



[All Creatures Great and Small]

Protecting Animals, Caring for Creation



Blessing of the Animals

Compiled by Laura Hobgood-Oster, citation is not necessary.

This particular version is geared for animals looking for homes; also for a more “ecumenical, inter-faith, secular” gathering.

Introduction:

God created the animals – birds of the air, fish of the sea, and the many beloved creatures who walk or crawl on the earth – and God declared them all to be good. The glory of a horse running, the beauty of an eagle in flight, the majesty of a dolphin leaping all display the wonder of life. We are gathered here today to bless the animals that are in our midst, those who are our very close companions, and to ask for God’s blessing on these friends and on the many animals who share this Earth with us.

We are also here to repent, to recognize that, as a powerful animal ourselves, we do not always live kindly with all of God’s creatures. In this time together we are reminded that all life is precious to God.

We ask God’s blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully and may they know the love of their human companions, a love that has been lacking sometimes.

Blessing of All the Pets:

God, the Creator, we ask you to bless these homeless pets with Your light and love. May they have good health, happy lives and always be protected and safe. We ask for better understanding as we learn from the wisdom of animals, we recognize their innocence, their loyalty and particularly their seeming ability to not judge human beings unkindly. Thank you for the pleasures, playfulness and sometimes the surprising humor our pets display. Thank you for their companionship and friendship especially for those lonely hours we may have experienced. Thank you for our companions’ natural ability to teach us to be aware of the present moment. Thank you for the pure beauty of every animal - their form, color, texture, motion is all a work of art, and may we appreciate Your creation of this masterpiece. Bless all animals in harm’s way, heal the sick, protect those who are lost, and guide them to safety. Thank you for the gift of love.

The animals here today are looking for homes, for a safe place in your world. Help the humans who are giving them temporary homes to have strength. These rescue people already give so much of themselves, they need to know that their labors of love are valued.

Also, help us all to find humans who have love to offer who will open their homes to these animals, help them to realize that they will get more from these animals than they give to them, because they embody your love for us in so many ways.

All of you gathered here – dogs and cats in rescue groups and shelters – know that there are humans trying to help find you homes and trying to keep you safe. Know that you are loved even when life seems to treat you so unfairly. Be patient, be hopeful, and wag a lot.