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World Animal Day

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To encourage everyone to show their love for animals and do something special to highlight the importance of animals in the world, World Animal Day is observed on October 4. The day falls on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Animals have always been part of man's life.

Animals provide joy, companionship, and laughter to our lives. They become lifelong companions, serve as loyal guards, and provide hours of sheer pleasure. Seeing-eye dogs and other trained animals assist the handicapped. Animals guard properties and perform heroic feats. Some animals give their lives for the advancement of science so that humanity can find cures for diseases. The animals of the world as well as humans are part of our ecosystem, providing a natural system of checks and balances. Hunting or killing off one species or hunting them for man's vanity are a threat to our human existence.

Sometimes man has failed to realize the effects that human intervention can bring upon other species that in turn become a threat to man's existence. Polluting our rivers and oceans with chemical waste and debris not only leads to the extinction of aquatic life but also produces carcinogenic animal life that pose threats to human life. The World Animal Day is an opportunity for us to speak out to ensure the humane treatment of animals and to advocate the protection of habitats that are home to wild animals. Whether animals are house pets, working animals, therapeutic dogs, or used for experimentation, they are very important to us and we need them as much as they need us.

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