

Resources for Teachers and Classroom Presenters

Information about Humane Education Programs from Their Websites

[Int'l. Fund for Animal Welfare](#)

This is the educational site of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

IFAW offers a wide variety of free thematic education packs including teaching guides, lessons, worksheets, videos, and interactive activities aligned with core curricula.

Teachers Lesson Plans and Resources



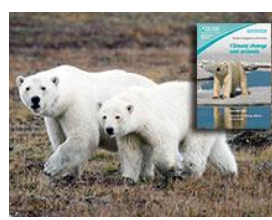
[Keep Wild Animals Wild](#) - 3 levels of lesson plans: K-2, 3-5, 6-8.

[Climate Change and Animals](#) - middle and secondary school student levels. 3 Brochures.

[Cats, Dogs, and Us](#) - 3 levels of lesson plans: K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Brochures & Posters.

[Big Trunks, Tiny Tales](#) - designed for K-2. Videos, Action Plans. Student Magazine. Elephants.

[Elephants, