



# Youth & Group Service Projects



Help Homeless Pets in Our Community!

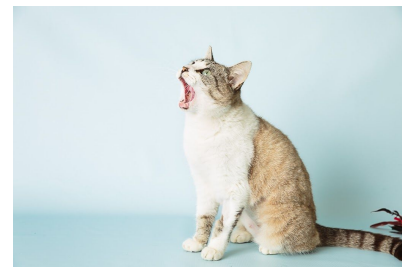
*It takes a whole lot of time, people, resources, money, and love to keep an animal shelter running. Take a look at our guide and hopefully you will find an idea that will get you on the road to helping animals.*

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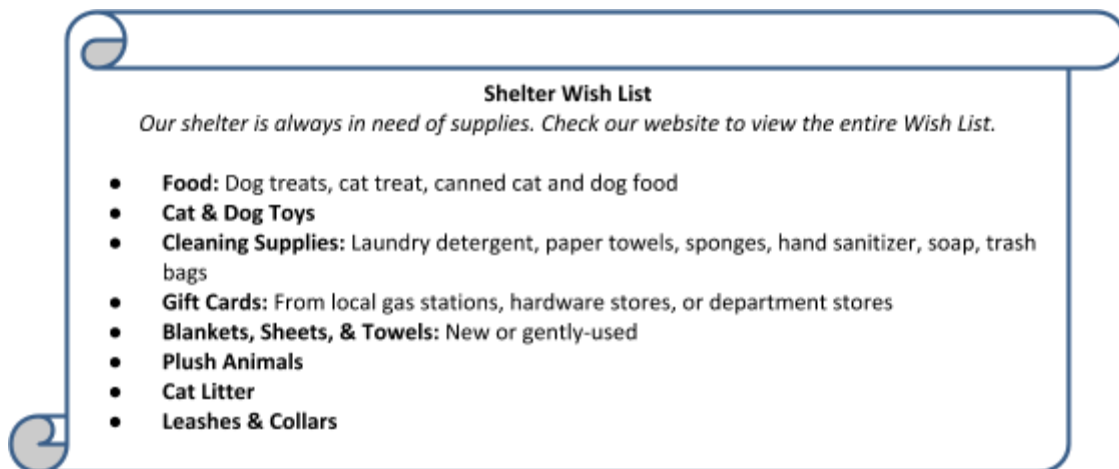
## Ideas to Help the Animals

*Every animal needs a few basic things to stay happy and healthy: food, water, exercise, and love. Helping us provide the animals at the Shelter with those needs is the heart of Blue Ridge Humane Society. You can help us help the animals in our care by:*

- 1) **Hold a Bake Sale:** A bake sale is easy to put together and with a little extra effort, you can turn yours into a fun event. Make it fun by adding a theme such as a Christmas Cookie Exchange, or even offer treats for pets!
- 2) **Host a Car/Dog Wash:** Taking a spin off the traditional car wash fundraiser, a dog wash is an event where volunteers wash dogs and other pets in exchange for donations of money.
- 3) **Organize Pennies for Pets or Penny Wars:** This is great to do in schools. Each team has a bucket for collecting coins or dollar bills. The value of any pennies collected by a group count positively toward that group's point total, while the value of other coins or dollar bills are subtracted. The object is to be the team with the most points at the end of the "war." After the winner has been determined, the money raised can be donated to Blue Ridge Humane Society.
- 4) **Have a Party:** Send invitations and a copy of our Wish List to your guests. Ask them to attend and bring a present for a shelter animal. Everyone can have fun unwrapping the presents and then donating them to BRHS!
- 5) **Get Outdoors:** Do yard work, mow the lawn, shovel snow, or pull weeds for your neighbors. Tell them that the money you earn from your services will go directly to Blue Ridge Humane Society.
- 6) **Donate to Our Thrift Store:** Need to do some spring cleaning? Our Thrift Store is only as good as the donations we receive. Bring us your gently-used goods. Better yet, ask others in your neighborhood to do so, too. You can drop off donations at the store (1214 Greenville Highway) at the rear of the building Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm. The Thrift Store does offer FREE pickup service in Henderson County for large items or large quantities of items. Call the store at 828-692-3503 for information.
- 7) **Draw:** We would love to have your artwork to hang in our offices or the shelter. Can't think of an idea? Have you adopted a shelter animal? Tell us why shelter animals are the best pets in the world!
- 8) **Organize an Art Competition:** Ask people around you to create art with a cause. All money would go to animals at Blue Ridge Humane Society and we could display the art in our Shelter or Thrift Store.
- 9) **Host a Benefit Show:** If you are part of a band or have a hidden talent, put on a show. The proceeds from ticket sales could go to the Shelter.
- 10) **Make Cat Blankets:** You can choose to make cat blankets to be used in the Shelter. A good size for homemade cat blankets is approximately 12" x 24." They can be made from any washable material and stuffed with batting. You can also make the "No Sew" blankets in the same size.
- 11) **Make Toys:** Toys are a great way to exercise animals' bodies and minds while they stay at the Shelter. *(See the BRHS Step by Step Enrichment Guide)*



