

Humane Hero Workbook

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Want to help cats and dogs at the Austin Humane Society?
Become a humane hero! This kit will show you how to
make a difference for animals in our city.

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priscilla



What is the Austin Humane Society?



Our Mission

The Austin Humane Society is Austin's longest running no-kill shelter. AHS has been around since 1952! We save Austin's homeless cats and dogs in lots of ways, like helping them get adopted by new families and educating the community on pet ownership.

Who We Serve

Over 11,000 cats and dogs are helped by the Austin Humane Society each year. Now that is a lot of animals! The AHS team partners with many people, neighbors and kids to help make this happen.

Who Can Be a Humane Hero?

Humane Heroes are kids under 14 who help cats and dogs at the Austin Humane Society. To become a Humane Hero, you can learn about AHS and tell your friends and family about us, you can do a project for our animals, or you can collect donations that will help the shelter. This packet will help get you started!



midnight & scout



AHS Fun Facts

AHS has a Rescue Reading program, you can read to cats to help socialize them. Rescue Reading also helps you build your confidence in reading out loud!

AHS helps people and animals facing natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, and floods.



We help stray cats stay healthy and prevent homeless kittens through TNR and SNR programs.

AHS volunteers contribute roughly 100,000 hours of service each year!



AHS finds homes for over 3,000 cats and dogs each year.



AHS hosts fundraising events throughout the year to help support the animals we care for.

Our foster network serves more than 1,000 animals each year.

AHS takes care of thousands of kittens and puppies year-round.



Fun Cat Fact: The human skeleton contains just 206 bones while a cat's bone structure includes 244 of them. Those extra bones contribute to a cat's legendary nimbleness.

Fun for the Whole Family

Puppy Bowl

Puppy Bowl is always the Saturday prior to the official NFL Super Bowl. AHS Puppy Bowl was established in 2007. Our largest winter fundraiser boasts delicious tailgate bites, puppy races, kids activities, Super Bowl puppy predictions, pet adoptions, and Puppy Bowl LIVE with our friends at Yard Bar!



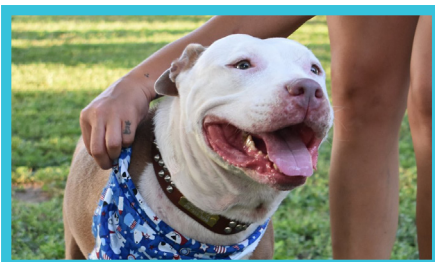
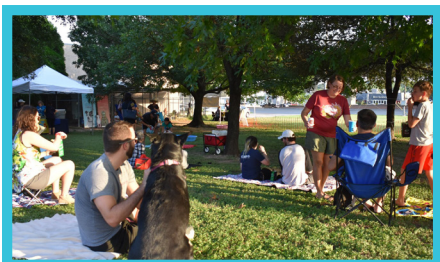
Kitten Shower

Kitten Shower – our first ever dedicated kitten fundraiser – was established in 2014. What started as a donation drive has expanded into a fun community event dedicated to raising money to help AHS serve the thousands of kittens that we will see in the summer months. We offer a fun filled three hours of kitten themed stations, vendors, cuddling and of course our bake-off competition. Look for our Kitten Shower during the late spring season



Outdoor Movie Night

Grab your picnic basket and load up your pack for a family-friendly movie night at the Austin Humane Society. We'll have concessions, games, and kid's activities, too. Movie nights will be held outside on the AHS lawn. The movie will start at sundown. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to join the fun! (In the event of rain, Outdoor Movie Night will be rescheduled.)



Fun Puppy Fact: The first sense to develop for a young puppy is touch. Its first touch sensation is when a puppy's mother licks or nuzzles them.

How You Can Help

Host a Donation Drive for AHS!

