

Partnering for a Better World

The John and Christine Tortorella Family Foundation for Giving Back

Our Programs...

Bear's Angels



Named after the Tortorella's beloved dog, the Bear's Angels Program partners with responsible rescues and shelters who help homeless and abused animals. TFF provides grants for spay and neuter, sanctuaries, horse rescue and rehabilitation, shelter improvement, alternatives to tethering, and programs that increase the chances of adoption for shelter dogs. To learn more about our rescue partners, please visit tortorellafoundation.org.

Enlighten Your World - READ!

TFF believes that reading and writing skills are the cornerstones to a good education, and that exposure to music and art fosters the creative process in children. Our literacy program, Enlighten Your World - READ is our commitment to reach out and encourage children's natural desire to learn by providing books, CD's, journals and other materials, online, on our website: **Do Bugs Have Belly Buttons** dobugshavebellybuttons.com



The John & Christine

Tortorella Family Foundation

The John and Christine Tortorella Family Foundation for Giving Back (TFF) cares about the world and the communities in which we live. The TFF supports organizations and individuals who strive to improve the lives of children and animals and protect our environment.

The TFF is pleased to share our humane education materials with you. Visit our website tortorellafoundation.org and our children's literacy website dobugshavebellybuttons.com to find books, music, poetry (in English and Spanish), printable bookmarks and a great activity book with pages that you can select and print. These items provide wholesome entertainment while teaching valuable lessons about kindness and responsibility for our planet and all who live on it.

Join us in helping to make this world a better place!

Thank you!

**tortorellafoundation.org
dobugshavebellybuttons.com**

The Tortorella Family Foundation's Humane Education Program presents:

Taking Care of Our Pets With Detective Bear and Miss Kitty Watson



Learn how our fun and informative bookmarks can help children understand about caring for pets!



Can You Help Detective Bear?

This bookmark helps young readers learn about three types of “pests” that can harm our animal friends. They are **fleas, ticks** and **mosquitos**.

Fleas can quickly attack a dog or cat by jumping on them and laying eggs in their fur. Flea bites hurt and cause our pets to scratch. If cats and dogs are not treated for bites, they can experience pain and become sick.

Ticks are tiny insects – some as small as the period at the end of a sentence. Ticks live in the grass and bushes and attach themselves to dogs and cats to suck their blood. They can pass on diseases to our pets that can cripple them and make them ill.

Mosquitos leave heartworm eggs under our pets’ skin when they bite them. When they hatch, heartworms make their way to a dog or cat’s heart and lungs where they grow very large. If not treated for heartworms, our pets will become very sick and die.

How can we protect them from these pests? We can get special medicines from veterinarians. Please make sure your pets receive them!



Helping Community Cats.

Miss Kitty Watson is Detective Bear’s partner and good friend. Her bookmark is about **Community Cats**.

Many cats do not have homes with human families and have to live outdoors. Some of these cats are called **feral** cats. They are wild and are afraid of humans.

Some outside cats are stray or lost cats who wandered away from their owners.

Feral cats and stray cats are called Community Cats. They live together in groups called colonies. There may be a person or group of people who care for them. This is a good thing, since community cats have difficult lives. They must find their own food and shelter. They don’t have families to take them to the vet if they are sick.

How can we help? Please ask your local shelter or veterinarian if they know who helps community cats in your town or city. Contact the helpers and offer to give donations of food or volunteer to build an outdoor cat habitat. And if you see an injured or suffering cat, please contact your local shelter or rescue



Don't Lose Heart!

Detective Bear would like his young fans to learn how to keep their pets safe if they should get lost – and what they can do if they see a lost cat or dog.

Collars and tags are great ways to identify pets. Another way to make sure they can be identified if they get lost is to have them **microchipped**. A microchip is a very small glass tube that contains an identification number. A shelter worker or veterinarian can place this chip under a dog or a cat’s skin and it doesn’t hurt.

If a lost pet is brought to a shelter or vet’s office, the staff can scan the back of the pet’s head or neck with a special wand. This wand reads the microchip’s identification number which is matched to the pet owner’s information on a computer.

Microchipping our pets helps them if they become lost. Many pets have been reunited with their owners this way. If you find a lost dog or cat, please be sure to ask a shelter worker or veterinarian to check it for a microchip!