



Ideas for Young Volunteers

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SERVICE PROJECTS

1. What is your project?

You have chosen to help animals, but where do you start? The key to a successful project is selecting a focus. Ask yourself the following questions to help get you going:

- How would I like to help animals? Do I want to raise awareness of homeless pets? Do I want to help animals currently in shelters by raising money or collecting food? Do I want to help educate my community on responsible pet ownership

2. Form a partnership or team

- If this is an independent project, you might still be able to get outside help. Is there a local pet store that might donate some pet supplies to your Pet Food Drive? Can a parent, teacher, scout leader guide you in your project?
- Maybe you have a friend or neighbor who shares your love for animals. Why not work together?
- If it is a group project (through school, a scout troop etc), make sure everyone in the group shares the same goals for the project.

3. Make a plan

- Define the goal of the project.
- Decide when and where to meet to form a plan.
- Key components of your plan: a timeline for when the project will be completed and the necessary steps to complete your plan; tasks that need to be accomplished; how much time each week will be spent on your project; any cost estimates and/or a list of needed materials and resources

4. Consider the recipient

- Be clear on the needs of the organization. Are there certain events that need volunteers? Are there certain times of the year when items are needed by the organization? (For example, kitten food is needed more in the summer).

5. Get Permission

- If this is a class or scout project, do you need approval from a teacher or leader?

SERVICE PROJECTS

- If you're doing a food drive, ask permission from the locations where you will have collection bins
- 6. Promote your project
 - Post fliers (see How to Make a Flyer) at local businesses, your town's municipal building, community center and library (ask permission)
 - Send a press release (see How to Write a Press Release) to local newspapers or to church bulletins or municipal community calendars
 - Word of mouth – tell friends and family
 - Websites – if you want to reach more people, submit your project's information to your town's website. Some local churches, community groups and businesses also have their own sites.
- 7. Evaluate your project
 - Did you achieve the goal(s) of your project?
 - Did you enjoy the project?
 - Do you feel that your project really helped animals? Why or why not?
 - Where there unexpected obstacles? If so, are you satisfied with how you overcame them? If not, what could you do differently in the future?
 - Would you do this project again?

KIDS CRAFTS

FOR CATS

Catnip Critters (Any Age)

Items needed:

- Baby socks
- Catnip



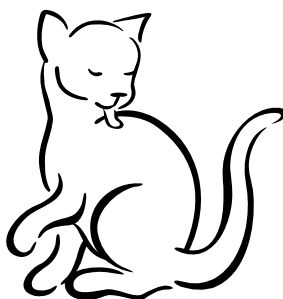
1. Take a handful of catnip and stuff it inside a baby sock. Leave enough room to tie the sock.
2. Tie the end of the sock.
3. If you want to be creative, you can use a **non-toxic** marker to make eyes, nose and mouth for the catnip critter.

Jingle/Jangle Toys (Kids 10 and up; younger kids should be supervised)

Items needed:

- Plastic shower curtain rings
- Small to medium size jingle bells

1. Attach the curtain rings to each other so they form an interlocking chain. You can make the chain as long or as short as you wish. If you want to be creative, you can use rings of various colors.
2. Attach one or two bells to one of the rings (depends on the length of the chain).
3. Now the toy can be hung from a doorknob or you can dangle it yourself in front of the cat.



KIDS CRAFTS

FOR CATS

Yarn Balls of Fun (younger kids should be supervised)

Items Needed:

- Yarn
- A Pom-Pom Maker (about \$2 at a craft store) or a sturdy piece of cardboard about 2 inches long (the longer the piece the bigger the ball) and about 1-inch wide
- Scissors
- Thread and needle
- Jingle Bell



1. If you have a Pom-Pom Maker, follow those instructions and skip this step. If not, take the piece of cardboard and cut a hole in the center about a half-inch long. Take yarn and wrap it around the Pom-Pom Maker or around the cardboard lengthwise.
2. Keep wrapping around the cardboard until it is thick.
3. Now it's time to tie the center of the yarn. Take needle and thread and push the needle through the slot in the cardboard. Pull the thread halfway through leaving some thread on the other side; be sure that the thread is outside the yarn.
4. Push the needle back through the cardboard slot, making sure the thread is wrapping around the yarn. At this point, you should have both ends of the thread on the same side. Take both ends of the thread and tie a tight knot.
5. Take both ends of the thread and push them through the cardboard slot to the other side. Tie a tight knot. Tie another knot. Weave the thread back through as many times as you think you need to prevent the yarn ball from coming apart later.
6. With a little of the leftover thread. Weave that through the jingle ball and tie it tightly to the ball.
7. Take the scissors and cut any excess thread. Then cut the yarn loops at both ends of the cardboard.
8. Pull the yarn away from the cardboard and fluff it and now it should look like a ball.

