**Want To Help Homeless Animals?**

Helping homeless animals is a rewarding and valuable experience. The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society believes that there is no age limit when it comes to making a difference in the lives of animals. You can support and help the animals at our shelter and those in the community in several different ways.

**Hold a fundraiser to benefit shelter animals** - Hold a bake sale, car wash, yard sale, or other fundraiser to benefit homeless animals. Be creative and see what your group can do!

**Collect money for shelter animals**- A fun way to do this is to make two containers and title one “Cats Rule” and the other “Dogs Drool”. Make sure you include information about what you are raising money for then ask local businesses and organizations if they will help by allowing you to place your containers there. When you are done collecting, count the money and see who won; cats or dogs.

**Organize a supply drive to collect the things we need most** - Our shelter is always in need of certain supplies. View our [wish list](http://gloucestermathewshumanesociety.org/pdf/WishList.pdf) to see what we currently need.

**Make homemade toys for our animals**- All toys should be free and clear of all small objects. We recommend toys be made out of fleece since it does not fray like other fabrics. If you have questions about what materials are safe, please call our humane educator at 693-5520 ext.309.

**Make blankets to keep animals cozy**Cut out a piece of double-sided fleece that is 24-36 inches square (exact size is not important). If you want, you can cut fringes on the sides. For a thicker blanket, stack two squares of fleece and sew the edges or tie the fringes together.

**Make toys to entertain cats**Decorate empty plastic eggs or ping pong balls with non-toxic permanent makers. These simple rolling toys are popular entertainment for shelter cats!

**Make chew toys for rabbits and guinea pigs**-
Stuff empty toilet paper tubes with Timothy hay (available at pet stores). Our rabbits and guinea pigs enjoy these tasty chewing treats.

**Recycle things in your home to help the animals!**

* Collect shredded office paper, which is used to make puppy and small animal cages more comfortable. (Please note that we can’t use cross-cut shredded paper, only paper shredded in longer strips.)
* Bring us your old blankets and towels. We can put them to use for cat beds, grooming and cleaning up after shelter animals.

**Save your spare change**- Decorate a container and put your spare change in it. When you have filled it up, donate the money to help homeless animals.

**Volunteer to help an elderly or sick person**- You can feed, walk or bathe their dog, or change kitty litter. Your help may allow them to keep their pet rather than have to find the pet a new home.

**Join Cliff’s Club**- Having a birthday party? Instead of your guests bringing you gifts ask them to bring items from the GMHS wish list. The generous birthday girl or boy will receive a free t-shirt and their picture in the local paper. ***This club is for children 13 years old and younger****.*

 **Take your cause to school-**

* Make your next report or presentation for your class about the pet overpopulation problem, responsible pet care, spaying/neutering, or animal abuse.
* Volunteer to help younger students with their reading. Help them read stories about people helping animals.
* Start an animal club at your school! Contact amysteele.gmhs@yahoo.com for further information. Make a bulletin board about overpopulation, spay/neuter, adoption, or other pet care topic.
* Ask your librarian to select books about animals to be displayed during Be Kind to Animals Week. It’s always the first full week in May.
* Arrange for our humane educator to come to your school.
* Ask a school representative if you can organize a coin drive.

**Upon completion of your project, send a picture and a brief description about your project to** **amysteele@gmhumanesociety.org** **and we will post it on the Kind Kids section of our website.**