



Learning at Home
Companion Animals

Set 2 Workbook



Junior to Middle Primary



About the SPCA Home Learning Booklets



About

Thank you for downloading one of SPCA's Home Learning Booklets. We are so happy you want to learn more about animals and we are excited to see some photos of the activities you do. Here are some instructions on how to use these booklets.

We have three sets of booklets. Each set has similar activities; choose a set that will be the best challenge for you. In each set there are three booklets; one for companion animals, one for farmed animals and one for wildlife.

Each booklet has 12 activities. We would like you to do at least 7 of the activities. There are different types of activities that include arts and crafts, reading, writing stories and maths problems, so that you can choose the type of activities that you enjoy. At the back of the booklet, there is a checklist for you to tick off the activities you have done.

Once you have completed at least 7 activities, send a copy of the checklist you have filled in at the back of the booklet and photos of your two favourite activities to education@spca.nz. We would love to share your work, so by sending in your photos you are agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on the SPCA Kids' Portal and within SPCA social media postings. If you do not want your photos to be shared, please tell us in your email when you send them in.

When you send us your checklist and photos we will send you a digital badge to recognise your hard work.

You may only want to do one booklet, or you may want to do all three in the set. Send in your work to get the digital badge each time you complete a booklet. If you decide to complete all three booklets, send a picture of all three of your digital badges to show us that you have completed them all and receive an SPCA Certificate and paw badge you could pin to your school bag or pencil case.

Some of the activities will be done in the booklet and for some of the activities you will be creating things. You can print the booklet and fill in the activities on paper or you can download the booklet and fill in the activities digitally. For any activities that you do not do in the book, take a photo of what you made or what you did, and add it to your booklet.

At the back of the booklet there is a colouring sheet which you may like to do and some information about other ways you can get involved with SPCA. There are also some blank pages if you need more space to do any of the activities.

If you need any information about animals to help you while you are working through these activities, go to the SPCA Kids' Portal for information about caring for lots of different animals and how to be a responsible animal guardian.





Safety Reminders

The safety of you and the animals that are part of the activities is the most important thing while working through these booklets. Below we have made a list of things to help keep you and the animals safe.

- > Always have an adult with you if you are completing an activity away from home. For example, visiting the library, a farm or a local habitat.
- > Always have an adult helping you if you are working with tools.
- > Make sure you are being cyber safe if you are working on the computer for any of your activities.
- > All enrichment items or other items that are for animals must be checked by an adult before they are given to the animal. Any items that are for an animal that is not yours must be checked by that animal's guardian before the items are given to the animal.
- > All enrichment items must be made with non-toxic materials and have no loose, sharp or broken bits on them that could injure an animal. Ask an adult to help you get together your materials.
- > Animals need to be supervised while they are using enrichment items. Items with string can be dangerous if animals are left alone with them and should be packed away when play time is over.
- > If you are observing animals or taking photos of them, give them lots of space and watch them calmly and quietly. The amount of space they need will depend on the animal. If you are observing a companion animal, you are able to be much closer to them than if you are observing wildlife. This is important to keep yourself and the animals safe.

It's now time to begin! ENJOY!



Let's go.
Follow me!





Baking Pupcakes



Animals need to have good nutrition to be happy and healthy. This means they need the right type of food for them and the right amount of food. Animals can also occasionally eat some animal treats. Get an adult to help you follow the recipe to bake these Puppy Apple Cupcakes for your dog or for a family member's dog. Watch the Youtube video here: [youtube.com/watch?v=xDTudg1k6vc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDTudg1k6vc)

Ingredients

- > 2¾ cups water
- > ¼ cup unsweetened apple sauce
- > ¼ cup oats
- > ¼ teaspoon vanilla
- > 4 cups wholemeal flour
- > 1 cup fresh or dried apple pieces
- > 1 teaspoon baking powder
- > 1 egg, beaten
- > 4 tablespoons honey



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C and line a 12 cup muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. Mix the wet ingredients (water, apple sauce, vanilla, egg and honey) thoroughly.
3. Mix the dry ingredients (oats, flour, apple pieces and baking powder) in a separate bowl.
4. Slowly add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix.
5. Pour into the cupcake liners.
6. Bake for 1 - 1½ hours, depending on your oven. Insert a toothpick into the centre of the pupcake and if it comes out dry, they are ready to come out of the oven.
7. Wait until cooled and take off the cupcake liner before serving one to your pup. Store leftovers in a sealed container.

