



animal gambill's  
**CRITTER CRUSADE**<sup>®</sup>



## **Critter Crusaders<sup>®</sup> Rock!**

Here are a few Paw-some Plans for being a Critter Crusader at home, at school and all around your community. If you have any other CRITTER-COOL ideas or FURR-ific stories about being a Critter Crusader that you would like share, please send them to Animal Gambill at [ag@animalgambill.org](mailto:ag@animalgambill.org).

### Be a Critter Crusader at Home

1. Feed your pet a healthy diet and follow portion recommendations for your pet's size
2. Exercise your pet
3. Pooper-scooper clean-up every day
4. Keep pet-bedding clean
5. Take pet to the vet for check-ups and when demonstrating behavioral and/or health problems
6. Help your pet stay clean and bathe it if and when needed
7. License your pet
8. Remove types of plants which can be fatal if a pet eats them.
9. Be safe and kind when playing with your pet
10. Make sure your pet has fresh, unfrozen water and dry, clean shelter when outside
11. Hang a birdfeeder in your yard
12. Contact a trap-neuter-release program if you have feral/unsocial cats living in your neighborhood. After the program returns the cats, provide food, water and clean, dry shelter for them.
13. Safely secure your pet in your yard when it is outside.
14. Spay or neuter your pet to help reduce the pet overpopulation problem and to reduce the risk of your pet getting certain types of cancer.

### Be a Critter Crusader in Your Community:

1. Contact your local animal shelter and ask if you can volunteer by cleaning kennels or exercising some of the animals
2. Ask an injured or elderly neighbor or family member if you can help by walking his/her dog, cleaning his/her pet's litterbox, or picking up pet items for his/her pet at the store.
3. Call your local animal control and protection office if you see an injured animal. Their officers will know how to safely try to help the animal. They will also be able to check and see if the pet has an identifying microchip.
4. Tell your parent/guardian if you see a pet that appears to be lost. With parent/guardian supervision and approval, foster the pet while placing a "Found Pet" ad in the local newspaper and place posters of the lost pet in your neighborhood (on community bulletin boards in stores, veterinarians' offices, pet supply stores, the animal control office, local animal shelters, community centers and other places which approve of such postings). Contact local animal rescue groups so they can spread the word via their networks too. The local animal control and protection office or animal shelter should be able to scan the pet to see if it has a microchip located underneath its skin.
5. Contact local animal welfare organizations and rescue groups to see if they have volunteer opportunities which may interest you. There are a number of PET-acular ways to help organizations. You may have a special skill or talent that you could use to help an animal group in a way you have not considered. For example, if you are artistic, you could help create posters to inform the public about an event they are promoting. If you are energetic, they may need your help distributing fliers about a fundraiser. If you enjoy public speaking, you could ask permission from your teacher to briefly speak in class about an event, fundraiser or donation drive a shelter may be promoting.

6. When you see a dog on a leash, ask the dog's owner if it is safe to pet the dog before approaching the dog and attempting to pet it. Also ask where the dog is comfortable being pet.
7. When walking your dog in your community, always keep a pooper-scooper bag handy so you can clean up after your dog if he decides to leave a "present" in the neighborhood.

### Be a Critter Crusader at School

1. Talk to your teacher and classmates about starting a Critter Crusader Crew
2. Name your Critter Crew (i.e. Bow-Wow Beagles) and schedule weekly or monthly Critter Crew meetings

Your Critter Crew could do the following:

- Start a donation drive in your school for your local animal shelter by contacting the shelter and asking for a list of items they would like you to collect at your school.
- Download information and activity sheets about pet kindness, pet safety and pet responsibility. Talk about the things you learn, questions you have, and ways you can utilize what you learn to help animals. Talk to your Critter Crew about ways you can help others in your school to learn about some of these topics (you could provide information sheets to all teachers in your school, offer to be a guest speaker to talk to other classes about some of the topics you discuss at your Critter Crew meetings).
- Break up into groups of 3 to 5. Then create skits about being kind, safe and responsible with animals. Take turns presenting the skits to each other.
- Organize a car wash fundraiser to benefit a local animal rescue organization.
- Create a "Critter Campaign" to get the whole school jazzed about collecting donations to sponsor a rescued pet at a local animal shelter or local animal fostering program. The "Critter Campaign" could include distributing a picture and the story of the rescued pet that your school is sponsoring. You could get permission to give daily or weekly updates over the school intercom. You could request permission from your school and the animal shelter to schedule your sponsored pet to visit the school.
- Create posters that address important issues about being kind, safe and responsible with animals (you could create a poster about the importance of spaying and neutering, the importance of placing a collar with tags on your cat or dog, the importance of asking someone if you can pet their dog before you start rubbing all over it, the importance of keeping dangerous objects away from your pet, and mutt-mutt more!).
- Talk about different animal-related resources. Collect information about these resources and ask permission to display information about these resources at a certain location in the school (PAWS-ibly the library or a table in a main hallway).
- Download and print animal information and activity sheets from reliable resources such as the Critter Crusade, ASPCA, and HSUS. Ask permission to display these sheets at a certain location in the school.

NOTE: It is important to talk to your parent/guardian about your efforts to be a Critter Crusader.

Thanks a Bow-Wow Bunch,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Animal Planet". The signature is stylized and includes a small paw print icon above the letter 'i' in "Planet".