Here is a list of items that our cats and dogs need to stay happy and healthy:

- Blankets
- Cat toys
- Sheets (flat only)
- Towels
- Peanut butter
- H-E-B Heritage Ranch dry cat and dog food
- Pate style wet cat food
- Small two-sided cat bowls
- Martingale collars
- Leashes
- Stainless steel dog bowls (8 oz. and larger)
- Pet Safe Easy Walk Harness
- Dry kitten food (Royal Canin “Baby Cat”)
- Gift Cards to H-E-B, Home Depot, PetCo or Target
- Puppy pads
- Easy Cheese
- Greenies Pill Pockets

Find us on Amazon: bit.ly/WishListAHS



Set up a lemonade stand or sell baked goods and donate your money raised to the animals of AHS.



Are you creative? Make a craft of your choice to sell to your neighbors or friends and donate your proceeds back to AHS.



For your birthday, ask your friends and family to donate money or items to AHS in honor of your big day.

All donations can be brought to the Austin Humane Society at 124 W. Anderson Lane (78752). Thank you for being a Humane Hero!



Fun Dog Fact: Dogs and humans both have dreams when they sleep. The twitching and paw movements that occur during their sleep are signs that your pet is dreaming.

How You Can Get Involved at AHS

Rescue Reading at AHS

Did you know that reading to rescue cats can help kitties get adopted? At the Austin Humane Society, Rescue Readers build social skills that help our cats find forever homes, plus readers learn about cat behavior and pet care in the process! It's a win-win!



Attend our Summer Kids Series

Join AHS each summer for Summer Kids Series! This free family favorite allows kids to get hands-on with animals and have tons of fun while learning all about what it takes to care for a pet of their own. Summer Kids Series is recommended for children under 12. Please visit the program's web page for full details.



Participate in Our Happy Tail Mail Program

Ready for a special delivery? This is your chance to practice your writing and send some love to one of our adoptable animals onsite. Choose if you'd like your pen pal to be a cat or dog and you'll receive your first letter along with a photo of your new pen pal. Your new friend will tell you about themselves and talk to you a bit about their day, then you will have the opportunity to write them back and let them get to know you.



How You Can Get Involved at AHS



Host your very own birthday at AHS!

To request a birthday party for your animal-lover, contact us at education@austinhumanesociety.org.

Maximum number of guests: 15 children, 10 adults

Birthday parties can be scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays (based on availability of both parties) at AHS.



Some animals at our shelter need a little more attention and time in order to find their forever homes. Pet Pals go above and beyond to help make that happen! Pals can sponsor an animal's full care at our shelter for \$250, or medical care only for \$100. In return, they can stop by the shelter for a tour and a little play time with their pet pal who will tell them all about their story and teach



Fun Dog Fact: There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S.—more than in any other country.

How You Can Get Involved at AHS

Do you have older siblings? Share your booklet and let them know how they can get involved with AHS, too!

Foster Friends

Foster Friends are 6th – 12th graders who volunteer—with their guardian’s permission—to provide temporary housing and care for animals who aren’t ready to be adopted. We need loving homes like yours to continue helping animals in need of a little extra time and care. To sign up to be a Foster Friend, have your parent or guardian please fill out the form on our website and we’ll be in touch!

Volunteer

The Austin Humane Society has a robust volunteer program with opportunities for cat and dog lovers alike! You can help out in a variety of ways:

- Assist with direct animal care
- Help AHS to end homelessness for pets
- Serve the Central Texas communities through outreach projects

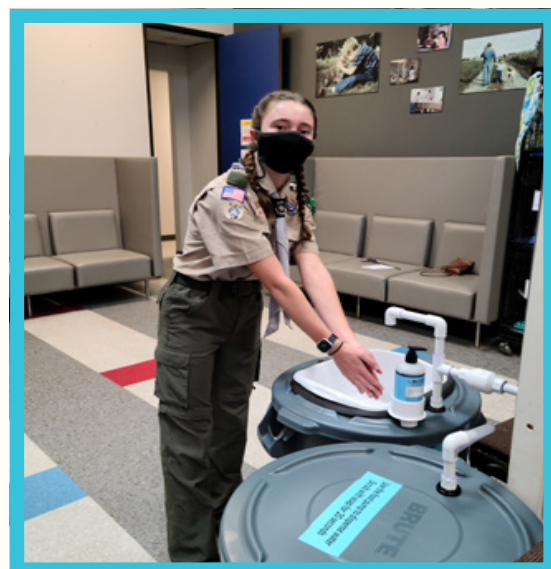
A few requirements to consider before joining the pack or pride:

- Minimum three-month commitment for two hours each week – that’s just 24 hours!
- Must be 14 years and older. All volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times while volunteering
- Volunteers ages 16 & 17 may volunteer independently with parental consent.

