

## World Animal Day Celebrated Today

**Animal lovers around the world will celebrate humans' relationships with animals Oct. 4.**

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Since 1931, animal lovers have marked Oct. 4 as World Animal Day, taking time to acknowledge the diverse roles animals play in humans' lives. While the ecologists that established the day originally intended to highlight the plight of endangered species, the celebration has grown to encompass all types of animal life.

In 2003, more focus was placed on World Animal Day, and a website was created to help unite those interested in celebrating the day. Creators of the website hoped to create a celebration not linked to any one organization that will help humans around the world acknowledge and be grateful for the ways animals enrich their lives. Since then, the event has grown, with more activities planned each year.

Animal shelters, rescue organizations, clubs and individuals around the world will celebrate World Animal Day with a variety of activities. Many groups will host pet- blessing ceremonies, as Oct. 4 also marks the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Other events include family festivals, dog walks, adoption drives and low-cost spay/neuter clinics. To find an event near you, visit the World Animal Day website .