



## **WORLD ANIMAL DAY – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR**

Perhaps you aren't aware that 4 October is World Animal Day. Yet World Animal Day is celebrated around the world by organisations, groups, clubs, schools, places of worship and individual, animal-loving members of the public.

World Animal Day celebrates humankind's unique relationship with the animal kingdom, and acknowledges the numerous ways in which animals enrich our lives.

You don't have to be involved in animal welfare in any way at all; you just have to care about animals. [www.worldanimalday.org.uk](http://www.worldanimalday.org.uk) is full of ideas of ways you can get involved in World Animal Day. Here are a few of the fabulous events that took place around the world recently:

- Schools in Tanzania, Morocco, Cameroon, Hong Kong, Philippines, Nepal, India, Cambodia, Malaysia, Armenia, Romania, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala, UK and the USA undertook special topics on pet care and held art and craft competitions, often later exhibiting the children's work to the public.
- In 2007, many African countries including Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held educational events to raise public awareness of animal welfare, with an emphasis on farm animals, and the importance of conservation.
- In Asia, events took place involving individuals, through small, grass-roots groups through to international organisations. In Palawan, Philippines, even the animals sported World Animal Day T-shirts when joining in a colourful World Animal Day procession. In Cambodia, an animal art competition was held for 250 orphans and vulnerable children in Phnom Penh with 50 winners being taken on a day trip to the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre.
- Music often plays a part in World Animal Day. In 2007, in Australia and the USA fabulous black tie gala balls and concerts raised much-needed funds.
- Throughout the world, information stalls in shopping areas are a popular way of raising awareness of animal welfare issues.
- Fund-raising events, such as sponsored dog walks or pet shows, take place in many countries.
- Many animal shelters around the world hold open days or adoption days.
- In 2007, the SPOTS Foundation in Holland, with the help of a large group of children, broke the Guinness world record for the 'Longest Painting by Numbers' - an animal painting of course!

Please do take a look at the 'Events Diary' on the website as I'm sure you will find the event reports and images truly inspiring and then click on 'Get Involved' for more ideas and advice on getting organised. It's never too early to start thinking about how you might get involved.

Don't forget to let us know your plans so that we can tell the world and please sign the Pledge Board to show you care.

### ***A celebration of animals and their contribution to our lives***

World Animal Day website created by Naturewatch. All queries relating to [www.worldanimalday.org.uk](http://www.worldanimalday.org.uk) should be directed to: Naturewatch, 14 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6AA Email : [info@worldanimalday.org.uk](mailto:info@worldanimalday.org.uk) Tel : 01242 252871

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