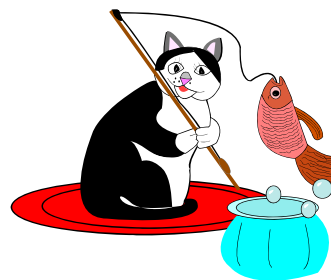
KIDS CRAFTS

FOR CATS

Fishing Fun (Younger Children will need supervision)

Items needed:

- Wooden dowel (can be found at craft stores)
- String or thread
- Scissors
- Catnip Critter (see above)
- Jingle bells (optional)



1. Cut a 3-foot piece of string or thread. Wrap the string or thread several times around one end of the dowel and then tie a few knots.
2. Wrap the other end of the string/thread around the tied end of the Catnip Critter and then tie a few knots.
3. If you want, you can use another piece of thread/string and loop it through a jingle bell and then tie it around the knotted end of the catnip critter.

Cat Scratching Posts

*** This project is for older children and definitely needs adult assistance and supervision.*

Items needed:

- Scissors or a sharp knife
 - Piece of sturdy cardboard or plastic tubing. (Cardboard is easier to work with but not as sturdy). Height should be at least 18 inches.
 - Small piece of plywood
 - Wood glue
 - Marker or pen
 - Sisal rope (length depends on how big the tube is, but remember, you always can cut excess)
 - Paper towels
 - 4 Screws, Screwdriver, Drill (if the post is attached well enough, these aren't always needed)
 - Piece of thin carpeting (should be slightly larger than your plywood piece)
1. Poke/cut a small hole into the bottom of the tubing, as close to the edge as possible.

KIDS CRAFTS

FOR CATS

Cat Scratching Posts (Continued)

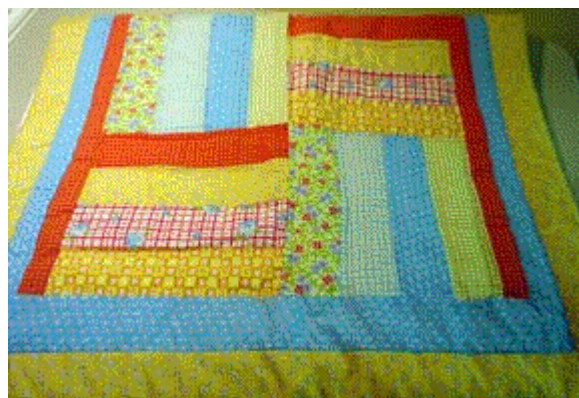
2. Going from the outside to the inside, push one end of the rope into the tube.
3. Pull the rope out the bottom of the tube and tie it in a knot large enough so it won't be pulled through the hole.
4. Place the tube on the plywood and use the marker to trace the shape of the tube on the wood.
5. Also trace an outline of the tube on the backside of the carpet.
6. Drill 4 holes into the plywood on the edge of the circle you have just drawn.
7. Apply wood glue to the drawn circle and the bottom of the tube.
8. Press the tube firmly onto the wood for several minutes.
9. When glue seems dry, screw the screws in the holes in the wood into the tube. It may be necessary to use the drill to make holes in the tubing.
10. Cut the carpet along the outline you have drawn.
11. Apply glue to the top surface of the wood and the back of the carpet.
12. Place carpet over the top of the tube and pull it down until you reach the plywood. Press the carpet firmly onto the wood. Wipe off any excess glue.
13. Pull the sisal rope through the tube until the knot hits the inside of the hole. Keeping the rope as taut as possible, begin wrapping the rope around the base of the tubing and slowly work your way up to the top.
14. If the top of the tube is closed or already has a plug, attach the end piece of the rope to it with some glue. If the top of the tube is open, you will have to find a strong piece of wood or plastic to plug the hole.

FOR CATS AND DOGS

Snuggly Blanket (Probably best for older kids):

Items Needed:

- Remnants of sheets or blankets or just one sheet
- Thread and needle (or sewing machine)
- Batting
- Pins
- Scissors



KIDS CRAFTS

FOR CATS AND DOGS

Snuggly Blanket (Continued):

1. If you'd like to make a patchwork blanket, cut the different materials into rectangles or squares of varying sizes.
2. Pin two squares together and then sew. Keep attaching one square or rectangle to the next until the front of your blanket is the desired size. (A 3-foot square blanket is a good size for a cat or small dog).
3. Once the front is finished, cut another piece of material to the same size. Pin the front and back pieces together.
4. Sew three sides of the material and half of the fourth side with a sewing machine or by hand. Turn the material right-side out.
5. Stuff the blanket with batting. Then sew the hole by hand.

