

Date: Class:



Help Protect Animals

An activity of "Hunters outfox wildlife authorities"

Read "Hunters outfox wildlife authorities" (page 12-13, What's Up September 2019). Even a country's laws may not be able to protect wildlife if people do not love animals enough to do their part to protect them. Here are some suggestions for you to consider. Tick (\checkmark) the ones that you are already doing or would like to do very soon.

A. LEARN ABOUT ANIMALS

Learn through online games. There are safe websites that have games and quizzes for you. For a start, check out WWF's "Animal Trivia Games" at

www.worldwildlife.org/pages/animal-trivia-games.

Sign up for free e-newsletters. If you have an email account, this is an easy way to receive news about animals. You can find out how to sign up by looking for instructions on official websites. For instance, to receive ACRES updates, just click on the "Subscribe for Updates" button at www.acres.org.sg/contact-us/ and provide your email address and name.

Read books and magazines. There are books and magazines at libraries about caring for pets and protecting wildlife. For example, if you love rabbits, go to www.nlb.gov.sg/ and use its search function to find books about rabbit care.

B. SPREAD THE WORD

Link from your online space. If you are a cat lover, you can link Singapore's Cat Welfare Society (CWS)'s official website to your personal blogs, websites or any other online space. Link to www.catwelfare.org/.

Give gifts with messages. The next time you have to buy a present for someone, consider giving a gift with a message about animals. Most of our local animal agencies advertise items for sale on the websites. For example, go to the "Gift Shop" at www.asdsingapore.com/gift-shop to see what Action for Singapore Dogs has to offer.

C. GET INTO ACTION MODE

Become a volunteer. The websites also suggest ways in which students can volunteer. You can help to take care of animals, raise funds, and even write articles for newsletters.

Adopt a stray. If your family is interested in having a pet, then consider adopting from one of these agencies. Another option is foster care (that is, looking after the animal until a permanent home is found).

Refuse products made from body parts of endangered species. Just say "no" to shark-fin soup, snake-skin bags, curios made from ivory and other animal parts. Avoid circuses, exhibits, and displays that use live wild animals and make them do tricks, stunts or dances for your entertainment.

Report abuse. When you see anyone treating an animal badly, ask an adult to call SPCA at 6287 5355 and report the details.

NOTE: As many of these suggestions require you to use the internet or to contact adults, you must get the permission of your parents/guardians first. Keeping yourself safe is as important as protecting and caring for animals!