

Reading Passage

Saving the Animals

In the early 2000s, Julie O'Connor's third-grade class at Public School 48 in New York City held a bake sale. The students raised \$266 from the sale. They gave the money to help the animals at the Kabul Zoo. "The kids were excited to help the zoo's animals," O'Connor said.



Leigh Haeger

Afghanistan on the globe.

Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan, a country in Asia. Afghanistan has suffered from years of war. Bombs and bullets have destroyed some parts of the Kabul Zoo. Many animals at the zoo and in the city died or were injured in the fighting.

Traveling to Kabul

An **international**¹ group of zoos, led by the North Carolina Zoo, raised more than \$500,000 for the animals of Kabul. A team of scientists and **veterinarians**² traveled to Kabul. The team took food, medicine, and supplies to help the animals.



Leigh Haeger

Afghanistan on the map.

The team members repaired the zoo's cages and pens. They also treated injured zoo animals, including monkeys, antelopes, gazelles, and a black bear.

After finishing at the zoo, the team members helped some of the animals owned by people in Kabul. They treated horses, mules, sheep, rabbits, and oxen, for example. Many Kabul residents were depending on, and continue to depend on, animals for work and food.

The people of Kabul were thankful that the students of Public School 48 and others helped the zoo animals. "The reality is that they're proud of the zoo, and they want to rebuild it. And we will help them," said one of the team members.

¹ **international:** involving two or more countries

² **veterinarians:** people that treat diseases and injuries in animals