



Youth & Group Service Projects

Friends of Strays Animal Shelter

2911 47th Ave. N.
St Petersburg, FL 33714

(727) 522-6566

Thank you for your interest in helping the animals at Friends of Strays!

It takes a whole lot of time, people, resources, money, and love to keep an animal shelter running. We here at Friends of Strays are always looking for help from people like you to keep us going. There are many fun and interesting things you can do to help animals at Friends of Strays. Take a look at our guide and hopefully you will find an idea that will get you on the road to helping animals in need.

Ideas to Help the Animals

Every animal needs a few basic things to stay happy and healthy—food, water, love, and exercise. Helping us provide the animals at the shelter with those needs is the heart of Friends of Strays. You can help us help the animals in our care through the following projects:

Fundraisers

- **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, pet shapes, or even offer treats for pets! Advertise that proceeds benefit Friends of Strays.
- **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. Advertise that proceeds benefit Friends of Strays.
- **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. Each coin or bill equals one point. 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 Friends of Strays.
- **Host a School Dance Fundraiser:** A local DJ or band may be willing to perform for free or at a discount if they know proceeds from the admission charge will benefit animals.
- **Get Outdoors:** Do yard work, mow the lawn, or pull weeds for your neighbors. Tell them that the money you earn from your services will go directly to Friends of Strays.
- **Organize a Yard Sale:** Collect items you and friends no longer use and have a yard sale. Advertise that proceeds benefit Friends of Strays.

Projects for Pets

- **Make Blankets for the Cats in the Shelter:** Each kitty needs a comfy blanket in their condo, to have a soft bed. You can choose to make cat blankets to be used in the shelter. We also like to send the cats and kittens home with a blanket to line their carrier. A good size for homemade cat blankets is approximately 18" x 24" or 10"x20" for a carrier liner. They can be made from any washable material. We prefer the beds not be stuffed to make them easier to wash and dry. You can also make the "No Sew" fleece blankets in the same size. Once again, we prefer no stuffing.
- **Make Toys:** Please keep in mind that for the safety of cats in our care, we cannot accept toys with bells or strings. Try this [DIY Scratching Pad](#), or how about a [t-shirt pom pom](#), or even a [men's wear mouse](#).
- **Sell Lollipops:** Sell lollipops, chocolate, lemonade, or other items as a fundraising sale. Advertise that proceeds benefit Friends of Strays.
- **Organize a Book Sale:** Gather used and books have a book sale. Advertise that proceeds go to benefit Friends of Strays.
- **Make Adopt Me Bandanas:** Make "Adopt Me" bandanas for our dogs to wear at adoption events. You can create neckerchiefs with fabric paint and fabric.
- **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 arrange a time to collect donations. You can even do a donation drive right in your own neighborhood by distributing flyers door to door and telling people you will be back on a specific day to pick up any donations they leave on their doorstep. You can find our [wish list on our web site](#).

Ideas to Help Pets in Your Community

Education is the best way to keep pets in their homes and help animal shelters. There are many small things you can do to educate your community about the common problems that bring animals Friends of Strays Animal Shelter in the first place.

- 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 message about common pet owner problems such as making sure your dogs are properly socialized and trained, the importance of having a license or collar, or not leaving your pets out at night or leaving pets in hot cars. We would love to see the brochures you come up with when you are finished!
- Talk to one different person every day for at least a week about the importance of spaying or neutering pets.
- 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.
- Write a letter to your local paper reminding your community members to adopt and spay or neuter their animals.

Please contact us if you need promotional materials or logos for your project.

When you complete your project, please bring your final product to Friends of Strays during regular adoption center hours. Our staff and volunteers at the adoption center can sign any paperwork, provide a donation receipt.

Don't forget to take pictures of your work along the way. We love to see the progress you make along your journey.

You can email photos, along with names of participants and name of project to jami@friendsofstrays.org.

Please include the following Photo release so that we can share your photos with our followers on social media.

When you are ready to start your project or if you have an idea of your own, contact:
*FOS Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@friendsofstrays.org or Claire Wray,
Community Relations Manager, at claire@friendsofstrays.org or (727)522-6566*

Thank you for choosing to help homeless animals at Friends of Strays and pets in your community!

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