

*Muslim Stories

MUHAMMAD - Friend of Animals

Key Ideas: Islam, respect for animals

The message which the Prophet Muhammad preached was that there was only one God and that man should be kind to one another, especially to orphans, widows and animals.

One day when he went into his house he saw his cat sleeping with her kittens on the cloak which he wanted to wear. Rather than disturb it Muhammad cut off the end of the cloak on which the cat was sleeping and wrapped what remained around his own shoulders.

Another time he was walking along one of the narrow streets of his town when a camel came running. People were panicking and rushing into doorways to escape its large hoofs and strong teeth. Muhammad was used to camels, before he became a prophet he had been a camel driver. He stopped the camel. The breathless owner came up to him, thanked him and was about to give the animal a beating.

“Why don’t you feed this camel properly? He is complaining that he is hungry. Camels don’t run away if they are properly treated”. The man was rather shocked but he admitted that he had been wrong. He realised that the camel wasn’t only there to be his servant, it was also an animal which had to be cared for.

From Religion in the Multi-faith School. W. Owen Cole