Learn more here: austinhumanesociety.org/volunteer

Earn your advanced Scout Badges with AHS

Scouts are welcome to join the Austin Humane Society for tours and service projects. Girl Scouts are also invited to work on their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards with us. Troops of all ages can experience a day in the life at AHS, discover what it takes to run a shelter and care for animals, and complete requirements for scout projects.



DIY Cat and Dog Enrichment

Fleece Knots for Cats and Puppies

Materials:

Fleece or fabric scissors

Fleece (8 to 10 inches long)



Instructions:

1. Cut the fleece into 1-inch wide strips; the ideal length of strips is 8-10 inches
2. Take the two strips and tie them into a single knot
3. Trim the edges so the fleece is even on both sides

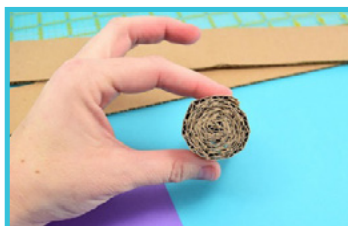
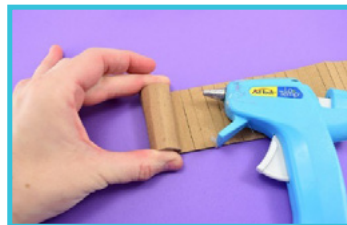
Cardboard Cat Scratcher

Materials:

Large pieces of cardboard, long ruler or straight edge, craft knife, hot glue gun

Instructions:

1. Cut the cardboard into approximately 2" strips. When cutting the cardboard, make sure you can see the zig zag pattern of the corrugation
2. Score each strip approximately every 1/2"
3. Tightly roll the cardboard into a spiral making sure the scored side is facing inward
4. Un-rule the spiral using the hot glue as you go along to secure it together. Make sure that you keep one end as flat as you can for easier scratch-ability.
5. Once the small spiral is complete, continue to add scored strips to the end, wrapping in the direction of the spiral.
6. Repeat Step 5 until the scratcher is big enough for a cat to comfortably use. Make sure you secure the end of the spiral with extra glue so it's secure.



Fun Dog Fact: Some dogs don't like to bark, but the Basenji dog can't. Instead, they yodel.

DIY Cat and Dog Enrichment

DIY Cat Wand

Materials:

(1) wooden dowel; items to hang off of the wand: jingle bells, fabric scraps, shoelaces, etc; baker's twine or yarn; scissors and fabric glue

Instructions:

1. To add extra interest to your wand you can wrap the baker's twine or yarn around the dowel
2. Leave an excess of 10-12 inches to tie items to the wand
3. Use the fabric glue to help secure the twine to the dowel
4. Tie all decorative items to the end of the twine/yarn



Denim Donut Toy

Materials:

(1) cut-off jean sleeve or leg and (1) denim strip

Instructions:

1. Roll the jean leg or sleeve into a donut shape (similar to adding a cuff to your jean leg or making a sock bun)
 2. Wrap a long denim strip around the donut to secure the donut shape and tie the ends together with an overhand knot
- *You may also make a softer donut by using a sock. Simply cut the end of the sock so it's a tube and roll!



Super Spotlight



Q: What do you do at AHS?

A: I am the Veterinary Services Supervisor at AHS.

Q: What's your favorite part of the job?

A: My favorite part of the job is that I get to be around dogs and cats every day! My other favorite part is that I am always learning something new! Scientists and veterinarians are working hard to discover new things all the time and I love being in an environment where I get to learn those things!