Pet Bags (any age):

- Items Needed:
 - Felt or other material in 2 different colors
 - Ribbon
 - Needle and Thread (or sewing machine)
 - Scissors
1. Cut felt or other material into a rectangle (if you have a large enough piece, cutting is not required).
 2. Fold rectangle in half to create a smaller rectangle about 6 inches wide and 9 inches tall. (You can make the bags a little bigger if desired).
 3. Take other color of felt (or other material) and cut a shape. A bone shape or paw shape or other shape. Sew it to what will be the front of the bag.
 4. Sew along the bottom and side of the bag. Leave the top open.
 5. Take scissors and cut 2 slits about an inch from the top of the bag and about an inch or so from each other. Do this to the front and back of the bag.
 6. Take ribbon and weave through the slits. There should be enough extra to tie the bag closed.
 7. Fill the bag with goodies such as dog treats or cat toys.



PET TREATS

FOR DOGS

NOTICE: *When baking for a pet, always be sure to check all ingredients (especially prepared foods, i.e. baby food, bouillon) that are added, to ensure that onions are not present. Onions, onion powder and chocolate can be very toxic to dogs! Do not use recipes with milk, which some dogs and cats have trouble digesting.*

Oatmeal Biscuits

Items Needed:

A cookie cutter – bone shape is the cutest but any shape will work

1 ½ cups - Oatmeal (uncooked)

1 cup – Flour

1 cup – Cornmeal

1 – Egg

½ cup – Vegetable Oil (or Canola Oil)

½ cup – Water

½ teaspoon – salt (optional)

Makes about a dozen 3-inch long biscuits



1. Combine oatmeal, flour, cornmeal and salt (salt is optional) in a large bowl and mix. Add in egg, oil and water and mix thoroughly.
2. Place dough in a bowl and let sit in the refrigerator for about an hour or enough time that it seems more like dough instead of porridge (the more solid the dough's consistency, the easier it will be to roll).
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
4. Take dough out of refrigerator and roll dough out onto lightly floured surface to about a ½-inch thickness. Cut out biscuits with a cookie cutter (preferably a dog-shaped bone).
5. Transfer biscuits to an ungreased baking sheet. Using a spatula is often helpful
6. Bake for 15 to 25 minutes for small (1" long) or 30 minutes for large (3") or until they turn a golden color.
7. Let cool and then place in an airtight container. Refrigerate.

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FOR DOGS

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Peanut Butter Bones

Items needed:

A bone shaped cookie cutter

2 cups – Whole wheat flour

1 cup – Wheat germ

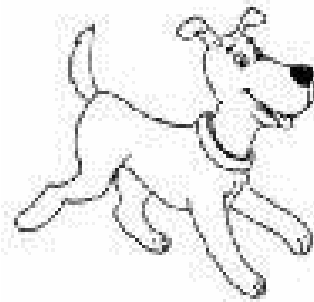
1 cup – Peanut butter (can use lowfat)

1 – Egg

¼ cup – Vegetable oil (can use Canola Oil)

½ cup – Water

Makes about 1 to 2 dozen 3-inch long bones



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine flour and wheat germ in a large bowl. Mix in peanut butter, egg, oil and water. If the mixture seems a little dry, add some more peanut butter.
3. Roll dough onto lightly floured surface to about ½ inch thickness. (If the mixture is very sticky, try refrigerating for a short time before rolling it).
4. Cut out dough with cookie cutter
5. Transfer biscuits to an ungreased baking sheet.
6. Bake about 20 to 25 minutes for small (1" long) or 30 to 35 minutes for large (3") biscuits. When they're ready they do turn a darker brown but be careful not to burn them.
7. Let cool and then transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate.

You can bring the treats in sealed containers or get creative. How about a Treat Jar decorated for the dogs? See page 11.

OTHER PROJECTS

How to Run a Pet Food Drive

1. Find out what the shelter needs. St. Hubert's has a wish list and accepts almost any donation. **St. Hubert's does not accept opened food.**
2. Decide when your Drive will start and for how long. A month is an average length.
3. Determine location(s) for donation collection bins and ask appropriate personnel for permission to leave the bin(s) there. Most places allow these bins if it's for a limited time and doesn't conflict with any other groups at the time.
Suggested sites include: your school, a church, local library, community center, municipal building, local business or another indoor location.
4. Create a collection bin or bins. A large cardboard box is sufficient. Get creative and decorate it. Be sure to put the name of the individual or group spearheading the Drive as well as St. Hubert's name.
5. Create a flyer and press release to let people know about your Drive. See attached information on how to create them. Be sure to include the name of the group/individual involved in the Drive as well as St. Hubert's. Post fliers at local businesses, in your school, public buildings (always ask permission before posting). Send the press release to your hometown and local newspapers at least a week or two before the Drive starts.
6. Be sure to check on your collection bin(s) about once a week and empty it so it doesn't overflow. After the Drive, all donations can be brought to St. Hubert's. Let St. Hubert's know you're coming (give 2 weeks notice) and we can arrange a tour for you and your group.
7. Is this a group effort or is this an individual one? If it is a group, decide which members will perform tasks. For example, assign some members to publicity (fliers, press release), some members to create the collection bin(s) and others to find collection locations.



