

Pet Blessings...

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them... Genesis 1:21-22



The first time the word *blessing* is used in the Bible is in relationship to animals. God creates birds and fish and blesses them!

Animals are a very important part of children's lives. They often tell me that their pet is "the one that knows me best," or the "only one that listens to me," or "my best friend." Blessing animals acknowledges the special relationship between a child and their pet.

There are no rules about who can bless an animal so you are perfectly qualified to bless animals.

A Simple Pet Blessing

Set Up

The easiest way to perform pet blessings is to do it when the weather is warm. Put up a simple tent outside the church building or find an area with an overhang to reduce the heat and protect you from rain. Then set up a small table with a cross on it and a simple kneeler (Optional).

Set a time of about two hours and have families bring their pets as they wish. Each family pet will be blessed individually.

The Ritual

Welcome the child and ask him or her to tell you about their relationship with their pet. Ask the name of the pet.

Have the child kneel down (if you have kneeler) with their pet, lay your hand on the pet and say:

(Name of Pet) May God, who created and blessed all living creatures, bless you. And may you bless (child's name) because of the love and joy you bring to his/her life. I bless you in the name of God the Creator, then Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And then you might want to give the family a Certificate of Blessing or a St. Francis Medal for the pet wear on his/hr collar (You can buy these wholesale to save money or invite people to make a donation to cover the cost of the tag.)