

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the human-animal bond?

Life would not be complete without animals. Animals and humans have a symbiotic relationship – one that is beneficial for both species. Our relationships with animals provide countless benefits, resulting in a greater quality of life for both animals and humans.

The Animals for Life Foundation is a non-profit foundation that celebrates the human-animal bond and works to raise awareness for animal care issues in a common sense manner.

Animals can greet us after a long day of work, provide nourishment for our bodies or relieve stress during a trail ride. Animals provide nutrients, companionship, recreation and inspiration – all important parts of the human existence since our ancestors domesticated them around 30,000 B.C.

Animals help us maintain vitality and life. In turn, we protect and care for them.

How do animals support human life?

Animals provide many benefits for humans when they are well cared for:

- Animals destined for the food supply provide meat, milk and eggs that supply essential nutrients for the 96 percent of the population who include them in their diets.
- Animals provide energy and balance through the protein, iron, zinc, calcium and B-vitamins they provide.
- Assistance animals serve disabled and elderly persons to make it easier to adapt to their surroundings.
- Horses provide recreation, and they are an important part of some therapy programs for troubled youth and those in rehabilitation.
- Animals help us learn more about ourselves. Since the Paleolithic Era, humans have been advancing medicine and anthropology by studying similarities between animals and humans. Many medical, veterinary and societal breakthroughs have occurred by observing animals, their interaction and reactions.

How do people support animal life?

Humans work for the benefit of animals while they are in our care. Some of the things that we provide for animals are:

- Humans are animals' companions, too. We give them attention, share time and provide an outlet for their energies.
- We protect animals from the dangers of nature. Whether they are housed in our homes, like a dog or cat or in a barn or pasture, animals get the protection they need from physical dangers, such as predators and disease.
- Most obvious of the benefits we provide are a steady supply food and water. These nutrients help support animal life, energy and the fulfillment of their purpose.

- Humans provide shelter and bedding for our animal companions and livestock. We provide cover to protect them from the elements. On some dairy farms, cows lay on water-filled mattresses to stay comfortable between milkings.
- Humans get animals the veterinary medical care our animals need. This comes in the form of preventative care and the treatment of ailments.

What is the philosophy behind the Animals for Life Foundation that distinguishes it from some organizations?

Animals provide nutrients, companionship, recreation and inspiration – all important parts of the human existence. The Animals for Life Foundation believes that using animals as part of our lifestyle is natural. Regardless of the ultimate purpose of an animal’s life, we believe that people have a responsibility to care for their well-being.

Some animal care organizations have an agenda to eliminate any use of animals for human benefit. Our approach uses common sense and a realistic outlook on the mutual benefit between animals and people.

What is the Animals for Life Foundation?

The Animals for Life Foundation is a non-profit foundation that celebrates the human-animal bond and works to raise awareness for animal care issues in a common sense manner.

The foundation was started in 2009 by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and its partners. It is administered as a 501(c)3 entity.

Funding comes from donations from individuals and corporations.

What has the Animals for Life Foundation done since it’s founding?

- Set up administrative headquarters in Columbus, Ohio with guidance from industry partners
- Developed a strategic plan
- Awarded grants to organization, associations and agencies that demonstrated that they had developed and wished to implement projects that implemented the Foundation's mission and purpose.
- Established a board of directors
- Launched www.aflfoundation.org
- Generated corporate donations
- Created a communication plan and partner engagement strategy
- Created the Life Just Wouldn't Be Complete Without Animals campaign – for launch in January 2011
- Started a Facebook page at www.facebook.org/animalsforlife