

Be Kind to Animals Contest Launching

American Humane wants to honor kids who are helping make a difference for animals.

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Grand-prize winners of American Humane Association's Be Kind to Animals Week Contest receive \$1,000 each. Ian Cahr, an 8-year-old boy from Chicago, grabbed the attention of the American Humane Association for his efforts to raise more than \$10,000 to help dogs. As the grand-prize winner of the organization's 2008 Be Kind to Animals Week Kid Contest, Ian serves as an example of what the annual initiative seeks to promote.

Starting Sunday, March 1, the organization will begin accepting nominations for its 2009 contest, either online or postmarked between March 1 and April 15. Grand-prize winners each get \$1,000 and will be announced during Be Kind to Animals Week, May 3-9.

The annual event began in 1915 to recognize and promote compassion, empathy and the bond between people and animals. A highlight of the week is the youth contest, which honors children and teens who strive to make a difference for cats and dogs.

Nominees must be between 6 and 17, and be working hard in their communities to improve animal welfare. Candidates will be split into two age groups: 6-12 and 13-17.

For contest rules and nomination forms, go to American Humane's website.