

## From Our Board

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“At the heart of the religious impulse is the desire to lessen suffering, and to extend justice and compassion to those we might otherwise exclude from our moral consideration.

**Whether you come to UU animal ministry through a relationship with a dog or a cat, or an awareness of the inherent abuses of factory farms, or a call to protect wildlife in this time of climate change, your work is essential.**

For those of us on the board, it is an honor to serve by your side. As we nurture the organization as a whole, please let us know how we can assist your essential work.



***“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened”***

*-Anatole France*



Our work is not possible without your generous donations. Please send to:

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

9620 Cinnamon Creek Drive  
Vienna, VA 22182  
Phone: 440-834-2633  
E-mail: [info@uuam.org](mailto:info@uuam.org)

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

## Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

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**Empowering  
individuals, chapters,  
and congregations to  
build justice and  
compassion for animals**

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



## Why UUAM?

Do you care about animals? Does your spirituality connect to the more-than-human world? Are you into wildlife, dogs, cats, humans, horses, pigs, leafy seadragons, Meatless Mondays, training service animals, rescuing raptors, trying vegetarianism, volunteering at shelters, saving endangered species, or protecting ecosystems?

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (UUAM) is a group of concerned Unitarian Universalists and friends who desire to express our faith, in part, through our compassion towards all beings.

We advocate greater moral consideration of animals not just for their sake, but for ours, knowing that our connection helps us live most fully, deeply, and authentically. This prophetic work can challenge the spirit! As we share our journeys, the way becomes easier.

## What Guides UUAM's Work?

**Four guiding values keep our efforts on track:**

- **Intersectionality** – Taking seriously the interactions of racial injustice, gender, poverty, class, ability, animal exploitation, environmental degradation and more, we seek to build a world that is more just, inclusive, and equitable.
- **Internationalism** – Based largely in North America, we serve Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists throughout the world.
- **Interfaith** – We value the work of other faith movements and collaborate to build wisdom and effectiveness.
- **Interdependence** –
  - **Ecologically**, we protect the integrity of the web of life that human and non-human animals share;
  - **Organizationally**, our board and chapters, each and all, partner in mutual support amidst our particular strengths and shortcomings;
  - **Individually**, our different perspectives, journeys, passions and commitments are gifts we respectfully share and gratefully receive.

## Forming a Local Chapter

UUAM chapters do animal ministry at the local level. Get listed on UUAM's website to help people (and other chapters) find and support your work.

**Why form a local UUAM Chapter?**

- To support deepening of UU faith;
- To encourage UU ministers, lay leaders, and congregants to open a dialogue about these challenging moral and religious issues;
- To inform people of conscience about the widespread abuse of animals;
- To incorporate humane education materials into religious education;
- To invite UU ministers to offer a sermon or a "Blessing of the Animals;"
- To develop social action programs;
- To encourage UUs and others to explore and adopt a more humane lifestyle, focusing on such matters as ethical consumerism, vegetarianism and veganism, the use of cruelty-free products and the development of alternatives to the use of animals in research and products testing;
- To organize fun and educational field trips, guest speakers, cooking classes, film series, nature cleanups, and more!

**For more examples of what UUAM chapters do, and to learn how to create a chapter, visit our website at [www.uuam.org](http://www.uuam.org).**