Reminder: Just like humans, animals can become unhealthy if they eat too many treat foods. Treats should be given as part of a balanced diet.

SPCA does not recommend feeding pupcakes to dogs with special dietary needs, on specialised diets or who are particularly sensitive to any foods. If in doubt, please check with your vet.

For other dog-safe homemade treat recipes go to:

[sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/homemade-treats-for-your-dog](https://www.sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/homemade-treats-for-your-dog).





Animal Behaviour



What does your animal do all day? Do they spend most of their time sleeping? Do they have a favourite spot to rest in?

One way scientists learn about the world is by making observations. Observing means that you are watching someone or something and taking notice of what you see.

Observe your animal's behaviour (or a family member's animal) to find out more about them. Set a timer for 10 minutes. At the end of every 10 minutes, draw or make notes about what your animal is doing and where they are. Do this 5 times.



Example: Cinnamon and Ginger are lying in the hay in their rabbit enclosure. They are awake.



Tip: Work on some other activities in this book while you are waiting.





Animal Origami



Reading instructions can help us learn how to do things. Read these instructions to learn how to make an origami dog.

Instructions



1. Start with a square piece of paper.



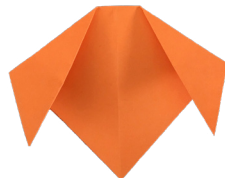
2. Fold it in half and then unfold it.



3. Fold it in half the opposite way.



4. Turn the paper so that the top of the triangle is facing down.



5. Fold the right and left corners down to make the dog's ears.



6. Fold the bottom of the triangle up to make the dog's nose.



7. Tuck the bottom layer of the nose under the face.



8. Draw on the dog's face.



9. If you want to make a body, get another square piece of paper.



10. Fold it in half to make a triangle. Fold the bottom right corner up.



11. Add the dog's head to the body and you're done.

Tip: For instructions on how to make other animals, visit the kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/fun-stuff/animal-origami





Read an Animal Book



Animals are part of so many great stories and interesting books! Visit a library, find some books about animals to read and write about your favourite one below. These could be picture books, chapter books or even non-fiction books.



Title: _____

Author: _____

Illustrator (if there is one): _____

Why did you like this book or what did you learn from this book about animals?



Companion Animal Costs



There are lots of things that animal guardians need to buy for their animals to take care of them. Visit the supermarket or the pet shop and find the price of the following items for a cat:



Cat Brush

\$



Litter Tray

\$



Cat Food

\$



Collar

\$



Cat Litter

\$



Cat Toy

\$

Cat litter image sourced from [Wikimedia Commons](#)





Animal Care Diary



As well as spending money on things to care for animals, you also need to be able to spend time to care for them. It takes time to keep them company, feed them, clean their bowls, toys, bedding and enclosures, give them exercise and play with them.



If you have an animal at home, think of three ways that you can help your family care for your animal. Talk with your family about how long each of these things will take and how often they need to be done.

How I can help:	How long will this take?	How often will this be done?
<i>Example: Clean the litter tray in the rabbit enclosure.</i>	<i>10 minutes</i>	<i>Every day</i>



Sometimes when we are having lots of fun doing other things it can be hard to remember to do jobs like cleaning. Our animals rely on us though and we must give them the care they need every day.

Make a chart of the things you need to do to care for your animal. Put it somewhere in your house so that you will see it every day to remind you of what you can do to help care for your animal.



If you don't have an animal at home, choose an animal you would like to have. Draw them in the space at the bottom of the page and think about all of the things that would need to be done to care for the animal that would take time. Talk with your family about how long each of these things might take and how often they would need to be done.

What would we need to do to care for this animal?	How long will this take?	How often will this be done?

Do you think your family would have enough free time to care for me?





Sock Puppets



Use an old sock to create a companion animal sock puppet. Scraps of fabric can be cut out and sewn onto the sock to make ears, eyes, a nose and a mouth. Maybe you have some buttons or pompoms that you could use to make eyes and a nose and wool would make great whiskers! What else could you use to add features to your animal?

Many animals like to live with another animal who is the same species as them so you could make two sock puppets.

After you have made your sock puppet you could use it to do a puppet show for your family and friends. You could make props for your show with recycled cardboard.



