

ASPCA®

# animaland PAGES

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



## Community Service Projects

**A**NIMALS ARE AMAZING CREATURES, AND YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THEM—WHETHER IT'S YOUR OWN PETS WHOM YOU LOVE AND TAKE CARE OF, OR WILD ANIMALS WHOSE HOMES YOU VISIT ON NATURE WALKS OR OBSERVE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD. BUT THESE ANIMALS, AND OTHERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, RELY ON HELP AND PROTECTION FROM HUMANS. ANIMALS IN SHELTERS NEED OUR HELP TO FIND LOVING, PERMANENT HOMES, WHILE WE WORK TO PROTECT WILD ANIMALS FROM HABITAT LOSS, POLLUTION, AND BEING CAPTURED OR KILLED ILLEGALLY. YOU CAN HELP OUT BY GETTING INVOLVED IN SERVICE PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE ANIMALS. NOT ONLY ARE THESE PROJECTS INTERESTING AND REWARDING, BUT YOU MAY EVEN HAVE A LOT OF FUN IN THE PROCESS.



**T**here are many things you can do to help animals in your own community. If you want to help your local shelter, first contact them to find out what they need. They may need old towels and linens for cleaning and bedding (cats love snuggling on a warm comforter) or some colorful posters that encourage members of the community to adopt an animal. When working with your local shelter, you will also learn a lot about what they do to help animals. If you are interested in helping local wildlife, contact your local parks department to organize a clean-up to prevent pollution or research all the wildlife in your community. You can share your findings in a brochure or book to distribute to residents.

There are also opportunities to help animals around the world. Many land and ocean animals are in danger of losing their homes to poaching and pollution. You can help spread the message about protecting these animals by developing an educational campaign. Writing letters to legislators encouraging them to pass laws protecting wildlife, writing to your local newspaper or making a website with information on how others can help are just a few examples of ways to get your message out to the public. Campaigns to help endangered and threatened animals do work. Thanks to people who cared, many animals who were once endangered are now thriving, and there are strong laws to protect many animals from poachers.

These are just some examples of service projects for animals. Think about which animals you would like to help and try to think of some additional projects. Whatever you choose to do, you will learn a lot, and the animals will benefit from all of your hard work.

# Humane Kids

## Staten Island Junior Dog Handlers

**W**hile some Staten Island teens spend their Saturdays at the mall, Victoria and Christina Brumale enjoy spending their weekends visiting sick children and grieving families with their four golden retrievers, all therapy dogs. After attending a training program, Victoria, 11, and Christina, 13, were certified by the Delta Society as junior dog handlers. They participate in pet partner programs all over New York City and the surrounding areas. The girls are old pros at handling the large well-trained dogs; Mattie, Macie, Jesse and Jake. Both girls love seeing others receive comfort from their cuddly, warm and very pet-able dogs. One of the most important things they've learned while working with their therapy dogs involves what happened on September 11, 2001. Christina and Victoria were very young at that time, but they know that the hurt and loss that survivors feel is still very real. The girls and their dogs often visit kids who lost their parents that day. Christina says "just seeing them smile is a wonderful thing." Victoria and the dogs accompanied her grandparents to Washington, DC, this past September 11 for a memorial service at the Pentagon. "It was so nice to see the kids who lost family members and make them happy," said Victoria. Both girls plan to continue community service with their dogs forever. They are enthusiastic about volunteering and hope to get more of their friends and school mates involved in their work. Volunteering with their dogs has been very fulfilling and has provided great opportunities for learning.



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## Meals on

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## Help to Beautify Your Community



**1** Find a location in your community that could use some sprucing up... maybe a dash of color. Think about school grounds, a community center or perhaps a nursing home.

**2** Start by writing a letter to the administrator or owner requesting permission to plant some flowers around the building. Be sure to have a backup plan in case the administrator refuses.

**L e a r n , h a v e f u n a n d**

## Rep. Berrios & ASPCA Honor Students

Rep. Toni Berrios and the ASPCA honored four students at Brentano Math and Science Academy in Chicago on May 26, 2006, for proposing the No Canine Profiling bill at the Illinois General Assembly. The four eighth-grade students, Natalia C., 14, Yaritza R., 13, and Jasmine Z., 13, won a district-wide contest sponsored by the ASPCA for researching, developing, and proposing the No Canine Profiling resolution. The resolution encourages cities to pass laws that encourage responsible dog owners and establish programs that educate residents instead of imposing specific dog bans.



## Wheels For Pets

Meals on Wheels partnered with the Cook County 4H Paw Stars Club to create a program called Meals 4Paws Stars. This pilot program will provide meals for clients who have pets with mobility issues that last until the next visit. A member of 4H Paw Stars and Meals on Wheels about the program and how to find a way to complete the service by working with pets. Club members will be volunteering and will help to find pet services. The volunteers will make a difference every third Saturday of each month. The program provides services for dogs, cats, birds, fish and turtles.



PHOTO COMPLIMENTS OF LISA BARRON

*Nicole Green, Assistant Director of Animalearn, awards Laura Dixon with a certificate of compassion.*

## Right to Refuse Dissection

Laura Dixon is one cool teenager. When Laura heard that there was a bill up for review that would allow students the right to opt out of dissection, she decided to speak before the State Assembly Education Committee in support of it. Dissection was required in New Jersey, and if you didn't dissect, you got a F. Laura thought this bill needed to be a law because many teenagers oppose dissection, and no one should have to get a failing grade as a result. But, even though some other classmates agreed with Laura, she was the only one to testify. Laura's decision to speak up for the bill proved successful. The Student Choice Law was passed in January 2006, making New Jersey the ninth state to allow students the right to refuse dissection. Laura was awarded with a certificate of compassion from Animalearn (the educational division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, works to end the use of animals for dissection and vivisection in classrooms). Way to go, Laura.

While you are waiting for a reply, start your research. Surf the Web to determine which United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) planting zone your location falls within and which plants thrive in your zone.

You could also interview someone from the local botanical gardens or gardening club for helpful information.

Next, host an event to raise funds to purchase the flowers or write letters to local nurseries explaining your project and ask for flower donations. If all goes well, you could be planting in no time—but don't stop there!

Check back at regular intervals to care for the plants and monitor their progress. Are some plants doing better than others? Why? Research the reason. Possible reasons may be more sun, better soil, more water, etc.

# make others happy!

# Top 10

## IDEAS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

1.

Search [aspca.org/findashelter](http://aspca.org/findashelter) for your local animal shelter. Visit their website to find their wish list and hold a drive for the items they need.



2.

Have a towel/blanket drive and donate them to your local animal shelter.



3.

Volunteer at your local animal shelter.



4.

Organize a dog wash to raise money for the shelter.



5.

Offer a dog walking service for the elderly or homebound.



6.

Organize a pet food delivery service for the elderly or the needy who have pets.



7.

Help your shelter with filing, typing or other skills you may have.



8.

Create an animal care guide and give to other students in your school.



9.

Create a newsletter about animal events in your community.



10.

Read books about animals to younger students.

