

## Approved Service Projects

*Updated 10/7/2024*

1. Host a donation drive or fundraiser to benefit AWLA
  - AWLA relies on monetary and in-kind donations to provide resources to the animals in our care and community members in need.
  - Donation drives or fundraisers may serve as a stand-alone service project or a portion of a larger service project, depending on the guidelines of your organization.
  - A list of in-kind donations that AWLA can and cannot accept is posted [here](#). Our most needed items change routinely, so please reach out directly to find out our current greatest needs.
  - Learn how to host an online fundraiser [here](#).
2. Create adoption posters or advertisements for the animals in our care
  - Word of mouth and social media are two of the best tools to spread the word about the amazing adoptable animals we have at AWLA.
  - Adoption advertisements may be digital or print. You may use the bios listed on the AWLA app or website, or come to the shelter to meet the animals yourself.
3. Plant flowers and herbs in outdoor planters
  - A beautiful facility is inviting to potential adopters, fosters, and donors. Plants are a great way to improve the look of our shelter while also providing enrichment to our animals (flowers in window boxes for the cat room, herbs in the outdoor planters for dogs).
  - All plants should be researched and deemed safe for pets before planting.
4. Bird houses and posts
  - AWLA's wildlife resource center gets hundreds of calls each year from people who are concerned about birds building their nests in unsafe or inconvenient locations such as a wreath or window sill.
  - Building bird houses designed for native species, such as Downy Woodpeckers or Carolina Chickadees, improves our shelter by providing safe nesting spaces and supporting local populations of native bird species.
  - Every species of bird requires different specifications for a birdhouse. Thorough research and planning is required to ensure that bird houses are utilized by the intended species instead of competitive non-native species (such as European Starlings).
  - An example plan for a Downy Woodpecker house can be found here: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/woodpecker\\_nestbox.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/woodpecker_nestbox.pdf)

## 5. Gravel for dog yards

- Gravel is the best substrate for fast drainage, making it the ideal for our dog yards. Pea gravel is also gentle on dog paws.
- Light colored gravel stays cool in the sun and requires very little maintenance compared to grass. However, pea gravel needs to be replenished every 3-5 years as it gets pushed into the soil and disposed of along with dog waste.
- This project will be overseen by the Director of Operations to ensure the correct type and amount of gravel is acquired.

## 6. Window Coverings to prevent Bird Strikes

- Every year, nearly one billion birds collide with windows in the US. Due to the layout of the windows in our Education room, birds frequently strike the glass, injuring themselves in the process. Birds may think they can fly through the glass, or may become combative to their reflection. Closing blinds or curtains is effective however doing so during programming reduces natural light. There are several ways to prevent window strikes that do not obscure visibility from inside the window.
  - [https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/d909zwufevx9ibl94ykhbdwlzfkzpib\\_o](https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/d909zwufevx9ibl94ykhbdwlzfkzpib_o)
  - <https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/lmf7vijbohuds6j92igzl1dzy8398ckj>
  - <https://www.birdsavers.com/make-your-own/>
  - <https://www.birdsavers.com/using-paracord/>
  - <https://www.conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly/feather-friendly/>
  - <https://www.collidescape.org/>
- Depending on the type of window covering selected, we may request that additional windows are included in the project scope.

## 7. Build a Little Free Library

- There are over 175,000 Little Free Libraries (LFLs) across the US! These encourage passersby to pick up a book, or share their once-loved books with the rest of the community. A LFL would align with our Paws & Read program and allow us to provide books with themes of compassion, empathy, and humane treatment of animals.
- AWLA would act as the steward of the LFL after the project is completed.
- You may choose to purchase a kit from LFL, or build it yourself.
- <https://littlefreelibrary.org/start/>