Adoption Poster



SPCA has many animals in our centres who need loving families to adopt them. Help Mimi the cat find a family by creating an adoption poster that will give people information about her and help them decide if they are the right family for her.

Mimi is a black and white female cat. She is two years old. Mimi will be happy to live in a home with other cats but she is not used to being around dogs. Mimi likes company from all sorts of people and would be happy to live in a family with children. She is available for adoption at the SPCA Centre in Nelson for \$125. She enjoys chasing toys and her favourite toy is her knitted mouse.

You may like to use the outline of the adoption poster on the next page to help you create your poster.



_____ needs a fur-ever home



What I like or need:



Children



A quiet home



Dogs



Cats



What's special about me:

Type of Animal: _____

Age: _____

Size: _____

Colour: _____

Adoption fee: \$ _____ Find me at SPCA Centre in: _____





Enrichment Clothesline



Enrichment items are a great way to help keep animals' minds and bodies busy so that they are happy and healthy.

Make this enrichment clothesline for your dog, rabbits or guinea pigs. If you don't have one of these animals, you could make it for family or friends or donate it to your local SPCA centre.

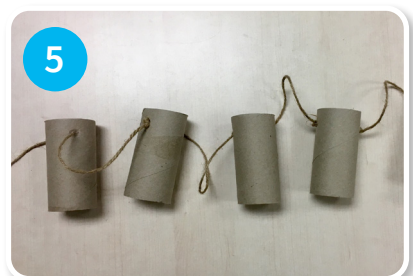
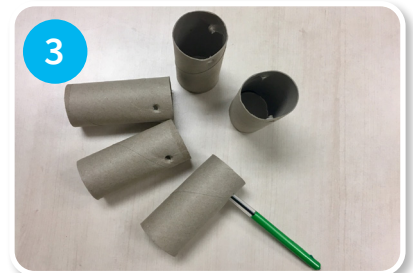
Materials needed

- > Cardboard rolls
- > String/twine
- > Material
- > Scissors



Instructions

1. Cut small strips of material that, when rolled, will fit snugly (but not too tight) into the cardboard rolls.
2. Cut a long piece of string/twine.
3. Poke two small holes in the top of each of the cardboard rolls on opposite sides. Make sure they are big enough for the string/twine to go through.
4. Next, thread the string/twine through the holes, securing a knot on each side so that they stay in place.
5. Repeat step 4 until your clothesline is full.
6. For dogs at home, roll dog biscuits into the material and then stuff the material into the cardboard rolls, with a little sticking out the bottom. For rabbits or guinea pigs at home, stuff the cardboard rolls with hay and/or their favourite veggies (not using the material). Hang in a safe place for your animal to use. If you are going to give your enrichment clothesline to someone else, leave the food out and they can put food in when they are ready to use it.





Animal Photo Collage



For animals to have good welfare they need to have good nutrition (food and water), a good environment to live in, their health needs to be looked after and they need to be able to behave in a natural way. Animals also need to be able to feel happy and having these four things will help them to feel happy.

How does your family make sure your animal has these things? Take five photos of your animal. Each photo will show an example of how they have each one (nutrition, environment, health, behaviour, happiness).

Then use an app to make a collage with the photos.

You may even like to add some words onto the collage too.



Spending Time Together



It is important to spend time with your animals every day so that they have company, you can get to know them and they feel safe around you.

Think of a safe activity that you can do with your animal to spend time with them that they will enjoy.

It could be playing with their toys with them, sitting down in a comfortable spot reading a book to them or taking them for a walk. These are just some ideas; you may have others.

Get someone to take a photo of you and your animal doing this activity.



