SAINT FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Prayer
Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Psalm 148
1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
2 Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
3 Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
4 Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
6 who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.
7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
10 wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
12 young men and maidens, old and young together.
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Blessing of Animals
Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals, and bless them as your own creation: (names of pets may be added here). Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world. Protect your creatures, and guard them from all evil, now and forever.
Amen.