

Issue Areas:
Animal
Welfare



Shelter Buddy Rescue Readers

Kids are caring by nature, especially when it comes to animals, so nurturing and encouraging this compassion is important. According to the National PTA Congress, “Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind, and considerate in their relations to each other.”

Approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.3 million are dogs and 3.2 million are cats. Approximately 3.2 million shelter animals are adopted each year (1.6 million dogs and 1.6 million cats).

Many shelters have reading programs that are designed to help shelter dogs become more adoptable. Reading to dogs not only comforts them and reduces their anxiety, it also nurtures empathy in children. In most programs, the children sit outside of the kennels and read to the dogs.



What You Need

- Your favorite books
- A caring heart for animals



How You Do It

1. Contact your shelter to see if there is a reading program or if they would welcome you to their shelter to read to the shelter dogs. You can search for a shelter in your area by visiting the ASPCA's site at <https://www.aspc.org/adopt-pet/find-shelter>.
2. Bring your books to the shelter and have fun helping dogs while reading your favorite books.



Before the project

READ ONE OF THESE BOOKS.

***Max the Shelter Dog* by Nicole Rivera**

Max the Shelter Dog is the heartwarming and nail-biting story about an energetic and playful pit bull pup surrendered to a shelter by his owner. Max desperately chases after his owner as she flees through the shelter doors but is yanked back by the leash man - his nemesis. Left behind, he has no choice but to endure the life of a sheltered dog.

Animal lovers of all ages will walk away with a new sense of empowerment, strength of will, the ability to never give up and the overwhelming urge to make a difference in the life of a sheltered animal.

ASPCA kids: Rescue Readers: I Am Picasso by Lori C. Froed

From the ASPCA Rescue Readers series, this reader follows the adventures of Picasso, a puppy that is adopted by a free-spirited artist and her young son. Beautifully illustrated and written to be appropriate for readers ages 4-7. Woven into the story is the importance of care, protection, and love of animals.

*****Double Your Impact*****

Read a book and help save a life: 5-7% of the purchase price of every ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Pet Rescue Club book goes directly to the ASPCA® so they can continue their mission of helping the helpless, with a minimum donation of \$50,000 through December 2019.