Q: Why did you come work for AHS?

A: I came to work at AHS to work in an animal shelter that provides high quality medical care while helping animals find their forever home.

Q: What did you want to be when you were a kid?

A: When I was a kid, I wanted to work with animals when I grew up! The specific job changed many times over the years, but my dream job was always to do something with animals.

Q: What's the hardest part of your job?

A: The hardest part of my job is when a very sick or badly injured animal comes into AHS. They require a lot of attention and love and I am happy to work in a place where we can give them the medicine and attention that they need on their road to recovery.

Q: What's your advice for kids that want to become a veterinarian assistant? Or should we say technician?

A: My advice for someone who wants to be a veterinary technician is to volunteer! I started volunteering at a veterinary hospital as a freshman in high school and I learned so much! Throughout high school and college I continued volunteering with animals at a marine mammal rehabilitation center. Through volunteering, I was able to learn so much and gain hands-on experience to put on my resume.



Super Spotlight



Q: What do you do at AHS?

A: I am an animal services technician. In short, every animal that comes through our program first comes to animal services for intake. We evaluate the animal to make sure they will be a good fit for our program. We then give the animals their initial medical work up (vaccinations, blood draw, microchip, look for any medical issues). We also figure out which kennel the animal will go to and if they don't already have a name, we get to name them! We also do paperwork and work with the animals on behavioral issues. We do lots of transport as well! It is a well-rounded position.

Q: What's your favorite part of the job?

A: My favorite part of the job is working with the nervous, scared and fearful dogs that come into the shelter. I have a knack for gaining trust with dogs. I work on building their trust and confidence. There is nothing more rewarding than when an animal shows their true personality after being shut down.

Q: Why did you come work for AHS?

A: I was fostering dogs for other shelters and rescues when Amanda (my now supervisor, she was

the foster care coordinator at the time) told me to come foster for AHS! Amanda and I grew up together and we reconnected through our love of animals. After fostering for a few months I applied for a position, and more than four years later here I am.

Q: What did you want to be when you were a kid?

A: This may not be a big shock, but I wanted to be a vet! I told my mom this and she got me this vet kit. It was a little medical bag with a stuffed animal dog and medical supplies. I loved that kit and pretended that I was a vet all of the time! We had many dogs growing up and I always took the caretaker role for them, even as a young kid.

Q: What's the hardest part of your job?

A: The hardest part is watching animals become stressed from being in the shelter environment for too long. We do our best to be their family while they are here. We give them love, walks, comfy bedding, yummy food and treats, but it still isn't the same as a home. The flip side is it is such a joy when the day comes that they find their forever home!

Q: What's your advice for kids that want to become a veterinarian assistant? Or should we say technician?

A: My biggest piece of advice is to always take care of yourself! This job is hard mentally and physically, and if you don't practice self-care, it is hard to care for others. My other piece of advice is to never stop learning. I still learn new things every day!



Want to Learn More About Kittens?

Take a Spin in Kitten Land!

Good news! A good Samaritan found a homeless mama cat and kittens and brought them to the Austin Humane Society. Join these babies on the journey from their first day at the shelter by rolling a die and following the instructions on the board.

PLAY KITTEN LAND

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start

You're a newborn kitten and you can't regulate your body temperature. Move back one space.

You're a two-week old kitten and your eyes have completely opened! Move ahead one space.

Yay! You discovered the litterbox! Move ahead one space.

Your ears just went from being folded down to pointing upwards and you are beginning to start exploring. Way to go! Move ahead one space.

You're four-weeks old and your teeth are coming in, but teething isn't fun! Move back one space.

You've made it to five weeks and you're weaning onto wet kitten food. Move ahead one space.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You're finally big and strong, and now you're being adopted!

