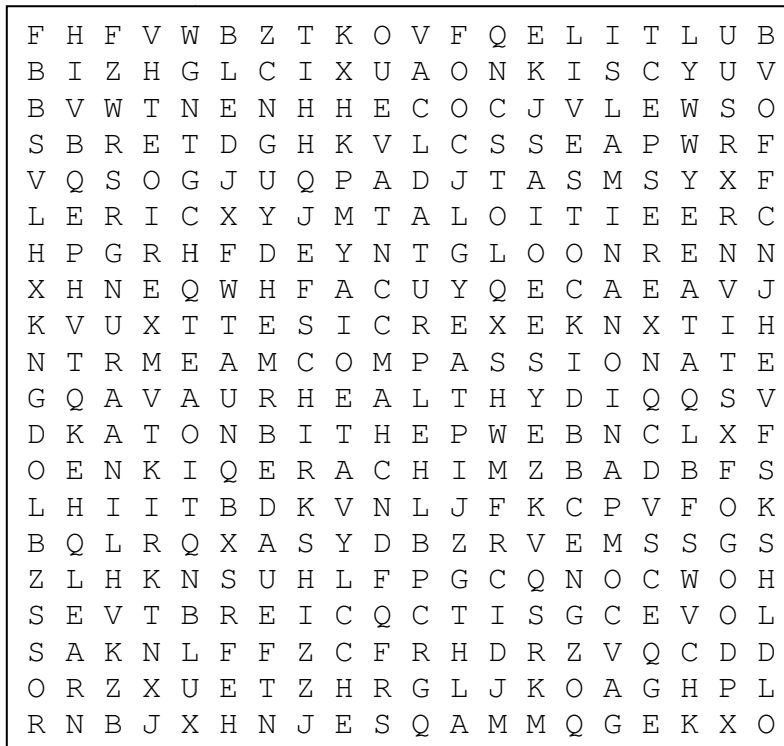


# HOW CAN I BE HUMANE?

Read the story, learn about being humane to animals of all kinds, and then look for the **bold** words – you can find them all in the word search!



Being **humane** to animals means being **kind** and **compassionate** to them – animals have feelings just like us, and when we are humane, we **respect** their feelings and make sure that we do not scare them or cause them harm. Being humane to our pets means giving them a safe, happy home and the best care we can – and plenty of **love**, of course! – for their whole lives. Pets are called **companion animals** because they are our companions and we are theirs.

But there are lots of animals out there who are not companion animals, and the things we do to be humane to them are very different. Think about **wildlife** – wild animals – do you think a tiger would be very happy living in your home, or going for walks on a leash? No! The best way that we can be humane to wildlife is to **leave them alone**. Instead of taking wildlife home with you, watch them in their natural **habitat** – their home in the wild – and then pick up a book and **learn** about them; you will find out all kinds of interesting things! Another very important way that we can be humane to wildlife is to help **protect** them and their homes: don't litter, always recycle, and learn all you can about what you can do to help them survive.

It's very important for us to be humane to **livestock** animals, too! Livestock animals are animals that do work for us, usually on farms – animals like sheep, cows, horses, and chickens. They are just as important as companion animals and wildlife; they give us leather, wool, milk, cheese, eggs, and many even give us their bodies – if you eat meat, you have a livestock animal to thank for it. Being humane to livestock means treating them gently; we should not make them work too hard, and should keep them happy and **healthy** by feeding them nutritious food and giving them good medical care. Being humane to livestock also means making sure they get plenty of **exercise** and get to spend time outdoors – it is not kind to keep them in small cages all the time. And, if you decide that eating animals is just not the humane thing to do, you can become a **vegetarian** – someone who doesn't eat any meat. Try it for a few days; it's not as hard as you think!