

## **A Prayer for Animal Welfare**

Almighty God, maker of all living things, in whose Fatherly wisdom we trust and depend. Enable us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to recognize the works of your hand in all things.

We give thanks to You, O God, for the opportunity to worship you this day and we remember with joy and gratitude, all your creatures, whose beauty and diversity enriches our lives beyond measure.

We ask Your forgiveness for the many ways in which animals are abused and exploited, through both ignorance and greed and we confess before You our part in their suffering, acknowledging the times we have remained silent, lacking the courage to speak out in their defence.

Strengthen us in our resolve as we aspire to lead the 'simple' life of faith and obedience, free from all earthly entrapments and material wealth, using earth's resources wisely and thoughtfully, faithfully following the example of your servant, St. Francis of Assisi.

Help us, O Lord, as we endeavour to live in harmony with all your creatures, leaving only the footprints of true discipleship upon this earth when we leave and not the deep scars of greed and exploitation.

Encourage and inspire each one of us to grow in your likeness and to be remembered for our simplicity of heart and generosity of spirit and for our 'oneness' with all creation.

Grant us, O merciful God, humble and contrite hearts and a clear vision of Your purpose for us in Your world, that we may become faithful stewards of your wondrous creation.  
These things we ask in Jesus' name.  
Amen

*Linda J. Bodicoat, March 2002*

## Prayer of St Basil

Oh, God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things; with our brothers the animals to whom Thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone, but for themselves, and for Thee, and that they love the sweetness of life even as we, and serve Thee in their place better than we in others.

*Deborah Jones, Catholic Concern for Animals*

[www.catholic-animals.org](http://www.catholic-animals.org)

## A Prayer for Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,  
especially for animals who are suffering;  
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;  
for all that must be put to sleep.

We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,  
and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion  
and gentle hands and kindly words.

Make us be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

*By Albert Schweitzer*

## Franciscan prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.  
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.  
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.  
We ask you to bless this pet.  
By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan.  
May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!  
Amen.

## **From the RSPCA Order of Service (1987)**

Heavenly Father  
Your Holy Spirit  
Gives breath to all living things;  
Renew us by this same Spirit  
That we may learn to respect  
What you have given  
And care for what you have made  
Through Jesus Christ  
Your Son our Lord.  
Almighty God  
Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
Taught us to love  
Even the least among us;  
Give us the courage to care  
For all living creatures  
And the strength to defend  
Even the weakest of all.