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ABOUT ANIMALS - by JUDITH NOBLE Founder president of Asociación San Francisco de los Animales

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CRY FROM THE HEART FOR WORLD ANIMAL DAY

What have they done to deserve all this suffering?



World Animal Day takes place every year on October 4. Animal welfare groups, sanctuaries and individuals will hold special events to heighten public awareness of animal issues and to encourage people to think about how we as humans relate to animals.

This is a day to celebrate the presence of animals on this planet and their contribution to our lives. It aims to recognise animal life in all its forms and humankind's relationship with the animal kingdom. It also helps and encourages us to acknowledge the diverse roles that animals play in our lives – from providing food, through being our companions, to supporting and helping us, to bringing a sense of wonder into our lives.

All in all, World Animal Day is a powerful force in developing human acknowledgement and thankfulness for the way in which animals enrich our lives.

World Animal Day was started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence as a way of highlighting the plight of endangered species. Since then it has grown to encompass all kinds of animal life and has been widely celebrated in countries as

diverse as Australia and Malta, Singapore and Lithuania.

It was launched in the UK on October 4 last year. Organisations and individuals who participated in what is set to become an annual event, quite simply, helped make history.

Events in the UK ranged from a simulated stranded whale rescue on Banff Beach to a pet blessing service in Arundel Cathedral. Hundreds of people also took the opportunity to make a pledge for the animals.

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We, too, have the opportunity to join in this worldwide celebration of the enriching presence of animals in our lives and those of us who do appreciate this fact can help by encouraging as many people as possible to use this special day to commemorate our love and respect for animals.

If a rescue association near you is holding a fundraising event to celebrate World Animal Day, please support it. If they are not, but you see a collecting box, please give generously.

An awful lot of people devote their entire lives to stray and abandoned animals. Even if you can't match their dedication – of even part of it – you can also help by giving generously to enable them to continue looking after animals in need.

Please use this day to promote the very special bond that can be created between human and animal. Maybe we can get more people to appreciate animals as four-legged humans and respect them as equals.

As any pet-owner knows, all animals are capable of loving us unconditionally and if we could bottle this love, it could be a cure-all for the world's evils.

Together our voices can make a difference. Let's be heard!

*The plight of some of the animals pictured here will be covered in the next issue..



*All over the world
animals are suffering for
our pleasure, profit or
food. We crush them into
tiny cages or
transporters in
conditions so inhumane
that many are dead on
arrival. We massacre
them for so-called
sport, teach them antics
against their nature and
slaughter them in the
sea. Are we masters or
monsters?*

