

Issue Areas:
Animal
Welfare



Animal Shelter Toy Drive

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).

Toys at shelters help keep animals from getting bored while they wait for a new home. Toys at the shelters wear out quickly and need to be replaced often. You and your family, friends, class or club can help by either donating a toy or two or holding an Animal Shelter Toy Drive!

Contact your local animal shelter to see if they will accept your toys and find out if they have a list of their particular needs. You can search for a shelter in your area by visiting the ASPCA's site at <https://www.aspca.org/adopt-pet/find-shelter>.



What You Need

- Poster board and markers if doing a drive
- Email or flyer is collecting among family and friends
- Animal toys (The toys that work best are the kind that can be easily washed and cleaned) like rubber toys for dogs and ping pong balls or plastic cat toys
- Bin or box for collecting or transporting toys



How You Do It

1. **Decide on your collection strategy:**
 - A one-day event held in a well-known location with colorful signage creates excitement. You might ask local pet retailers if you can set up at their location which could increase donations.
 - An ongoing effort with un-manned collection bins available could be done at a school or other community site and provides flexibility and allows you to collect the toys for a longer period of time.
 - If you are collecting from family and friends, figure out a drop-off date pickup time.
2. **Get the word out by creating a flyer that provides the details of who, what, where, when, how and why. Post your flyers all over town and/or school (with permission, of course). If collecting in a public space, you could also e-mail copies and ask people to share them with friends or in their workplaces.**



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.