To exercise empathy and compassion, kids will create a comic strip that identifies how an animal in a given scenario may be feeling and to imagine human action that would be helpful.

*Age level: 7 and up  *Estimated time to complete project: 15-45 mins

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

- 2 sheets of blank paper (at least 8x11”)
- Pencil
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Ruler (optional)

**STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS - PART 1**

**SELECT ONE SCENARIO TO FOCUS ON**

***The scenarios provided are not graphic or severe, but they are nonetheless examples of animals being harmed in some way – filter and edit scenarios for your child if needed.***

- A parrot is left abandoned in a house when its family moves out.
- A dog lives chained up in a backyard with no shelter from the hot sun.
- A turtle is forced to live in an aquarium that is too small for it.
- A cat is abandoned in a park when its owner decides they can’t keep it.
- An older dog is ignored when the family gets a new puppy.
- A kitten gets lost from its mother and siblings and is hiding under a porch.
- A horse is not fed properly and is severely underweight.
- A neighborhood cat is taunted and teased by the local kids and is living in fear.
- A hawk’s wing is broken and it cannot fly.
STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS - PART 2

Focus on your chosen scenario and consider the following questions:

- Why do you think this is happening?
- What does this animal need that they are not getting?
- What do you think this animal is feeling?
- Who can help them? Will that person be you? Someone else?

1. Make 4-6 boxes of equal size on your sheet of paper by either folding the paper or drawing lines directly onto it.
2. Using a pencil and a scratch sheet of paper, draft your story.
   a. What will happen in each scene?
   b. Who are the characters and what is the setting?
3. Map out your vision for the comic, box by box. Make sure you include a statement on what the animal is feeling.
4. Sketch out drawings and text for each box using a pencil.
5. Add color and final touches!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think people are cruel to animals?
- What can we do to bring awareness about animal cruelty/neglect?
- Why is it important to bring awareness about animal cruelty/neglect?
- How does it feel when you help an animal that needs it?
- What can you do in your daily life to help animals?