Take Action for Cats and Dogs

Thank you for joining us in celebrating, respecting and protecting cats & dogs - and all the animals that share our world.

Azzedine Downes
IFAW President & CEO
2013 Animal Action Contest
Winners

Enter your student art or writing entries to our next contest! Deadline is January 31. Entry form on last page and details online at: www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca
Dear Teacher:

This *Take Action* Guide provides extension activities to complement IFAW’s *Cats, Dogs and Us* educational program. If you have not already taught the program, you will find these free, curricula-based teaching resources, including classroom film, teaching guide, lesson plans, student worksheets, online or request a free DVD at www.ifaw.org/cats-dogs-and-us-ca.

How to use this guide:

1. **Family Letter and Pledge (pages 4 & 5):** Print out or photocopy the letter and pledge and send them home with your students to let parents/guardians know about the valuable lessons their children are learning about cats and dogs and encourage them to get involved with their children in finding ways to respect and protect cats and dogs in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Suggest that students hang the family pledge and informational letter where everyone can see it - over the dog or cat food bowl or on the family message board, perhaps. Encourage them to keep a journal or make a poster about how they are fulfilling the family pledge, or find books that talk about dogs and cats to read at bedtime. Send any student/family journals, projects or feedback to: IFAW Animal Action Team, 301 1/2 Bank St, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X7, and we’ll recognize their efforts!

2. **Mini Posters (pages 6 & 7):** Print out, tear out or photocopy the small posters and share them with your students or colleagues, hang in your classroom, post in the school hallways, or hand-out as flyers to spread the word about what all cats and dogs need from us.

3. **Art & Writing Contest (pages 2 & 8):** Inspire your students and integrate art into your classroom curricula by participating in our national Animal Action Art & Writing Contest! Check out the wonderful works by the winners of the 2013 art contest on page 2. For details on this year’s contest and a slide show of many more student works, visit www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca. A contest entry form with address for submitting entries is included on the last page of this guide.

Thank you for joining us!

Nancy Barr
Director, Animal Action Education
Dear Families,

Your child’s class has been learning about cats and dogs and how they depend upon people through lessons, a film and student magazine: Cats, Dogs & Us. The program was created by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), a nonprofit international organization that protects animals around the world, including cats and dogs, elephants, whales, tigers, bears and many other species.

From Cats, Dogs and Us, your child is learning that, dogs and cats have lived alongside people for thousands of years - in fact, wherever you find human communities, you will also find cats and dogs. Dogs and cats depend upon people to provide the basic necessities for a happy and healthy life: enough food to eat, water to drink, protection from sun, rain and cold, the freedom to exercise and express natural behaviours and freedom from cruelty, fear and neglect.

We hope you and your child will read through these pages together and make a family promise to Stand Up for Cats and Dogs. Hang the pledge on your family bulletin board to remember the many ways that you can help cats and dogs in your home, your community and beyond!

Care

- **Food and Water** All cats and dogs need food and clean water every day. They need not only enough food, but the right kind of food. While cats need high-protein foods, dogs eat both plants and animals. Feed an adult cat or dog at least once, and ideally twice a day. Puppies and kittens may need five or six small meals a day. Make sure the food is fresh and unspoiled and the dishes are clean.

- **Shelter** Every dog and cat needs a safe haven where they can rest, hide and be protected from the weather and predators. If you build a house for a dog, it needs to be a covered space with a raised floor and at least three walls to keep out wind, rain, snow, dirt, and the hot sun. In cold places, animals need clean, dry bedding such as blankets or straw. In hot areas, the shelter should be in the shade.

- **Comfort** Dogs and cats don’t want to poop or pee in places where they sleep and eat. If your dog is confined to an area such as a large pen or yard, allow enough space to go to the bathroom away from where he sleeps. Cats need a clean litter box or soft ground outside to bury their waste.

