



# OHS HUMANE EDUCATION

# NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Well-Being



DECEMBER Animal Holidays

- Christmas Bird Count Week 12/11/23-1/5/24
- World Wildlife Conservation Day 12/4
- International Animal Rights Day 12/10
- National Day of Animal Rights 12/10
- Holiday Food Drive for Needy Animals Day 12/11
- National Day of the Horse 12/13

DECEMBER 2023

## ANIMAL NEWS

## A CLOSER LOOK

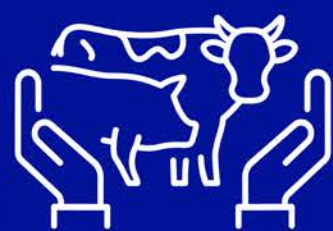
DECEMBER 10

### INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS DAY!

#### Current Animal Rights Issues

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/animal-rights/442497>

- Animals Used for Food
- Animals Used for Clothing
- Animals Used for Entertainment
- Animals Used for Experiments
- Treatment of Companion Animals
- Wildlife & Habitat Conservation



### HOW TO HELP THE ANIMALS! MAKE SURE YOUR PETS ENJOY THE FIVE FREEDOMS



**FOOD & WATER:**  
Freedom from hunger and thirst



**A NICE PLACE TO SLEEP AND PLAY**  
Freedom from discomfort



**VETERINARY CARE:**  
Freedom from pain, injury or disease



**LOVE & COMFORT:**  
Freedom from fear or distress



**PLACES TO PLAY AND LEARN:**  
Freedom to express normal behavior



Page from *Why Be Kind?* by Ohlone Humane Society, 2022 in the Humane Education E-Library.  
(<https://ohlonehumaneeducation.org/humane-education-e-books/>)

## Explaining Animal Rights to Children

Discussing animal cruelty with adults can be a sensitive subject, and even more so with children. Just as each adult has different opinions and reactions to animal care, each child may react differently as well, and caution and sensitivity to their reactions are important. Those experienced in teaching animal cruelty propose that children under 4 years old should not be exposed to animal cruelty because of the impact that may have on the child's attitudes towards violence. However, children as young as 2 years old can learn how to handle pet animals carefully, not pull fur and tails, and understand what makes the animal happy; for example, training with treats, gentle play, and exercise times, and most importantly, adult and family attitudes. Young children may need help when handling and petting animals, for their protection and for the animal's since fine motor control and a child's unpredictable behavior can be factors. With all children, especially the youngest, it will be helpful to guide hands and always be present during animal interactions so children can learn how to safely and lovingly pet and hold their animal companions.

Below are suggested activities by age range recommended by the Colorado Link Project (<https://coloradolinkproject.com/>) that is dedicated to education about the link between animal welfare and the development of human violence.

#### Children Ages: 2-3 Years Old

Children this age react to how others behave. Ask the child how they would feel if they were treated the way they treat their pets. Is there something they do or have seen that might hurt their pet? How would they feel if they were a bird or an animal they have seen out in the community? What would make them happy? Sad?

#### Children Ages: 4-6 Years Old

At this age, children are believed to show an understanding of basic moral concepts, such as being fair. If their family treats their pet as having done something good, the child can learn that being good deserves kindness. Children may also be aware of injured animals or punishment and may want to discuss their own injuries, but it is recommended that discussions of animal cruelty be limited to the simple fact that animals can be hurt and avoid causes like starvation or physical abuse.

#### Children Ages 6-10 Years Old

At these ages, children can see how some people are mean to animals or hurt an animal. Discussions can be directed away from "morbid curiosity" that some children of this age may have. Behaviorists believe that even if children witness violence as a "bad example" or as a way NOT to act, they are still witnessing violence, and can be strongly affected by it.



#### Children Ages 10 to 14 Years Old

Children at these ages are "exploring their self-image and reflecting upon their relationships with others. Studies indicate that children of this age are still strongly affected by violence, so discussions about animal cruelty should still be kept free of details about the violence. Nonetheless, the issue can be raised directly—if delicately—with most of these children. Adults should make it clear that they do not condone violence in their own thoughts and behavior. Children of this age are finely attuned to the words and actions of adults, and still rely on them as role models." Ask students how they would act if they saw their friends or someone in their friend's family treating animals in a way they thought was cruel. By discussing what they would do if placed in a given situation, children may overcome peer pressure and follow what they know is right. "These children may encounter others abusing animals—knowing that they are in the right and will be supported for standing up to it is very important at this age of strong peer pressure."

#### Children 14 and Older

Older teens may have a clear understanding of the appropriate behaviors. If their family is fearful of animals, finds them distasteful, or treats animals cruelly or as unfeeling items, even older children will probably think that this is right and the behavior they should develop. The more a child identifies with an adult, the greater an impact that person will have on the child. Children who witness or learn of animal cruelty should tell an adult about it and learn how to promote animal rights. Make sure children know how to report animal cruelty as they develop into responsible citizens of the community.

## AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

### Role Playing for Animal Awareness

#### Scenario: Dog In Hot Car from the National Humane Education Society

It's summer and you are about to enjoy an afternoon at the park with a few of your friends and your family.

Your family has parked the car and are walking towards the park when you notice a dog panting in a locked car.

The windows are cracked. You cannot see the owners.

- Option A: Keep walking to the beach. It's none of your business.
- Option B: Have two of your friends stay with the vehicle and call 911 to report a dog trapped in a hot car.

Send an adult and friend to the park visitor center to notify the park workers.

Air	Inside Car 10 min	Inside Car 20 min	Inside Car 30 min
70 °F	89 °F	99 °F	104 °F
80 °F	99 °F	109 °F	114 °F
90 °F	109 °F	109 °F	124 °F

#### Discussion: Dog In Hot Car from the National Humane Education Society

Leaving a dog in a car on a warm day, even with the windows cracked, is extremely dangerous. Even when the outdoor temperature is a breezy 70 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle can climb to over 100 degrees in about 30 minutes. An animal left in these conditions is likely to succumb to heat stroke, and eventually death. Because of the danger, leaving a dog in a hot car is a criminal offense in many jurisdictions. If you see an animal unattended in a car on a warm day, call 911 and remain with the vehicle.