

Mercy to animals

A man entered Paradise for watering a thirsty dog. A woman entered the Fire for tying up a cat. The deen's measure on creatures.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 2363, Sahih Muslim 2244

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The man who gave the dog water

A man on a journey grew thirsty. He climbed into a well, drank, climbed out. He saw a dog panting from thirst. He said: this dog is as thirsty as I was. He climbed back down, filled his shoe with water, held it in his mouth, climbed out, gave the dog drink. Allah forgave him (Bukhari 2363).

2. The woman who imprisoned the cat

A woman was punished for a cat she tied up, neither feeding it nor releasing it to feed itself (Bukhari 3318). Cruelty to the smallest animal is named directly as a road to the Fire.

3. The standing rule

The companions asked: O Messenger of Allah, is there reward for us in animals? He said: in every living liver, a reward (Bukhari 2466). Every animal, every act of mercy to it, is recorded.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to mercy to animals.

Suggested closing: Look at the way the dog is being fed in your house, the way the cat is being cared for in the street. Allah records both directions.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

Prepared by Sumit Sharma for Barakah Life. Updated 2026-09-03.