- 12) **Pet Food Pantry:** Some members of our community need help feeding their pets. Design bags and fill them with treats, dog food, a leash, litter – anything you can think of that a pet owners might need. We will then distribute them to local food pantries for those families most in need.
- 13) **Organize a Book Sale:** Gather used books and have a book sale.
- 14) **Make ‘Adopt Me’ Tags:** Make “Adopt Me” signs for our animals’ kennels. This way when adopters come in, they see your beautiful art! You can also make bandanas for our dogs to wear at adoption events. You can create neckerchiefs with fabric paint and fabric.
- 15) **Make Donation Bins:** We often have donation drop off locations in stores and restaurants around town. Make a reusable wooden box we can leave at these places to collect the donations!
- 16) **Organize a Donation Drive:** Have a donation drive at your school or church with boxes for people to leave donations. You could also work with a store to leave a box there. Arrange a later date to collect donations.. We are always looking for these items:



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## **Ideas to Help the Shelter**

*It takes a lot of hands and hard work to keep an animal shelter running. We always look for help to get the Shelter building and grounds in working order. If you are looking to get some volunteer experience at the Shelter, these projects will be perfect for you.*

- 1) Plant a garden with catnip. Dedicate parts of it to butterflies or hummingbirds. Better yet, make bird houses or bird baths that we can put on the grounds outside the shelter.
- 2) Spend some time outside for the day pulling weeds or planting gardens for us. You can even ask local businesses to donate flowers or plants to BRHS. An extra set of hands always helps when it comes to gardening.
- 3) Build a bench that will last for years. It could be placed outside our Shelter for adopters and volunteers to relax on while spending time with the dogs.
- 4) Wash windows in the adoptions office, or cat room.
- 5) Build shelving units or cat trees for our felines.

- 6) Learn about what the day-to-day life is like in an animal shelter by getting hands-on experience while interning with us through your school.
  - 7) Make a book & game cart with an animal theme for our lobby for small children.
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## Ideas to Help Homeless Pets in Your Community

*Education is the best way to prevent animal shelters from filling up with homeless pets. There are many small things you can do to educate your community about the common problems that bring animals to animal shelters in the first place.*

- 1) Make flyers or brochures promoting pet adoption. Handouts could read “Support your Local Shelter” or “Be Kind to Animals.” Ask local businesses to hang these flyers in their restaurants or you can even post them in your school. Some handouts could have messages about common pet owner problems such as leaving pets in hot cars, making sure dogs are properly socialized and trained, the importance of having a license or collar, or not leaving pets out at night. We would love to see the brochures you come up with when you are finished.
- 2) Take an animal welfare issue and make it viral by creating a video Public Service Announcement. We could feature it on our website!
- 3) Man a table at school or in front of a store. Ask the community to support responsible pet ownership.
- 4) Talk to one different person every day for at least a week about the importance of spaying or neutering pets.
- 5) Write a letter to your local senator, congressman, or governor about an animal welfare issue important to you such as dog fighting, puppy mills, spaying and neutering, or offering veterinary care to pets of families who cannot afford it. See how many people you can get to sign your letter in support.
- 6) Encourage your teachers to use class time to view and discuss a documentary on an animal welfare topic important to you.
- 7) Write a letter to your local paper reminding your community members to spay or neuter their animals.
- 8) Make animal fact bookmarks for the school or public library.



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*When you complete your project, please notify us. Don't forget to take pictures of your work along the way. We love to see the progress you make along your journey. Thank you for choosing to help homeless animals in your community!*