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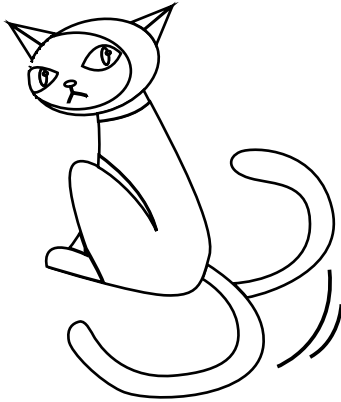


Fun Kitten Fact: All kittens have pretty blue eyes when they are born. As they grow, their eye color continues to develop. For a lot of kittens, the means their eyes change color. Even cats with dark eyes once had blue peepers.

Reading Cat Body Language

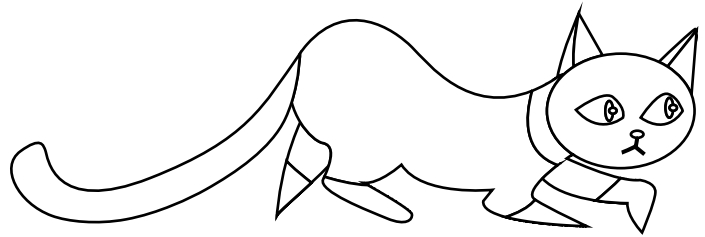
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Which cats below would find it acceptable for you to approach and pet them?



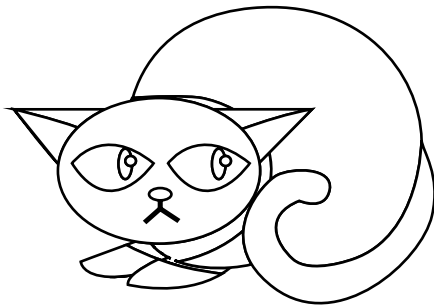
Irritated or Overstimulated

Pupils dilated, ears turned back and tail twitching or waving—your cat may growl or put their teeth on you as a warning to cease and desist. Intense play can quickly turn into over-stimulation in some cats, resulting in biting and scratching.



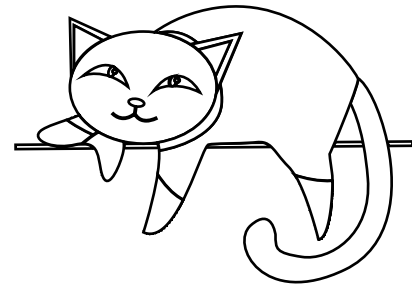
Playful

Ears forward, tail up, whiskers forward and pupils somewhat dilated—playing is hunting behavior; your cat may stalk their prey (a toy, a housemate or you), then crouch down with their rear end slightly raised. A little wiggle of the butt, then...pounce!



Stressed/Worried

Ears sideways or back, pupils dilated and tail low or tucked between legs—your cat may slink through the house close to the floor, looking for somewhere to hide. They may turn their face to the wall to shut the world out.



Content

Sitting or lying down, eyes half-closed, pupils narrowed, tail mostly still, ears forward and purring—a really happy cat will often knead on a soft surface.

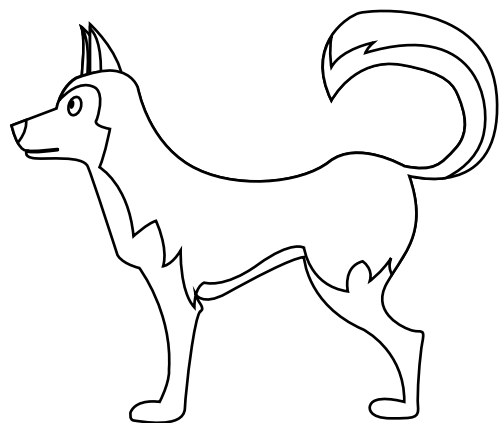


Cat Fun Fact: Scratching is part of a cat's nature—not only to sharpen their claws, but to stretch specific muscles in their back and shoulder area that they cannot otherwise reach through normal stretching.

