

World Animal Day

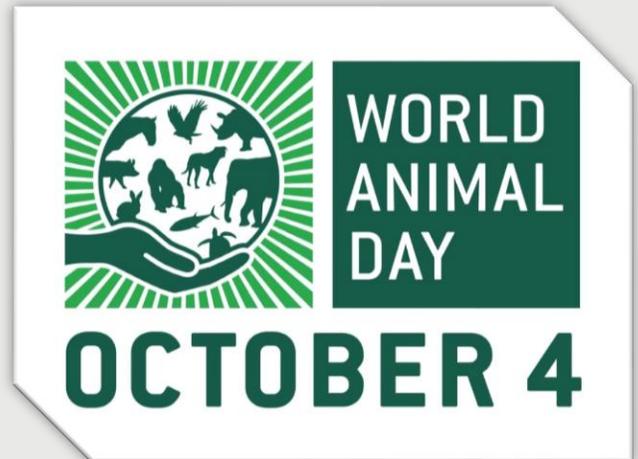
By Rose Livingston

World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare celebrated annually on October 4, the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

www.worldanimalday.org.uk

MISSION: TO RAISE THE STATUS OF ANIMALS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WELFARE STANDARDS AROUND THE GLOBE

To achieve this, we encourage animal welfare organisations, community groups, youth and children's clubs, businesses and individuals to organise events in celebration of World Animal Day.



Why celebrate World Animal Day?

Building the celebration of World Animal Day mobilises people for action now for a better future for animals.

Throughout history, social movements (mass actions) like World Animal Day, have always been a major vehicle for ordinary people's participation in politics, and key in fighting for social justice and reform. The lives of animals are profoundly affected by the actions of individuals, businesses, and nations. It's therefore essential that their rightful status as recipients of social justice is established and translated into effective animal protection.



10 tips to Celebrate World Animal Day with the children in your care!

1. **Teach children** to treat animals in a humane and compassionate way
2. **Speak up** when others don't show compassion for animals. You can reflect how each of us can stand up for rights, every day. Animal rights are everyone's responsibility.
3. Have **animal fancy-dress party**. At the end of the event, quieten the children down before home-time by asking them to sit still, close their eyes, take a few slow breaths and imagine what it would be like to be a puppy who has spent all day playing and chasing with his brothers and sisters. Talk about what the puppy might have done – running after balls and sticks, exploring the garden, etc. Suggest that it is now time to sleep, so the children should imagine the puppy curling up snug and warm in their basket.
4. Organize a Pets' Party where children **bring a favourite soft toy animal** along and make or draw a bowl of food for it. Make sure the 'food' is appropriate for the animal guests! Stock up in advance with plenty of Plasticine, drawing materials, fabric scraps, etc. Get the children to think carefully about their guests' seating arrangements – would it be fair to seat a cat next to a mouse, for example, or a tiger next to a rabbit? How might they entertain their guests?



5. Invite parents and friends to an **Animal Extravaganza**, with children performing favourite animal poems, dances to animal-themed music, etc. Try to get a VIP visitor, such as the local mayor or president of a local animal shelter, to introduce the show.



6. Give your **usual games an animal slant**. For example, tag games could become 'cat and mouse' or 'sheepdog and sheep'.

7. Create **fantasy pets** out of Plasticine or junk modelling materials. [Here's a free video!](#) Allow the children to be as fanciful as they wish, for example, an animal with ears like a rabbit, a face like a fish and the body of a horse. Get them to think of a name for their animal. What would it eat? Where would it live? How would they care for it?



8. Read some fabulous [Books about Animals](#).

9. Show the clip & [Sing these great songs](#) about animals!



10. **Print out** and encourage the children to colour in [these animal pictures](#) from Crayola.

