



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare

LAST ISSUE OF THE TERM

APRIL
Animal Holidays

Bat Appreciation Week - April 6-12
National Wildlife Week - April 5-9
Be Kind to Spiders Week - April 6-12
National Therapy Animal Day - April 30
National Animal Advocacy Day - April 30

APRIL 2025

2ND ANNUAL OHS CLEAN UP THE SCHOOLYARD FOR EARTH DAY! APRIL 22

AWARENESS FUN FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

ACTIVITY: Suggested by a teacher at Gomes School, join OHS and the world to celebrate **EARTH DAY** on **TUESDAY, APRIL 22** (or every day) when the world comes together for the love of the planet. Teachers ask students to either pick up or identify objects of trash around the schoolyard or school grounds for 5-15 minutes, count and identify the items, report numbers, and then **WRITE** or **DRAW** if the items can be recycled, upcycled, composted, or go in the landfill.

Discuss which animals might live in and be helped by your students cleaning up their habitat. Send your count and drawings or photos to humane_education@ohlonehumanesociety.org and we will post the photos on our website and email you a participation certificate!



HOW DOES EARTH DAY HELP ANIMALS?

importance of Animals for Earth Day

Although Earth Day is often thought of as addressing the issues of climate change and pollution abatement, it's important to acknowledge **the role that animals play in keeping our environment healthy and balanced**. While most of us recognize that trash and garbage cause unsanitary conditions and attract wild animals, including household pests and rodents, there is less recognition that trash destroys larger animal habitats on land and water!

It seems like we hear more frequently that a certain animal population has decreased, migration numbers are lower than they have ever been for some species, and other species have been added to the endangered lists. Plus, do you think it seems like we have more wild animals entering human habitats looking for water, food and nesting sites – perhaps right in your own backyard?

We receive a significant amount of information about plastics and recycling, but we are still learning about the impact and growing concerns about microplastics and other forms of human-made materials that are being discovered inside more marine and land animals, as well as harming plant life that are the basics for food sources for humans, local wildlife, and our pets.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) [explains](#), "Animals aren't just bystanders when it comes to the environment. Too often, we recognise that animals are harmed by the effects of climate change, but we miss the crucial roles that they play in maintaining the health of our planet. Animals impact the environment on a number of levels—from acting as ecosystem engineers to pollinating plants and even providing much of the oxygen that we breathe. We should not be focusing only on protecting our animal species but also on helping them thrive in their natural habitats so they can carry out their critical climate functions."

Importance of Earth Day for Animals

- Plant native plant species in your yard to decrease use of pesticides and water to sustain and protect animals feeding on them. Plant species to attract wildlife and pollinators.
- Contribute to citizen/community science projects in progress such as NestWatch, BirdCount, Journey North migrations, or Milkweed project among others.
- Clean up animal habitats so they can propagate in a healthier climate.
- Research and locate areas of habitat loss and work on restoring with local groups; study conservation methods for your own neighborhood.

Last Issue of the Term & Renewal for Kind News Subscriptions

The April newsletter is the last issue of the term. If you are a **classroom teacher** who subscribes to *Kind News*, you should receive a renewal email next month. For new subscribers starting next September, please see the [OHS Humane Education webpage](#) to sign up!