Reading Dog Body Language

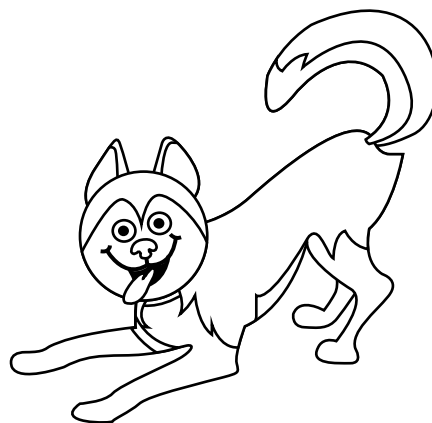


Which dogs below would find it acceptable for you to approach and pet them?



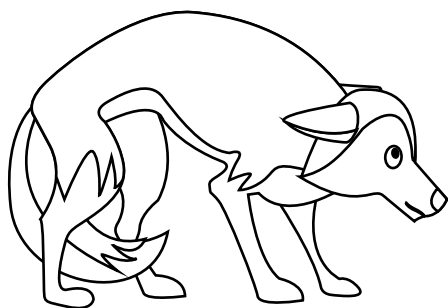
Alert

An alert dog will have their ears pointed forward and their mouth closed. They will stand tall and have their tail pointed out or upward.



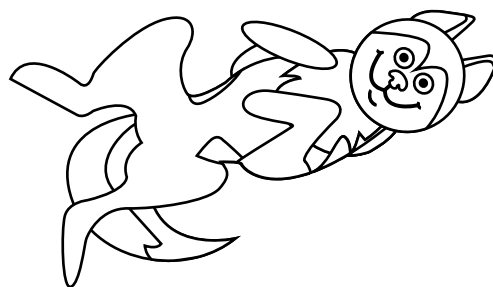
Playful

A playful pup will have their ears up and mouth open/tongue out. They might be running around or perhaps crouch down with their front paws to the ground and their tail up in the air and wagging.



Stressed/Worried

A dog who is stressed or worried will have their ears back and tail between their legs. Their body and head will be lowered.

