

The Mini Page

Next Week:
The Bill of Rights, Part II

Issue 39, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

Give Them Shelter



photo by Dave Parker

If you have a pet at home, there's a good chance it came from an animal shelter.

Animal shelters care for millions of abandoned or injured dogs and cats each year. There are about 5,000 animal shelters in the United States.

What is a shelter?

Most shelters are places that care for animals for a short while. Few can care for animals for the rest of their natural lives. Shelters care for the animals while workers search for good homes for them. They find homes for millions of animals every year.



photo by The Bees

Dogs and cats are the main animals in shelters. However, they also care for many other animals people have as pets. Sometimes wild animals end up in shelters, too.

Shelters provide food, water, housing and medical care. Workers pet and play with the animals.

What do shelters do?

Shelters take in abandoned or injured animals. Often they care for lost or stray dogs and cats until their owners claim them.

Animal control officers also rescue animals from situations where the animals are being treated cruelly. Animals that have been pets don't do well on their own. Shelters look after these animals.

Shelters provide food, water, housing and medical care. Workers pet and play with the animals.

Mini Fact:

Animal shelters take in many kinds of animals, including guinea pigs, lizards, ferrets and snakes.



photo by Chriss Haight Pagani

This mother cat and her three kittens are feral (FAIR-uh), or wild. They live by hunting.

Spaying and neutering

Experts say the most important thing people can do to help their pets is to get them spayed or neutered. This means the animals get an operation to be sure they can't have kittens or puppies. They are asleep during the operation, so they aren't scared or in pain.

Spaying and neutering are important because there are so many animals needing care and not enough homes or shelters for them. One cat or dog can have many litters in its life. Its kittens or puppies can have many litters, too. This can end up creating thousands of new cats and dogs.

Good homes needed!

Unfortunately, shelters cannot care for all the hurt or abandoned animals that come through their doors. Experts say that from 6 to 8 million dogs and cats are brought into shelters in America each year. About half of those are euthanized (YOU-thuh-NIZD), or painlessly killed.

How to help

If you see an animal you think is being mistreated, tell an adult you trust. *Never* approach a strange animal. Do not go onto someone else's property. Tell a parent, a teacher or a police officer. Animal cruelty is illegal everywhere in America.

You can volunteer at a local shelter. Because much of the country is still under COVID-19 restrictions, you might have to wait to volunteer in person, but you can do other things to help out the shelter workers.

You could:

- Stuff envelopes for the shelter's mailings.
- Collect and deliver items shelters need*, such as:

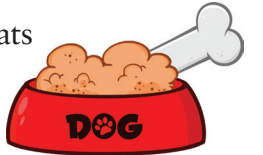
✓ pet food and treats

✓ kitty litter

✓ washable toys

✓ first-aid supplies

✓ soft towels and blankets



* Call your local shelter first to see which supplies they most need.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPshelters

At the library:

- "Pet Rescue Club: A New Home for Truman" by Catherine Hapka
- "Shelter Pet Squad #1: Jelly Bean" by Cynthia Lord

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of animal shelters are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ADOPT, ANIMAL, BLANKETS, CARE, CAT, DOG, FERAL, FOOD, HOME, LITTER, LOST, NEUTER, PET, SHELTER, SPAY, STRAY, TOWELS, TOYS, TREATS, VOLUNTEER, WATER.

C A S T E K N A L B V M W E C
N V D B R E T A W I S W R Y M
J E N O R A M J W Y T A B E S
J Y U L P I V O O K C T E O T
F A E T N T W T H L A R E F A
T E P A E W G H Z D T S E R E
S O U J O R V O L U N T E E R
O M S L E W O T D F O O D J T
L Q Y A R T S S V N L Y A P S
I C Q R R X X R E T L E H S R

Cook's Corner

Mexican Pinto Beans

You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons cumin

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 (15-ounce) cans pinto beans, drained
- 3/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- salt to taste



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan. Add onion, peppers and garlic; cook until onions are soft and translucent.
2. Stir in cumin and chili powder. Add beans and chopped cilantro. Season with salt as desired.
3. Heat through and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

1. To become a parent or owner by law (5-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

2. To keep safe; save from harm or danger (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. To give relief from worry, pain or difficulty (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

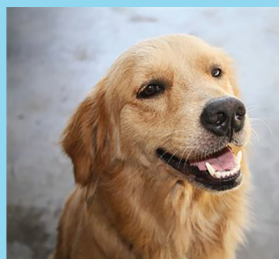
4. Providing food to others (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Billy hopes to _____ a brown and white puppy today.
2. A dog house can _____ a dog from rain, snow or cold.
3. Grace will _____ her dog, who fears thunder.
4. Bryce is in charge of _____ his pony twice a day.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Adopt, Protect, Comfort, Feeding.

Mini Jokes



Danny: What is a cat's favorite color?
Caitlin: Purrrrple!

Eco Note



A new international group of officials concerned about extreme heat are suggesting that heat waves should be named, like hurricanes and tropical storms. They believe this will help draw attention to climate change. Extreme heat waves are responsible for more deaths than any other weather hazard in the United States. "People do not understand this risk, and we need to change that," said Kathy Baughman McLeod, one of the group's members.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for notices about pet adoption events.

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