World Animal Day – 4 October

Perhaps you aren't aware that 4 October is World Animal Day. Yet World Animal Day is celebrated around the world by animal-lovers, schools, places of worship and ordinary 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 an activist; you just have to care – buy a few tins of food for your local animal shelter; make a small donation to an animal charity; plant a shrub that will attract butterflies or birds to your garden; sponsor an animal in a shelter or sanctuary – the possibilities are endless.

Here are a few of the events that take place around the world:

•   Schools in countries ranging from Malta to Syria, from the UK to the USA, have undertaken special topics on pet care, often later exhibiting the children's work to the public.
•   Some countries, such as Slovenia and Australia, have issued special postage stamps to commemorate World Animal Day.
•   Singapore has large WAD fairs at which all the major animal welfare societies have displays.
•   In Lithuania, World Animal Day is acknowledged as a Day of Compassion when working animals are given a day of rest.
•   Music often plays a part in World Animal Day. In Slovenia in 2003, welfare group Animals' Angels organised a jazz concert to highlight cruelties in animal transport, while in 2004 a Nepal animal welfare group produced a fund-raising rock CD entitled *Rock 'n' Bark*!
•   Information stalls in shopping malls are a common way of raising awareness on World Animal Day in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Europe and many other places.
•   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.

If you want to do something special for the animals, visit www.worldanimalday.org.uk for ideas. And if you want to tell the world what you're doing, sign the pledge board on the website to show you care.

A celebration of animals and their contribution to our lives