OTHER PROJECTS

Other Drives and Fundraisers

1. You can sponsor a Coin Collection drive in school or through a local community group. Follow the same guidelines as the Pet Food Drive; your donation canisters can be old coffee cans decorated with your group's name or the fund's name. Come up with a catchy name for your drive. Some suggestions: Pennies for Pooches; Coins for Kitties. All money collected could be used to buy St. Hubert's Wish List items or could be donated directly to the shelter.
2. Host a canned food drive. The fall is a great time for this when people are already thinking of canned food drives for the needy; but your canned food drive will be PET food!
3. A bake sale or a lemonade stand. (one pair of girls raised more than \$200)

Gift Baskets

What better way to get started off on the right paw, than to have everything you need to take care of your new pet? See below for suggested items for gift baskets that can be donated to the shelter to give to adopters. Depending on the resources of the group/individual, the gift basket could range from a treat bag to an all-inclusive package.

1. The Gift Basket – it can be a basket but doesn't have to be. Other useful "baskets":
 - a cat carrier – put all the kitty supplies in the carrier. A new cat owner will need a carrier and it's a handy way to take all the supplies home
 - litter box – another cat essential; put all the supplies in a litter box and wrap the entire package in plastic and tie with a colorful bow
 - paper lunch bags – create your own "doggy bag" for homemade treats; decorate them for a personalized look



- a treat jar or canister – fill it with homemade treats and decorate the jar for a personalized gift for adopters. You can decorate with pictures or create dog faces with felt (suggested project details available upon request)
- a tote bag – can work for cats or dogs and will be a handy bag for future use



2. Cat Essentials

- litter box and scoop
- a bag of litter
- a bag and/or cans of cat food*
- scratching post or pad
- catnip or treats
- toys (plastic balls with bells inside and catnip mice are favorites)
- a cat bed (optional; this could be made or purchased)

3. Dog Essentials

- a leash and collar*
- a bag and/or cans of dog food*
- dog treats
- dog toys or bones (recommended items include: Kongs, Nylabones, Buster cubes or buster balls, Strong rubber balls)

*St. Hubert's offers these items to adopters but we always welcome donations.

Form an Animal Club

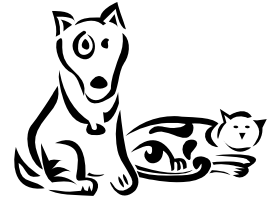
Don't limit helping animals to a one-time project. Why not create an animal club to continue helping animals?

1. Find students or neighbors who share your interest in helping animals.
2. Your club's mission could be to help animals at St. Hubert's and each year or twice a year (or how often you want) can pick a different project to help animals at the shelter.
3. Your club could promote responsible pet ownership and you could invite special speakers from the community to help educate other residents. For example, a local dog trainer could speak about how to get a dog to walk nicely on leash.

OTHER PROJECTS

How to Create a Flyer

1. Give it a title. Make the title stand out, to get people's attention. Keep it simple. "Help Animals" or "Donations Needed" quickly get the point across.
2. Make sure the most important item, the title, is large and clearly written so it grabs someone's attention. Less important details should be smaller than the title.
3. Make sure the answers to these questions are clearly included: Who or what are you trying to promote? Is there a deadline or specific dates/locations that should be mentioned? Who benefits? What do you want from the person reading the flyer?
So, for example, if your flyer is to promote a pet food drive, it could look like this:



Donations Needed
Cat food and litter!
Other donations welcome.
All contributions benefit St. Hubert's
and can be dropped off at either shelter by May 1
Madison shelter address
North Branch shelter address
For more information, call XXX-XXX-XXXX

4. If you were promoting an event such as a fair, you would include the date, time, location and a brief description of the fair.
5. If space allows, include a photo or artwork that helps get your point across. A picture of a cute dog or cat will make someone stop and look.
6. Keep it simple. The flyer is supposed to get people's attention and make them stop and read. Too much text will just discourage a reader. However, don't exclude vital information or your flyer won't encourage the reader to take action – such as show up to your event or donate items to the shelter.

OTHER RESOURCES

Books

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects by Barbara A. Lewis

The Kid's Guide to Social Action by Barbara A. Lewis

Online

www.freespirit.com

www.not-for-profit.org

<http://www.1-800-volunteer.org/learn/youth.jsp>