

## Every Cat Deserves Love

**Here are easy steps you can take to make sure no pet suffers from animal cruelty.**

*Stacy N. Hackett*

5. Know your states animal cruelty laws. Your city may have its own ordinances about animal cruelty, too. If you're not sure of the laws in your state, you can get an overview of laws in all 50 states from the ASPCA.
6. Treat your own animals with love. Set a good example for other pet owners by providing good care for your pets. Remember that good care is more than food, water and shelter. Proper care includes regular veterinary visits, daily attention and plenty of affection.
7. Teach your children to treat animals with respect. By learning how to properly care for pets when young, your children will be responsible pet owners as adults. Explain why your animals need daily food and water, describe the benefits of regular veterinary care and show by example how to treat your pets with love.
8. Support your local animal shelter. Consider volunteering your time at your local shelter. If you can't bring yourself to work directly at the shelter, consider opening your home to foster pets, or find a way to help that doesn't involve interaction with the animals.

If all pet owners took small steps to prevent animal cruelty in their neighborhoods, think how many animals lives could be saved. Take steps today to prevent animal cruelty where you live.

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