

10 Ways to Help Dogs for the Holidays

How to make a difference in your own dog's life or the lives of dogs in need this holiday season.

Rose Boccio

9. Donate to a dog-friendly organization. Check with your local shelters, Humane Society or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to name a few. Ask for their wish lists, so you know what they need. Then, plan a themed party and ask all the guests to bring something from the list. Some generous kids have asked for donations instead of gifts for their own birthday parties. Some adults have hosted birthday parties for their own animals, asking guests to bring donations as gifts. Be creative! Think fun! You'll be glad you did.

10. Report cruelty. If you see a dog being abused or neglected, report it to authorities.

Another way to help

Help canine disaster victims: Check out the websites of any national animal advocacy group, such as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The site offers ways to help, whether by donating supplies and money or by offering to volunteer your special animal-care skills, especially if you work in an animal-related field. Disaster victims — both human and animal — and the agencies that are helping them will need help long after the recovery begins.