



PET CARE CREST TROOP PACKAGE

MESSAGE FOR TROOP LEADERS

Thank you for your interest in the Pet Care Crest Program and supporting the Ottawa Humane Society! We're thrilled that your group is interested in helping our animals and learning more about the work we do here at the shelter.

In this package, troop leaders will find an overview of the activity options for this program. These activities are meant to be completed by troops during their regular meeting times, in advance of your visit to the shelter. You are to select one of the three to earn its designated crest:

- **Option 1: Make an Enrichment Toy.** This option has troop members create cat, dog, or small animal enrichment crafts that they will donate to the shelter in order to to earn their "Humane Heroes" crest.
- **Option 2: Host a Fundraiser.** Troops who select the fundraising option will raise money or supplies (like toys and pet food) for the shelter to earn their "Pet Protectors" crest.
- **Option 3. Advocate for the Animals.** Choosing this activity will have your troop learn about the fundamental freedoms that the OHS believes all animals should have, and come up with ways to educate others to earn their "Animal Advocates" crests.

Keep reading this package to learn more about each option. Once you decide on an activity, book your onsite visit by clicking the link [here](#). Your troop will bring their completed products or donations with them to the shelter where they will be awarded their crests and taken on a guided behind-the-scenes tour!

While not necessary, we also encourage troop members to create a list of questions they can ask on the guided tour. If you need support at any time, please email programs@ottawahumane.ca.

Thank you for helping the animals!

-The OHS Outreach Team



LETTER TO THE TROOP

Troop Leaders are asked to share the following with their troops:

Thank you for joining the Pet Care Crest Program and supporting the animals at the Ottawa Humane Society! We are a registered charity and community-based organization that aims to lead Ottawa in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals. And you can help us do that!

Your troop will get to do an activity that will help the animals in our shelter and in the community. Your role is to learn about humane animal care, complete the activity, and then bring your final product to the shelter where you will receive a special behind-the-scenes tour and a crest for your efforts!

If you have any questions about our shelter, the animals, or the work we do, we encourage you to write it down so you can ask about it on your guided tour. We love hearing your questions and are always happy to provide you with answers.

We're so excited to meet you in person, and to see the wonderful ideas you came up with to help Ottawa's animals!

-The OHS Outreach team



OPTION 1.

MAKE AN ENRICHMENT TOY



YOUR ROLE

Troops choosing this option will learn about animal enrichment, which is an important part of humane animal care!

Every animal needs enrichment to live a happy life. This means their brains and bodies need stimulation; things like games, toys, and food puzzles can all help keep their brains and bodies active and strong throughout their life!

Animals who need more enrichment may get bored, which can result in behaviours that we don't expect from our pets. For example, cats have a natural instinct to stretch their claws out, but if they don't have a scratching post they may do this on your parents' couch and leave behind some tears. Or a dog who loves playing chase might run around the house with your favourite shoe in their mouth, but they may prefer a fun dog toy to play with if given the choice! Even rabbits have natural instincts to forage for food in the wild, so to prevent them from digging up carpets we can instead hide treats in something like a snuffle mat which is designed for pets to dig through.

To earn your "Humane Hero" crest, you will research and create animal enrichment toys. You can create your own, or draw inspiration from one of the options below. Make sure you know what natural behaviour the toy is letting the animal act on, so you can be sure it's a successful enrichment toy for shelter pets! You can bring your completed toys to the shelter when you come for your onsite visit.

Sources for images on next page:
Moderncat.com (Cat Wands)
Createlaughgrow.com (Tug Toys)
Playbarkrun.com (Snuffle Mats)

IBunnyapproved.com (Treat Boxes)
Globalvet.com (Felt Toys)
Rawznaturalpetfood.com (Toy Boxes)
Therabbithouse.com (Toilet Roll Hides)



INSPIRATION



Make sure your toys are safe for the animals! Here's a few tips to consider:

- All pieces are safely secured to the toy. You can test this out by pulling on pieces and decorations.
- You only use non-toxic markers or paints to decorate, and avoid colouring areas that will be chewed. Don't forget to check that printed elements on items like cardboard boxes are non-toxic too!
- Any items meant to be chewed or grabbed by the animal's mouth are soft enough to not hurt their teeth - so no bells on strings for cats!
- All materials used are clean and/or washed.
- Make a second version of your toy for your pets at home to test out, so that the toy you give to the shelter animals is brand-new!

OPTION 2.

