**A BLESSING FOR ANIMALS**

**The Roman Ritual - The Book of Blessings** Approved for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America by the Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by the Apostolic See.

**942 According to the providence of the Creator, many animals have a certain role to play in human existence by helping with work or providing food and clothing. Thus when the occasion arises, for example, the feast of some saint, the custom of invoking God's blessing on animals may be continued.**

**Order of Blessing**

I**ntroductory Rites**

**Leader:**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

AMEN

**Leader:**

**May God who is wonderful in all his works, be with you all.**

**Leader:**

**949 - The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have part in human life. God who confers his gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them symbolic reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:9-10). The paschal lamb brings to mind the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt (Exodus 12:3-14); a giant fish saved Jonah (Jonah 2:1-11); ravens brought bread to Elijah (1Kings 17:6); animals were included in the repentance enjoined on humans (Jonah 3:7).  And animals share in Christ's redemption of all of God's creation. We therefore invoke the divine blessing on these animals through the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi. As we do let us praise the Creator and thank him for setting us over other creatures of the earth. Let us also ask him that, remembering our human dignity, we may walk always in his law.**

**Psalm 8**

**O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth.**

**O Lord, our Lord,
how glorious is you name over all the earth!
You have exalted your majesty above the heavens.**

**O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth.**

**When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place -
What is man that you should be mindful of him
or the son of man that you should care for him?**

**O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth.**

**You have given him rule over the works of your hands,
putting all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen
yes, and the beasts of the field.**

**O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth.**

**The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.**

**O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth.**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**O God,
the author and giver of every gift,
animals also are a part of the way you provide help
for our needs and labors.
We pray through the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi,
that you will make available for our use
the things we need to maintain a decent human life.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

THE BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

**955 After the prayer of blessing, as circumstances suggest,
the minister may sprinkle those present and the animals with holy water.**

"N.*(name of animal, i.e. "Smokey", not cat/dog)* may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and N. *(the name of the guardian)* enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you."

alternate form - useful for those of other faith traditions "N., may you be blessed in the Name of God who created you, and may you and N. (the guardian) enjoy life together with our God."

**Concluding Rite**

**May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us,
continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings,
now and forever.**

**AMEN**

**It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.**