- **Medical Care** Like people, cats and dogs need medical care when they are sick. Even healthy cats and dogs should have regular check-ups at the vet, including vaccinations to prevent diseases from spreading to other animals and even to people in the community.

Respect

- **Behavior** Cats and dogs need to be free to behave like...cats and dogs! Dogs need exercise, such as walking, running, and playing every day. Cats also need exercise, which usually takes the form of hunting play. Help your cat get exercise by playing with it and providing a variety of toys. Even a simple wadded up paper ball will have your cat stalking, chasing, and pouncing.

- **Bonding** Dogs need to bond with their “team” to be happy - and that includes you. They need time with people and with other dogs to socialize, play, and learn acceptable behaviours. Cats, whether shy or social, also need your affection and attention.

- **Understanding** What if your cat or dog behaves in a way that you don’t like? Well, just because you may not like a certain behaviour doesn’t mean it isn’t normal. Cats scratch furniture to sharpen or wear down their claws. Dogs naturally bark, dig, jump up, and chase because that is their natural response to things they hear and see. They may chew furniture if they are bored or lonely inside. You can solve these problems but it may mean changing YOUR behaviour. Provide cats with a scratching post. Give your dog more exercise and attention, space to dig, and opportunities to play with other dogs.

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We hope you and your child will read through these pages together and make a family promise to Stand Up for Cats and Dogs. Hang the pledge on your family bulletin board to remember the many ways that you can help cats and dogs in your home, your community and beyond!
We, the ________________________________ family understand that we all have a responsibility to care for the cats and dogs in our homes, our communities and beyond. We promise to do everything we can to respect and protect cats and dogs:

at home

首位 Care for the needs of cats and dogs by providing food, water, shelter, comfort and medical care. Ensure they have exercise, social interaction, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from cruelty.

Plan carefully for a new cat or dog so you can commit to caring for it throughout its lifetime.

Adopt from a shelter or rescue group. This is a great way to rescue an animal and provide a future for one who has been abandoned.

Don’t buy from puppy “mills,” large-scale, and often unlicensed, commercial breeding operations that place making money over the well-being of dogs, who are often cruelly treated and neglected.

Spay or neuter your cats and dogs to help them live longer, healthier lives, have fewer behaviours that may annoy you, be more likely to stay close to home, and less likely to have conflicts with other animals.

in your community

Safety first Use caution when interacting with any animal you don’t know.

Foster tolerance From dog parks and water stations to animal-friendly stores and lodgings, there are many ways you can share your communities with animals.

Think about the impact cats and dogs can have on wildlife. Leash pets or monitor them when outdoors to avoid interactions with wild animals.

Spread the word with friends, neighbours, classmates and others about responsible dog and cat ownership.

Don’t turn a blind eye to animal abuse or neglect. Report any instances of cruelty to the local authorities.

Model compassion by setting a good example for how animals should be treated. Always interact with cats and dogs in a kind, gentle, respectful and responsible manner.

around the world

Don’t pass judgment too quickly Communities around the world live with dogs, cats and other animals in many different ways. Even though it may look different from what you are accustomed to, that doesn’t mean animals are unhealthy or unhappy.

Advocate for animal welfare by supporting local, national and international legislation that benefits animals.
All DOGS Need...

- fresh food and water
- shelter from heat, cold & rain
- veterinary care
- collar and identification tag
- exercise and playtime
- kindness & respect
Every CAT Needs...

- fresh food & water
- exercise & playtime
- clean litter box or soft ground to bury waste
- veterinary care
- kindness & respect
Every year, IFAW encourages creative expression about animals and asks young people to help produce our Animal Action Education classroom materials. This is more than just a contest: artistic expression has been shown to be closely linked to academic achievement, social and emotional development, and civic engagement.

**Two ways to get involved:**

**Art:** We’re looking for colourful paintings and drawings of one or more of the animals that IFAW rescues and protects around the world, such as elephants, whales, seals, bears, tigers, cats and dogs, to name a few. Artwork can include paintings, colourful sketches, collages, or any other original illustrations.

