

# Let your heart guide your hands: be a Good ‘Sunbearitan’ for animals

Prepare now to help animals in need, to be a Good Samaritan for companion and domesticated animals.

Animal abuse, neglect, and distress is epidemic, is often institutionally supported, and is worldwide.

You may find animals in distress in your own neighborhood—be prepared to take reasonable, safe action to help them.

Sunbear needed help and didn't get it; he died tragically from neglect. This is what you can do:

- 1** Learn about animal welfare risk factors that contribute to animal abuse and neglect. Read our online 10-minute tutorial to gain more confidence in making decisions and taking action.
- 2** Fill out a downloadable wallet card to keep animal welfare phone numbers with you, so urgent calls are more convenient and quick. Make copies for friends and family. Download blanks for free. Flip this over for yours!
- 3** Carry a “Roadside Rescue Kit” of simple household articles packed in your vehicle and ready for use to help animals in distress. See the online instructional video.

Thank you for your every effort to report animal abuse, animal neglect, accidents, and distress. Encourage your friends and family to do the same! Share the URL: [www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org). Join the Facebook page too!



This is Buster, a senior chocolate Labrador Retriever who probably looks much like Sunbear would look today, if he had lived. Thank you to the Stanke family for allowing us to take his picture.

Join the Squad online to receive timely, helpful “Weekly Watch Tips” via email. It’s FREE and you will learn a lot!

Have you set your own “animal policies” yet?

**5 simple things**

Read more online:  
[www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org)

Do you know the common neighborhood **Risk Factors** for Animal Neglect and Abuse?

## About Sunbear

Sunbear was a young chocolate Labrador Retriever who was trapped in a West Virginia townhouse laundry room for 6 weeks, and neighbors in adjoining



**The web site is dedicated to Sunbear to encourage you to be a "Good Sunbearitan."**

townhouses did not call the authorities. *Didn't they hear him?*

His owner had made arrangements for Sunbear to be adopted by a family, but they

never showed up. Sunbear's owner never called that family to make sure he was picked up, or to ask how he was adapting to his new home and family. A bag of Sunbear's food sat outside the laundry room door while he slowly starved inside, waiting for help *for 42 days.*

Gene Fields, his Animal Control officer, sleuthed his owner for months; he was found in Indiana. His owner was tried and convicted of animal neglect, and he served the maximum sentence and paid a fine. West Virginia legislators enraged about Sunbear's ordeal enacted stronger laws against abuse and neglect.

Now the web site dedicated to his memory, [www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org), provides knowledge, tools, and inspiration to encourage neighbors be better Good Samaritans for companion and domesticated animals.

A note about the photo above: it is a stock image. Along with the story of his long ordeal, actual photos of Sunbear after he was found are available on the web site. Please be warned that they are graphic and his eyes will haunt you.

## Free Wallet Card

Please add important rescue telephone numbers below, cut out, fold, and keep in your wallet at all times, so you are prepared to act quickly.

# Watch Listen Call™ Wallet Card

### Important Phone Numbers for Emergency Pet Aid

Please take a few minutes **NOW** to research and complete this list of **regional** emergency phone numbers, so that you can respond more quickly and calmly when you find a sick, injured, or lost dog and cat. Remember, *you might be the difference between life and death.* **Clip, fold, and keep this card** in your wallet. Make extras for family members, too.

City/Cty. Name	Aid Provider	Phone Number
	Animal Shelter	
	Animal Shelter	
	Police	
	Police	
	Animal Control	
	County Sheriff	
	County Sheriff	
	Veterinarian	
	Veterinarian	



[www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org)

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*Transforming animal lovers into animal welfare defenders with knowledge, tools, and inspiration*

Every day, across America, in cities and towns, in wide open spaces, and perhaps in your neighborhood, companion and domesticated animals are neglected and abused...

# are you ready to help?

When help is needed, you can help safely, effectively, confidently. Learn how at [www.sunbearsquad.org](http://www.sunbearsquad.org).