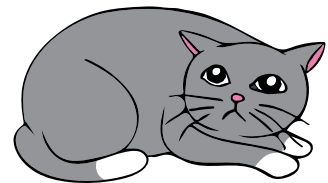
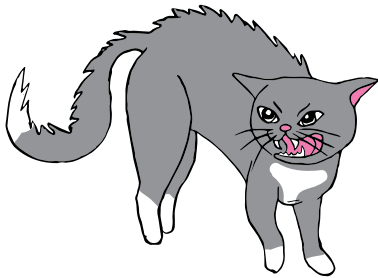
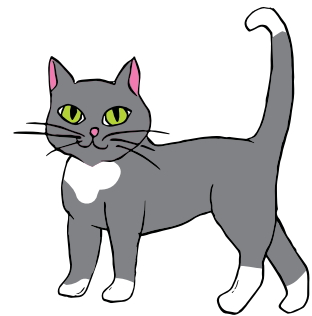
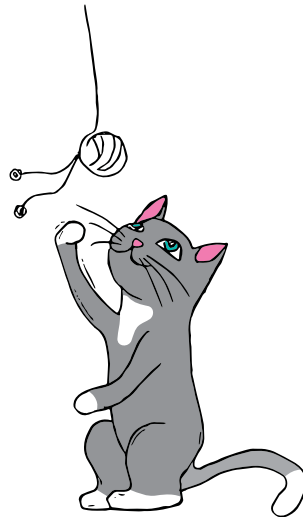
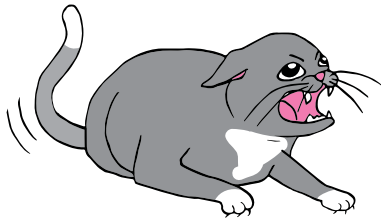


Animal Feelings



Animals tell us how they are feeling with their bodies and sounds. Their ears, tails, fur, mouth and eyes can all give us clues about how they might be feeling.

Draw lines to match the pictures of the cats to the feelings and to the clues about how their bodies are showing that might be feeling this way.



Angry

Happy

Frightened

Excited

Worried

The cat looks relaxed with their mouth closed, eyes a normal shape, ears in a normal position and tail up. Their fur is smooth.

The cat's fur is sticking up, their ears are low and pointing out, their teeth are showing and their back is curled up. They may be growling.

The cat's eyes are a normal shape and their ears are in a normal position. They may be playing with toys and meowing.

The cat is lying down, their ears are flat, their mouth is open, they might be hissing or growling and their teeth are showing.

The cat's body and head are low, their tail is tucked under, their ears are back and they may be yawning or licking their lips.





Activities Checklist



Companion Animals	Completed
Baking Pupcakes	
Animal Behaviour	
Animal Origami	
Read an Animal Book	
Companion Animal Costs	
Animal Care Diary	
Sock Puppets	
Adoption Poster	
Enrichment Clothesline	
Animal Photo Challenge	
Spending Time Together	
Animal Feelings	

Reminder:
 Have you checked off at least seven activities?

Send a copy of this page, along with photos of your two favourite activities, to education@spca.nz.

By sending in your photos you are agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on the SPCA Kids' Portal and within SPCA social media postings. If you do not want your photos to be shared, please tell us in your email when you send them in.





Answers



Animal Feelings



Angry

The cat is lying down, their ears are flat, their mouth is open, they might be hissing or growling and their teeth are showing.



Excited

The cat's eyes are a normal shape and their ears are in a normal position. They may be playing with toys and meowing.



Happy

The cat looks relaxed with their mouth closed, eyes a normal shape, ears in a normal position and tail up. Their fur is smooth.



Worried

The cat's body and head are low, their tail is tucked under, their ears are back and they may be yawning or licking their lips.



Frightened

The cat's fur is sticking up, their ears are low and pointing out, their teeth are showing and their back is curled up. They may be growling.





More Ways To Be Involved



We hope you enjoyed working through this booklet! Are you looking for more ways you can learn about animals and be involved with SPCA now that you have finished the booklet?

The SPCA Kids' Portal

- > The [SPCA Kids' Portal](#) has [puzzles](#) (and [these puzzles](#) and [even more puzzles](#)) [colouring pages](#), [origami](#), [drawing instructions](#), [a place to share your work](#) and lots of quizzes.
- > Check out the [SPCA Kind Matters Kids' Newsletter](#). Kind Matters comes out every term and had loads of information about all sorts of animals, instructions for craft activities, competitions, puzzles and more. Ask an adult to help you subscribe to this with an email address.



Donate for the Animals

- > Make enrichment items for your local SPCA Centre. When animals come to SPCA Centres we love to be able to give them enrichment items to play with to keep them busy.
- > Take part in SPCA Cupcake Day. SPCA Cupcake Day happens once a year and is a fun and tasty way you can help raise funds for SPCA to help us care for the animals.

