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## Want to Help Neglected Animals in Your Community? Here's How

As heartbreaking as it is, pet homelessness is a serious issue, as evidenced by the countless neglected and abandoned animals everywhere who need our help. Here are some of the different things we can do to make your community a safer, more loving place for pets of all ages, breeds, and special needs — whether you're interested in volunteering, fostering, or starting your own animal-focused nonprofit organization.

### Volunteer in the Community

*From walking and grooming senior dogs to fostering a homeless pet, there are so many different ways to help abandoned or neglected animals.*

- Consider [adopting a homeless pet](#) from an area shelter.
- Get involved with an organization that [helps pet owners](#) struggling financially to pay for pet care or veterinary medication.
- Reach out to a rescue to learn more about how you can get involved with helping animals in the community.

### Donate to Animal Shelters and Rescues

*Don't have enough time to volunteer? You can still help area shelters by donating money and other items to local rescue organizations.*

- [Help abandoned senior dogs](#) throughout the U.S. by donating money to non-profit sanctuaries such as Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary, Silver Muzzle Cottage, and The House With A Heart.
- In addition to donating money to your favorite animal organizations, many shelters and rescues need food, cat litter, cleaning supplies, blankets, [and other essential items](#).
- [If you're planning a wedding](#) or another big event, you could even ask guests to donate to a local animal organization in lieu of a gift.

### **Start Your Own Nonprofit Organization Benefiting Animals**

*There are millions of homeless pets in the U.S. alone, but starting your own animal-focused nonprofit organization could help to give dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small animals the loving homes they deserve.*

- Choose an idea for your animal-focused nonprofit. [Some examples include animal shelters](#), rescues, wildlife sanctuaries, and animal advocacy organizations.
- Incorporate your nonprofit organization by choosing a name, board of directors, and registered agent, and filing the Articles of Incorporation.
- [Create a marketing plan](#) for your nonprofit organization.
- Supplement your online advertising with business cards; you can [give this tool a look](#) and take advantage of the free templates.
- [Fundraise](#), fundraise, fundraise!

Whether you're most passionate about volunteering in the community, donating money and supplies, or starting your own nonprofit organization, there are many ways to help neglected or abandoned animals. But however you choose to give back, you'll be making a difference in the lives of all types of animals: Big, small, young, old, healthy, and special needs.