



## 10 Great Ways Kids Can Help Animals At The SPCA Tampa Bay!

### 1) GET CRAFTY

Arts and crafts can be a way for kids to explore their creativity while making toys or bedding for shelter animals. Scraps of blankets and towels can be tied or braided to make a dog tug toy, or sewn together to make a new blanket. Old blankets and towels, that normally get thrown away, are also great donation items that are used as bedding. (*Safe DIY toys you will find on the internet: The Sock 'n' Ball, the Rope Ball, Kitchen Towel Braids, One Big Knot, Catnip Balls, and Cat Puzzle Toy Box*)

Design a poster: Print adoptable animal photos (and their bios) from the SPCA Tampa Bay website and glue them to a poster to color and decorate. This will help get adoptable animals seen by more people and increase their chances of finding their forever home. Children can take the poster to school, scouts or ask their parents to display it at work.

### 2) BECOME A FOSTER PARENT FAMILY

Foster families help raise young animals or care for animals with a medical condition until they are able to be placed up for adoption. Under the supervision of a parent, children help care for the foster animal and they learn about responsibility and proper pet care. (*Note: Foster volunteer hours can be applied to High School community service requirements and Bright Futures Scholarships.*)

### 3) HOLD A DO-IT-YOURSELF FUNDRAISER

Fundraisers benefiting the SPCA Tampa Bay give children an opportunity to learn about animal welfare and sheltering while helping a worthy cause. A do-it-yourself fundraiser inspires children to harness their creative side and come up with fun ideas. From bake sales and lemonade stands to car washes and donation drives, the possibilities are endless.

**Check out our Wish List:** <http://spcatampabay.org/donate-items/>

### 4) GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED

Faculty and students may not be aware of the SPCA Tampa Bay and getting the word out at school reaches a lot of people very quickly. Parents should talk to teachers or faculty about ideas their child may have to raise awareness and donations for the SPCA Tampa Bay. Consider getting a whole class involved to have an art contest, raffle or collect items from the animal wish list on our website. Children can also use assignments like book reports or show-and-tell to feature a story about one of our adoptable animals, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and/or highlight a senior animal or one with special physical or behavioral needs.

### 5) SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY

Have a “Fun-Raising” Birthday *Pawty*! In lieu of gifts, ask people to bring items you can donate from the animal wish list on our website in honor of your birthday. You can also host a Facebook Fundraiser and raise donations for SPCA Tampa Bay!

#### **6) DONATE TO PEBBLES FOOD BANK**

Collect food (wet and dry), cat litter, treats, leashes, collars, and other pet supplies and drop them off to add to our food bank supply. Pebbles Food Bank provides free pet food to dogs and cats of Pinellas County residents facing an unexpected financial hardship.

#### **7) START YOUR OWN “PET WALK” TEAM**

Our Pet Walk is a community fundraiser to support our shelter pets and wildlife held every April in downtown St. Pete! Teams or individuals can create their own fundraising page that friends and family can donate to! Ask your parents to help you create your team profile online at - [petwalk.org](http://petwalk.org) Ask friends and family to join your team, or donate in your honor, or in honor or memory of a much loved pet. You can also register the day of the event! *100% of proceeds benefit SPCA Tampa Bay!*

#### **9) GET SOCIAL**

Create flyers to be distributed\* to neighbors and friends to raise awareness about the SPCA Tampa Bay adoptable animals, programs and services.

Visit the SPCA Tampa Bay website\*, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts and share our content. Enjoy fun videos of animals in our care and get up to the minute information on our shelter animals, animal adoptions, events, etc. Let everyone in your online social circle know that the SPCA Tampa Bay is important to you, and ask them to help out too.

- Website – <http://spcatampabay.org>
- Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/SPCATampaBay>
- Twitter – <https://twitter.com/spcatampabay>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SPCATampaBay>

#### **10) SET AN EXAMPLE**

Be a responsible pet owner – groom your pet, have them spayed or neutered, keep them up to date on their vaccines, make sure dogs take a monthly heartworm preventative, give cats and dogs a monthly flea preventative, and have each pet microchipped so they are returned to you quickly if they get lost. Encourage other people to do the same!

*\*Adults should always accompany children on outings and monitor their computer usage to make sure the websites they are supporting are from safe and trusted sources.*