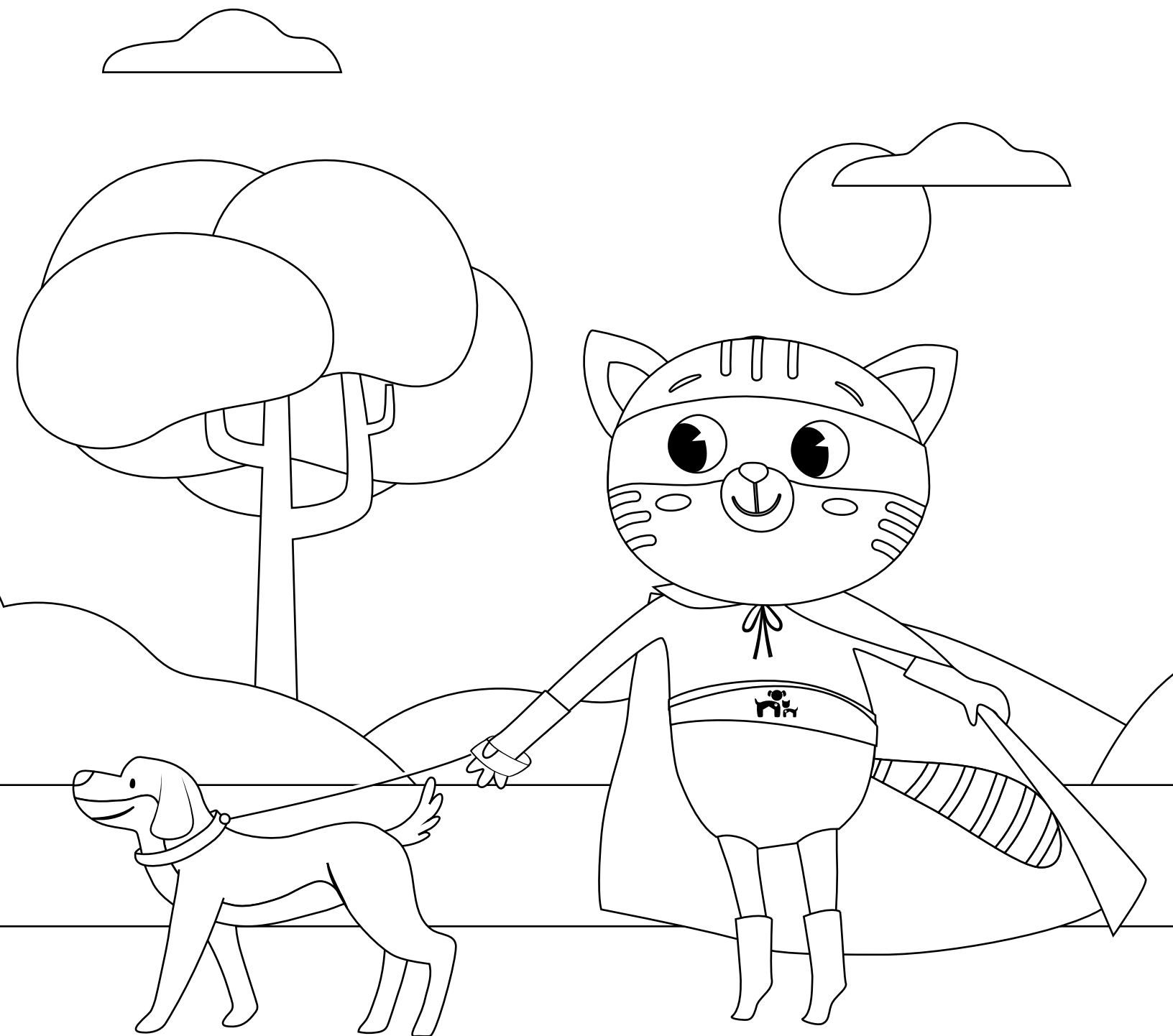


Relaxed

A relaxed dog will have their ears up and their mouth may be open with their tongue out. Their tail will be down if standing. They may roll over and show their belly.



Coloring Page



Cat Fun Fact: Cats' personalities start to emerge at around five weeks, which is also when they begin to be weaned and start nibbling on dry food.

Word Search

Intro to Cat and Dog Care

S O L J Y F C A T F F R B B A R K F
M G I E L E W T L A O R D O G U P A
B T R A I N F Z U D R O I E W A W S
V E T E R I N A R I A N D E E L H N
Q J W L F C L C B P T A G K N C I W
F P A H L T U O O U O Y T I S D S H
R V L O O A H L C P Y B R T J L K O
F P K B A I Z L Y P S G E T R E E M
U W U B C L M A X Y L Q A E D A R E
U W S R Q T D R K P H Y T N D S S M
S R T N R V V U I G L S S H H H O T
T U C R O B W A G N Z K R Q T G G R

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BARK
BOWL
CAT
COLLAR
DOG
FOOD
FRIEND

HOME
KITTEN
LEASH
PUPPY
PURR
TAIL
TOYS

TRAIN
TREATS
VETERINARIAN
WAG
WALK
WHISKERS



Memory Game



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out and place the cards face down on a flat surface.
2. Players take turns looking under two cards.
3. If the pictures match, the player gets to keep the cards.
4. The player with the most cards at the end wins!