HOST A FUNDRAISER



YOUR ROLE

Choosing this option will give your troop the chance to help us care for the thousands of animals who need the OHS every year, by organizing a fundraising activity of your choice to raise money or supplies!

Your troop will decide on a fundraising or donation drive idea, or you can select one from our list below. The following page has some steps you can follow to make it easy! Your fundraising will need to be completed by the time of your shelter tour, as you'll get the chance to drop off your donations to our team and be awarded your "Pet Protector" crests at the Shirley Kearns Memorial Adoption Centre!

IDEAS

- Raise money by hosting a lemonade or hot chocolate stand.
- Offer to rake lawns, shovel driveways, or mow grass for donations.
- Hold a pet food drive to collect unopened bags and cans of food.
- Create art inspired by shelter animals, and raise money by hosting an art auction to sell your masterpieces.
- Hold a recycling drive, where you collect glass bottles to be returned to recycling centres for money.
- Bake dog-safe treats and host a pet-friendly bake sale to raise funds.
- Make your own pet toys, and sell them to friends and family.
- Partner with a local event to set up a drop-off box for donation items.
- Create an online fundraiser page through Facebook and GoFundMe, and have your troop come up with fun ways to promote your online campaign.

Tip: If collecting donations of pet supplies, use our online wishlist [here](#) to find out what items the animals need most!



STEPS TO FUNDRAISING



Research your cause: Visit the [OHS website](#) to learn more about our mission, and to see how your donations will save and support Ottawa's pets!



Choose your idea: Use the list above or come up with your own!



When and where: Do you need a location for your fundraiser? Does it take place on a specific date, or over a period of time?



Find your supplies: What supplies will you need for your fundraising? Think about flyers, tables, chairs, crafting supplies, cameras, etc. Will you need to buy anything, or can you use what you have?



Who is helping you: What adult support do you need for this fundraiser? Do you need anything from the OHS, like help setting up a fundraising page, or a logo for your posters?



What is your goal: How will this help the animals? What is your fundraising goal, if you're raising money? If collecting donations of pet supplies, how many items do you hope to donate?



Start collecting donations: Make sure to thank everyone who has helped you reach your donation goals!



OPTION 3.

ADVOCATE FOR ANIMALS



YOUR ROLE

The OHS is taking an active role in advocating for animals in our community, and choosing this activity means you can too! By advocating, you're supporting a cause and speaking up for change. One cause we believe in is that all animals should be entitled to the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare:

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst:** animals deserve to have food that meets their specific needs and access to fresh water, in clean bowls.
- **Freedom from fear and distress:** animals deserve to live free from exposure to scary or stressful situations, and when unavoidable (like trips to the vet), steps are taken to make it less scary.
- **Freedom from discomfort:** animals deserve to live in an environment that is comfortable and safe for them.
- **Freedom from pain, injury and disease:** animals deserve to live free from unnecessary pain, injury or disease. That means keeping them safe from injuries and taking them to the vet when we need to.
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour:** animals deserve to be able to act in a way that is natural for them. For example, a dog needs to chew, and should be given something safe to chew on.

To earn your "Animal Advocate" crest, your troop will need to:

- Learn the Five Freedoms above and talk about them as a group, making sure you know why they are important, ways that people can give those freedoms to their pets, and ways you could advocate for these freedoms.
- Choose one of the activities below to educate others on what you learned.
- Email us a copy of your final product in advance of your visit, so we can see the amazing work you've done!



ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Activities are organized by recommended age levels, but troops are not limited to a choice from their age level and may select any option of interest to them.

For Sparks and Beavers:

- **Create your own advocacy colouring book!** Each page should show an example of how to give one of the Five Freedoms.
- **Put on a play!** Grab some stuffed animals and put on a play that shows people learning the Five Freedoms. You can record your performance to send to our team!



For Embers, Guides, and Cubs:

- **Make an educational video for first-time pet owners!** Write a script and record a video for new pet owners to show ways they can give the Five Freedoms to their adopted pet.
- **Design advocacy posters!** Create a poster for each one of the Five Freedoms. Posters should explain the freedom and why it is important for animals to have.

For Pathfinders and Scouts:

- **Enact change through a letter writing campaign!** Research an animal welfare cause and write a letter to elected officials to request their support on the issue.
- **Make a social-media inspired video!** Create and edit a 60-second video teaching people about an animal welfare issue that you've researched.



Copies of your final products are to be emailed to programs@ottawahumane.ca in advance of your visit.

