.rattieratz.com](http://www.rattieratz.com)

*Resources for pet rats*

[www.mickaboo.org](http://www.mickaboo.org)

*Companion bird rescue and care*

<http://animal.discovery.com/pets>

*Info on aquarium fish and other pets*

[www.kindnews.org](http://www.kindnews.org)

*Humane magazines for K-6 classrooms*

[www.phs-sPCA.org/resource/advice.html](http://www.phs-sPCA.org/resource/advice.html)

*Useful tips about dog and cat behavior*



## Start an Animal Club

Students from Burlingame High formed an Animal Rights Club at their school. Their efforts include spreading awareness to the student body about issues related to animals. Members have participated in beach clean-ups to lower the chances of marine life becoming entangled or choking on garbage mistaken for food. The club has also raised hundreds of dollars for the shelter animals.

Work together with a friend or a group, and plan activities to help animals!

Here are some things your club can do:



- Create a newsletter about animals
- Write an article for your school paper or a letter to the editor
- Set up a booth or table and share information at special events
- Make animal fact bookmarks for the school or public library
- Ask animal professionals to come talk to your class (speakers may include: humane educators from PHS/SPCA, a veterinarian, animal control officer, or wildlife rehabilitator)
- Do an art project about animals such as a mural, collage, or photography exhibit
- Display pictures of adoptable shelter animals at a P.T.A. meeting or educational fair
- Organize a litter clean-up day at your school, local park or beach
- Explore issues such as the use of animals in circuses & rodeos or in science fair projects. Discuss humane concerns and solutions with your classmates.

### Why not create your own animal website?

Share animal stories with your relatives and friends! Perhaps you could add a link to an animal-related site that matters to you.

**Questions?** Call the Humane Education Department at (650)340-7022, ext. 369.