FOR BEST RESULTS PRINT ON HEAVIER PAPER/CARDSTOCK IN FULL COLOR

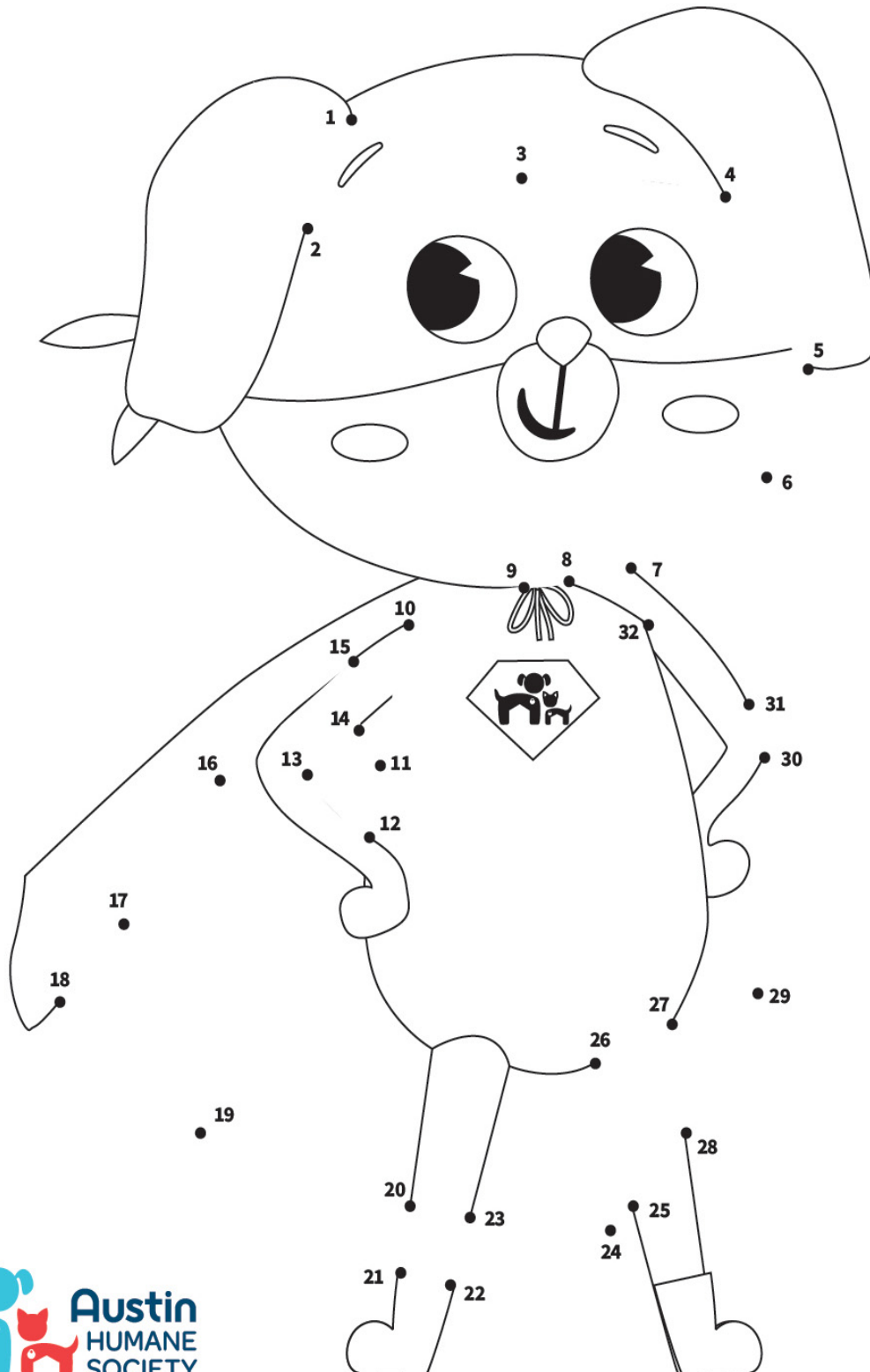


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Cat Fun Fact: A cat's heart beats nearly twice as fast as a human heart, at 110 to 140 beats a minute.

Connect the Dots



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Fun Dog Fact: Dogs can sniff at the same time they are breathing.

Visit the Shelter

Want a Behind the Scenes Look At AHS?

Groups are invited to join AHS for a peek into what it takes to run our shelter and care for thousands of animals each year. Throughout the shelter tour, groups will get a behind-the-scenes look at AHS as well as meet some furry friends along the way. Ask a parent, guardian, teacher, or troop leader to send a tour request to education@austinhumanesociety.org.

We look forward to your visit!

* Tours are for groups of 8–20 kids, and take up to one hour. At least two adult chaperons are required to attend.



124 W. Anderson Lane | 512.646.PETS (7387) | austinhumanesociety.org