

ANIMAL SHELTER

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Ten Ways You Can Help Your Community's Shelter and the Animals in Their Care on Animal Shelter National Day of Service:

- 1. Adopt a Pet** The most impactful way you can make a difference on April 14th is by adopting from your local shelter! Animal shelters simply can't do all that they do to help animals in need without adopters stepping forward to open up their hearts and homes.
- 2. Foster a Pet** If you can't make a permanent commitment through adoption, fostering also makes a huge difference for animal shelters, helping to free up limited space, while providing foster pets a healthy break from the stress of the shelter environment.
- 3. Volunteer** Often under the constraints of limited funds, resources and staff, many shelters depend upon the work, time and dedication of volunteers in their community for animal care, cleaning, office duties and other daily tasks.
- 4. Donate Money** The majority of animal shelters receive no federal, state or local government funding. They rely solely on the financial support of the citizens in their community to care for animals and keep their facility open.
- 5. Donate Supplies** If you're not able to donate monetarily, donating vital supplies necessary for the daily operation of the shelter is another meaningful way to help. Commonly needed items include food, treats, kitty litter, towels and detergent.
- 6. Organize a Fundraising Event or Collection Drive** Holding an animal-themed party, holiday collection drive or other organized festivities with friends, family or coworkers can be a way to socialize, promote teamwork and have fun in support of a cause everyone cares about.
- 7. Spread the Word** Help to promote the great work your local shelter does for the animals in your community. Follow them on social media, and invite friends and family to do the same. Engage by sharing, commenting and ultimately inspiring more adopters and donors to support your shelter.
- 8. Advocate** Become educated about the track record on animal welfare of your elected officials at the state and local levels. Rally their support for issues affecting animals and the organizations that work to help and protect them.
- 9. Be a Responsible Pet Owner** You can do your part to help animals, while lightening the burdens of your local shelter, by being a responsible pet owner. The most significant way you can prevent overpopulation of unwanted animals in shelters is by having your pets spayed or neutered and microchipped.
- 10. Say Thank You** Working or volunteering at an animal shelter is not always the easiest job, but for many, it is a labor of love that can often come with few rewards. Taking a moment to express your gratitude is a simple, but truly meaningful gesture of kindness for those on the front lines.

Check with your own shelter about their priority needs, and how you can have the most impact for their animals.