



DOGGIE BAGS

WHY FAMILY VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteering as a family is a powerful way to teach children valuable real-life lessons about empathy and caring, build skills and provide positive ways for families to connect with each other and their community.

THE ISSUE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

5-7 million animals enter shelters each year. Animals can become homeless because they are abandoned, lost, or never had a home. These strays go to animal shelters to be housed. Your family can help by making and donating doggie treats!

WHAT YOU ARE DOING

Making homemade doggie treats

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Ingredients for homemade dog treats (see below, or use your own recipe!)
- Plastic bags (to put the treats in)
- Transportation (to drop the goodies off at the shelter)

Ingredients

Makes about 5 dozen

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 1/4 cup brewer's yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1/2 cup low-sodium canned chicken stock, plus more for brushing

IDEAS TO CHAT ABOUT

- Why are you doing this project?
- Why is it important to help animals without homes?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Make toys for cats too! Check out [this video](#) for some great and easy ideas!

HOW TO KEEP THE GIVING GOING

Try to do this more than once. Toys get worn out from play and treats get eaten.



PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Call a local animal shelter and ask if they would be willing to accept your treats.
2. Consider getting other families in your community involved! Send invitations to neighbors or friends and ask them to join you in making and donating doggie treats.
3. Buy ingredients and supplies.
4. Make the dog treats. You can either use this recipe, <http://www.marthastewart.com/264802/homemade-dog-biscuits> or one of your own.
5. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, wheat germ, yeast, and salt; set aside
 - a. Place oil in a large bowl. Add stock and flour mixture in three alternating batches, beginning and ending with stock. Mix well.
 - b. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out dough. Shape biscuits using a dog-bone-shaped cookie cutter or by cutting around a store-bought dog bone with a butter knife.
 - c. If desired, you can spell out a holiday message in the dough with a toothpick (wet the toothpick first so it won't stick).
 - d. Transfer to parchment-lined baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough.
 - e. Bake biscuits for 10 minutes. Brush with stock; rotate baking sheets, and bake 10 minutes more. Turn off oven, leaving door closed. Let dog biscuits stand in oven to dry completely, about 1 1/2 hours. Wrap as a gift, or store in an airtight container at room temperature.
6. Clean up.
7. Donate the treats to the shelter you selected.

SAMPLE BUDGET: DOG BISCUIT

Item	Cost
Flour	\$2.13
Wheat germ	\$9.84
Brewers Yeast	\$11.99
Canola Oil	\$2.98
Canned chicken stock	\$17.02
Sandwich bags (125)	\$6.99
Total	\$50.95

REFLECTION

Have participants come together after the project is over. Challenge each family member to come up with 5 words that describe the day's experience in response to the questions below. If more than one family is involved, consider forming teams!

1. Why was it important to do this project?
2. How did you help?
3. What was it like to volunteer with your family?
4. What was the funniest part of the experience?
5. What volunteer activity would you like to do next?