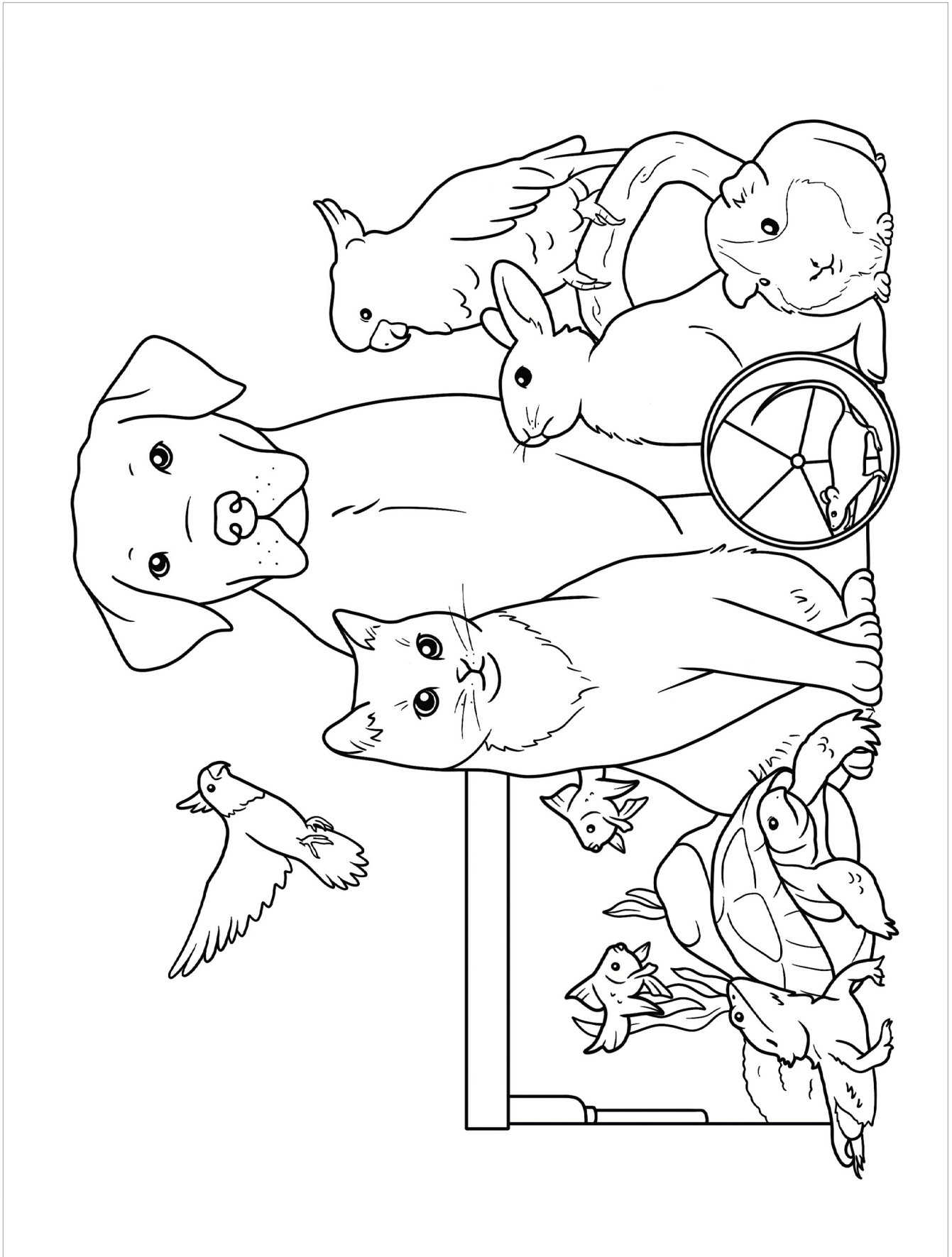
Connect Online

- > Ask your families and teachers to keep up to date with SPCA's Education Programme for kids by joining the [SPCA NZ Education Community group](#) on Facebook.
- > Let your teachers know about the SPCA Teachers' Portal.

Become an Animal Guardian

- > Some animals need extra care before they are ready for adoption so families volunteer to care for these animals for a short amount of time. This is called fostering. SPCA will give you everything you need to care for the animal(s) you are looking after.
- > If your family has decided to get an animal, consider adopting one from SPCA. When you adopt an animal from SPCA you are giving them a second chance at a happy, healthy life. The staff at SPCA will help to match your family with the right animal for them and can give you lots of advice about training, feeding and behaviour.





If you need any more space to do any of the activities use the following pages.







