

Ways to Help Animals

Thank a Shelter Volunteer; a little appreciation goes a long way. Your “**thank you**” could be the push someone needs to make volunteering a regular part of his or her life.

Instead of **birthday presents**, ask guests to bring pet food, treats and toys which you can donate to SFAS.

Throw a **dog party** for your pup, where the guests bring donations for the Shelter.

Shelter cats need more than just food in their bellies and a roof over their heads. They need activity and play to stay happy and healthy. Consider donating **cat toys**.

Educate others about how important it is to spay and neuter your pets. The first step to making a change is understanding what we can do and why we should.

A quick way to spread the word and to help make a successful match for a potential adopter: Share **adoptable pet profiles** on social media.

Foster. Help the Shelter make room for new pets by inviting a homeless cat or dog to stay with you for a few days or weeks and help them get adopted.

Hold a **towel drive**. Collecting used towels from neighbors, family and local hotels provides a necessary resource for the pets during their stay in the Shelter.

Donate much needed items from the Shelter's **Amazon wish list**.

Create a **quilt** or piece of **artwork** to raffle off.

Ask your local library, nursery school or day care center if you can come in and read **animal-themed books** to young children.

We're always looking for **gift cards** or gift certificates to restaurants, entertainment and stores for our own use or to use in raffle baskets or for Volunteer appreciation.

Clean out your space and organize a **yard sale**, donating the proceeds.

Make some **cat mats** for our kitties. Any soft washable fabric like fleece works great. Just cut out 2 rectangles approximately 18" x 24", put the good sides of the fabric back to back and stitch around the edge, remembering to keep one side open. After you turn over, slipstitch shut. Or you can try the no-sew method by tying together.

Be a **role model**. Set a good example for others by being a responsible pet caregiver.

Host a **school dance** or **movie night** and ask participants to bring in pet food and supplies instead of charging an entry fee.

Make some colorful “adopt me” **posters** of available pets for us to hang at the shelter.

Be kind to all animals and let others know that hurting an animal is wrong.

Take a dog for a walk and use **WoofTrax**. The app is free and simply tracks the distance you walk to determine the donation amount for the Shelter.

Talk to your employer about setting up a **collection jar** for a local animal shelter or rescue and ask them to consider matching employee donations. This is also a great way to foster team spirit and give employees a good feeling about the company they work for!

Start a **coin drive** at your school; see which team can gather the most pennies!

Sponsor a local **youth sports team** in the name of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. This will help draw attention to the idea of adoption to families that may be considering bringing a pet into their home.

Build fences and **dog houses** for your neighbors. Brighten dog's lives by helping them get off the chain any by providing shelter from the elements.

Create a newsletter, story, poem or song about animal issues. Design a **colorful poster** to hang in local businesses about the benefit of adopting shelter animals.

Have a **read-a-thon**. Ask donations for each animal-related book you read.

Fundraise with a **bake sale**. Work with your neighborhood school or your child's PTO to organize a bake sale to benefit homeless pets in your community. This is a great way to educate children on the topic, create awareness about available pets, and help provide funding to the animal organizations that need it most.

Put together a **raffle basket** with various items and sell tickets.

Hold an **aluminum can drive** in your neighborhood. Arrange with the Volunteer Coordinator to drop them off at the Shelter to recycle for money. With all the summer picnics and festivities, there are a lot of cans around and they really do add up fast.

