TURN EMPATHY INTO ACTION

Empathy isn't just a feeling – it involves actively showing compassion to others. Here are some ways to get started:

- **Shop cruelty-free.** Buy personal-care products and household cleaners that aren't tested on animals. Download and share PETA US' Beauty Without Bunnies app for a list of kind companies.
- **Choose vegan meals.** Just by going vegan, you can prevent nearly 200 individual animals each year from enduring a painful, terrifying death.
- Discover humane fashion. Choose clothing and accessories made without animals' body parts, such as wool-free jumpers and boots made of vegan leather.
- Choose kind entertainment, such as circuses
 that use only human performers, sporting events
 that don't include animals, and movies that use
 computer-generated imagery instead of exploiting
 animals. Avoid events that force animals to perform.
- Volunteer at a shelter for animals or humans.
 Donate vegan items to a local food bank.
- Give to charities that never test on animals.
- Speak up when someone makes a racist, ableist,
 speciesist, or otherwise disparaging comment.



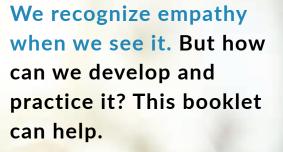




BUT WHAT IS EMPATHY?

Simply put, it's the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Consider the monkey who, in a crude experiment, starved himself for nearly two weeks when the only way to get food was to give an electric shock to another monkey. Or the 6-year-old boy in India who rushed an injured chick to a hospital with only a coin in his pocket, begging staff to help the bird. Or the blowfish who bravely remained by the side of a companion caught in plastic waste, while a diver freed the trapped fish.





WHY EMPATHY MATTERS

Empathy is a powerful antidote to anger, hate, and violence. If we empathise with someone – if we understand their experiences, share their feelings, and put ourselves in their place – it's *impossible* to intentionally cause them harm. Empathy makes us want to help others and show them kindness, whatever their nationality, political views, religion, race, gender, or species.

If we could all develop empathy, there would be fewer wars, other violent conflicts, and mass shootings. We would be able to work together far better to address problems like the climate catastrophe. Cruelty to animals in its many forms – from factory farming to dogfighting – would disappear, as having empathy for animals means seeing them for who they are: *someone like ourselves*, with feelings, interests, and desires, not something.

BUILDING EMPATHY

Empathy is like a muscle – it grows stronger with use. Proven ways to build empathy for others include focusing on our similarities, putting aside our differences, being curious, and imagining how we would feel if we had to endure the same conditions and experiences as them.



TRY THESE IDEAS:

- Write down a list of traits you have in common with someone of a different race, age, religion, or species, such as, "We both feel hunger and pain, we both love our families, and we both want to be free of oppression."
- Let go of assumptions. Look for what might be surprising about the individual you're interacting with.
 (Maybe this cat enjoys playing in the water or this grandmother prefers rock music over classical.)
- Read books about who animals are such as
 Animalkind by Ingrid Newkirk and Gene Stone or
 The Animals' Agenda by Marc Bekoff and Jessica Pierce
 – or watch respectfully filmed (unintrusive) nature documentaries.
- Observe animals in their natural habitats. For example, watch the birds and possums outside your window.
- Learn more fascinating facts about animals at PETA.org.au.