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Seasoning the Seasons™

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Reaching Out to Pet Owners

In the Spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi: Points to Ponder in Reaching Out to Pet Owners



For many people, pets are very much a part of their family life. This can be especially true for those who live alone, for the elderly, and for the homebound. There are some people in our communities whose only companionship may be from their pet. Here are a few tips for reaching out to pet owners.

- ❖ Is a neighbor who lives alone ill or in the hospital? Volunteer to feed their cat, walk their dog, clean out their birdcage, etc. Don't wait for them to ask you!
- ❖ In cold weather, rain or snow, or when it is very hot and humid, make sure to not only check on elderly neighbors, but also their pets! In these weather conditions it is often very difficult for the elderly or infirm to walk their dog, change their cat's litter, or get out to buy pet food. A few moments of your time can alleviate a lot of stress for both humans and their pets.
- ❖ In very hot and humid weather, consider putting out a bowl of water close to your sidewalk for dogs that are being walked. Humans often carry water bottles with them. Dogs usually don't!
- ❖ Is there someone in your neighborhood who doesn't drive? Perhaps they need a ride to the veterinarian's office if their pet is ill, especially in an emergency.

Volunteer in advance, giving them your phone number so they know you are sincere.

- ❖ If someone you know has a pet that is ill, remember to let the pet owner know you care. A phone call or a card is always welcome. Letting someone know you care about their pet lets them know you care about them!
- ❖ The death of a pet is a sad time, and is especially difficult for the elderly and those who live alone. Let the person know you care. Go and visit them, send them a card (yes, there are sympathy cards just for the death of a pet), and consider making a donation to a local pet shelter or other animal welfare group in the pet's name.
- ❖ And remember to keep animals and those who care for them in your daily prayer. Below is one petition you could pray each day.

"For all the animals, especially those who are sick, suffering, dying, abused, abandoned, or waiting to be euthanized...For all pet owners, especially those facing the loss of their pet and for those mourning the death of their pet...Lord be with them and keep them in your care now and forever. Amen."