**Writing:** Through poetry, prose, or another genre you choose, in 250 words or less, explore the theme: “Imagine a world without animals”

The contest is open to students aged 4 to 18. All submissions - art and writing - should be on standard Letter or A4 size paper. Entries without a fully completed entry form (see below) will be disqualified.

Visit [www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca](http://www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca) for complete contest details and to download additional entry forms.

All participants will receive a certificate and winners will receive a gift from IFAW. A selection of the winning entries will be featured on Animal Action Education materials launched during the next school year.

Submit entries to:

**Animal Action Team, IFAW, 301 1/2 Bank St, Unit 2, Ottawa, ON, K2P 1X7.**

Questions? Contact: info-ca@ifaw.org or call 1-888-500-4329.

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**About IFAW**

Founded in 1969, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) saves animals in crisis around the world. IFAW's Animal Action Education program engages more than 5,000,000 educators, young people and families in 18+ countries each year with free classroom resources, contests and special events.

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**ENTRY FORM**

**Deadline for entries: January 31 each school year**

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Check here if you would like your artwork or writing submission returned after the contest. Please note: you **must** provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your contest entry/entries in order for us to return the artwork after the contest judging.
Animal Action Art and Writing Contest

Every year, IFAW encourages creative expression about animals and asks young people to help produce our Animal Action Education classroom materials. This is more than just a contest: artistic expression has been shown to be closely linked to academic achievement, social and emotional development, and civic engagement. Visit www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca to download entry forms and view a slide-show of winning works.

1. CONTEST RULES

One entry (either writing or artwork) per student. All artwork and writing submissions should be submitted on a standard sheet of paper between 8.5 x 11 and 9 x 12 inches in size. An fully-completed entry form must be securely attached to each artwork and writing submission. (No staples on artwork, please.) Entries without a fully completed entry form will be disqualified.

All submissions become the property of IFAW. They may be scanned for inclusion in the IFAW Image Library and used for IFAW cause-related marketing purposes. If you would like your artwork returned, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your entry.

There are two types of contest entries - artwork and writing:

- **Artwork entries**: Students can submit colourful paintings and drawings of one or more of the animals that IFAW rescues and protects around the world, such as elephants, whales, seals, bears, tigers, cats and dogs, to name a few. Visit www.ifaw.org to learn more. All designs must be original and created by hand using markers, crayons, coloured pencils, or paint – photographs, photocopies, tracing and computer-generated designs will not be accepted.

- **Writing entries**: Students can submit creative writing that explores the theme: “Imagine a world without animals” through poetry, prose, or any other genre they choose. Entries must be original, written by hand or in type. Any entries longer than 250 words maximum will be disqualified.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to young people in Canada ages 4 to 18. Please note that an individual cannot be selected as a winner more than once in any given three year period.

3. JUDGING CRITERIA, PRIZES AND NOTIFICATION

Eligible entries will be judged on creativity and originality of presentation and adherence to contest rules. Winning entries will represent a range of ages, regions, and animals.

A selection of 10-30 winners and honourable mentions will be selected by IFAW from all contest entries that were mailed before January 31 each school year. All participants will receive a certificate and gifts from IFAW. Winning artwork and compositions will be featured on the IFAW website and a selection of winners will be chosen for inclusion in Animal Action Education materials, such as a calendar and/or classroom poster.

Winners will be notified and artwork posted on the website (www.ifaw.org/animal-action-contest-ca) each May.

4. DEADLINES

The closing date for each annual contest is **January 31** and all entries must be postmarked by that date for consideration in that year’s competition. **Send entries by mail with fully completed entry forms to:**

Animal Action Art Contest - IFAW Canada - 301 1/2 Bank St - Unit 2 - Ottawa, ON - K2P 1X7

5. QUESTIONS?

Contact Corrie Rabbe: email: crabbe@ifaw.org or phone: 1-888-500-4329.