

First UU Animal Ministry

Covenant

In recognition of our interconnectedness with wildlife and animals, we, the undersigned members of the First UUAM, establish this covenant to foster harmonious coexistence and advocate for the rights and welfare of all living beings.

Supporting one another:

- Listen attentively, waiting to speak until others have finished.
- Share comments and questions without interruptions, respecting turn-taking.
- Address differing perspectives and biases with kindness and compassion.
- Speak from personal experience and beliefs, avoiding generalizations.
- Acknowledge discomfort with certain concepts or issues.

Fostering Harmonious Coexistence with Wildlife:

1. **Education and Outreach:** We will facilitate programs and initiatives to educate the Houston community about the importance of understanding and cooperating with wildlife, promoting peaceful coexistence in our urban environment.
2. **Collaborative Solutions:** We commit to working collaboratively with local wildlife organizations, governmental agencies, and community stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that mitigate conflicts and promote mutual respect between humans and wildlife.

Advocating for Animal Rights:

1. **Active Advocacy:** We pledge to engage in active advocacy efforts to champion the rights of all animals, regardless of their status as cherished pets or animals in farms. We will work towards a more compassionate and just treatment for every living being, advocating for policies and practices that uphold their inherent worth and dignity.
2. **Awareness and Empathy:** We will strive to raise awareness about animal rights, fostering empathy and understanding towards the needs and welfare of animals in our society.

Combatting Pet Homelessness:

1. **Comprehensive Strategies:** We will implement comprehensive strategies to address and reduce pet homelessness in Houston, focusing on education, responsible pet ownership, and collaborative efforts with local shelters and communities.
2. **Support and Resources:** We will provide support and resources to pet owners in need, including access to low-cost spay/neuter services, pet food assistance programs, and behavioral training resources, to prevent pet relinquishment and homelessness.

Conclusion:

In witness of our commitment to compassionate living with wildlife and animals, we solemnly affirm this covenant, pledging to uphold its principles and work tirelessly towards a future where all beings can thrive in harmony and dignity.

April 22, 2024

To Recite:

In fields and forests, rivers wide,
Where wild and tame creatures reside,
We vow to honor, protect, and tend,
Their lives entwined, our hearts to mend.

With reverence deep, and actions kind,
Justice for all, in heart and mind.
Stewardship guiding, our duty clear,
For Earth and beings, we hold dear.

In harmony's embrace, we stand tall,
Sustaining life, for one and all.
For animals farmed, wild, or near,
Our promise echoes, strong and clear.