Madison Darden J.L. Hill Elementary 5th Grade, 2nd Place

In the world for people there are many ways to accomplish tasks and projects. Animals, however, can't do things like feed themselves, take themselves to the doctor or pick up after themselves. I think there are some ways we can help them and make life better here in the community for them.

You should always take care of your pets properly. You need to always have your pets on a leash when you are out walking them or any other outside activities. When you walk your pets you should put a reflective vest or collar on them so that cars will see you and your pet. When driving, we should all watch the speed limit, because you don't want to go to fast and hit a dog, cat or any animal.

Healthy pets are some of the best things in life. In order to keep our pets happy and healthy, we need to make sure that we take them to the vet and have them checked out and vaccinated once a year. Vaccinations are very important to keep our animals safe from diseases.

Everyone's pet needs fresh food and water every day and we need to protect our pets from the elements. Living here in Texas, it can be very, very hot in the summer. Always make sure your pets have a cool place to get out of the sun and that they have lots and lots of water. We know that all animals have to use the bathroom every once in a while, so when you take your pets to do their business, always clean up after them. This will keep all of our animals safe and protect yours and other people's property.

When we are outdoors enjoying our parks, and other recreational facilities, we should never litter. When we litter, we pollute our land, ponds and lakes and fish, ducks, birds and other wild animals can become sick or get caught in some of the trash. We want to treat our pets and wild animals right and create a clean safe place for them to live and play.

Another way we can make life better for animals is opening more pet parks so pets can have a good time with owners and other pet friends. Pet parks create a fun and safe place for pets and pet owners to spend more time outdoors.

We should also have more rescue and adoption centers so pets are never alone, unhealthy or unsafe.

To celebrate our pets and all animals, every year we should have a pet parade. This will give everyone a time to celebrate all of the wonderful animals we have to enjoy. Now, that a better life!