

# How to Help Abandoned and Abused Animals

By Cindy Aldridge, [Our Dog Friends](#)



*1 Photo by Alvan Nee on Unsplash*

Over [70 million cats](#) in the US are homeless, and only 10% of dogs born find a permanent home. More than 3.9 million dogs are abandoned or surrendered to shelters each year, so many animals out there need a little love and affection.

Sadly, stories about abandoned animals aren't new. Despite the [statistics](#), many people are stepping up to give these innocent creatures a safe haven and a forever home. For people who feel empathy for the animals, there are many ways one can help. These are some of the ways you can help abandoned or neglected pets.

## Join a Fundraiser or Start a Nonprofit

Among the ways you can help is by [starting a fundraiser](#). This includes coordinating with the local animal rescue centers and shelters in your area.

- Contact organizations and shelters to know if they need assistance with any upcoming fundraisers. If you cannot attend fundraising exercises, you can share the news on your social media pages.
- Send out promotional materials and flyers to create awareness about the upcoming fundraising event. You can also do this on social media.
- If your local area does not have organizations or fundraisers, you can take up the role and start one. Invite your friends and relatives to help you gather the resources you need to support neglected and abandoned animals.
- You can support animal activist groups by buying products they offer, which helps them raise money that goes into building awareness about [animal welfare](#).

- You could even start a nonprofit that focuses on caring for abused, abandoned, and neglected animals. For this project, research the best way to establish the organization. When [setting up](#) the nonprofit, apply for tax exemption from your state, and find help applying for nonprofit status. You can start with a nonprofit business plan detailing your operations.

## Adopt a Neglected Pet

Another noble thing you can do is to [adopt a pet](#) with a history of abuse. Some unwanted pets are sent to shelters or abandoned on the streets.

- If you're prepared to care for the animal, adopt it from a local shelter. The pets were abandoned by previous owners and have a hard time finding for themselves.
- Make sure you understand what adopting a neglected or abused animal entails. These animals often require extra attention and patience.

There are millions of animals in need of a safe home, so more people should embrace the idea of adoption — but only if you're prepared to handle the responsibilities.

## Report Abuse and Neglect

If you witness [animal abuse](#), you should report the case to a humane organization, local law enforcement, or local animal control. If the animal is in danger, you should:

1. Inform the authorities to prioritize your report. Don't act on your own when addressing a case of animal abuse. You should always
2. Wait for the authorities to show up and handle the situation in a professional way.
3. You can stand up for animal rights in different ways. Every state offers laws that prohibit animal cruelty, so speak up when you see a case.

[Animal cruelty](#) can come in different forms, including animal fighting, an animal left in a car, physical abuse and beating, abandonment, hoarding, and inadequate shelter.



## Transport to Safety

If you can transport the pet, take them to a nearby animal shelter. However, if you want to keep the animal if no owner is found, you should first inform animal control that you have the animal and take them to a veterinary hospital to get treatment.

With millions of pets neglected and abused each year, we need humane people who can help these animals find love once again. Start a fundraiser or a nonprofit to help neglected and abused animals or donate to a local rescue that helps these animals. You can make a difference in an animal's life; start researching your options today.

*The [Animal Rescue Family](#) is dedicated to finding homes for lost, abused, and unwanted pets and promoting responsible pet ownership. [Complete this form](#) to sign up as a volunteer!*