

Editor:

Once again, the annual silliness known as "Blessing of the Animals" has come and gone.

Religious pet owners/guardians apparently believe that these rituals magically bestow some tangible benefits upon animals in their care.

Is there even a scintilla of evidence that this is true? Are blessed animals any happier or healthier than unblessed ones? Do they live longer?

Presumably, Chihuahuas or Irish Setters might be receptive to these Christian blessings. But what about Akitas? Perhaps Shinto chants would be more appropriate. Siamese cats are probably Buddhists. Russian Wolfhounds are no doubt Atheists, and after barking "Nyet! Nyet!", will most likely express their sentiments by offering the lifted-leg salute.

Owners are advised that all animals must be caged or leashed. The symbolism is apt--we wouldn't want any pets to escape forced religious indoctrination, whether they want it or not.

Sort of like children.

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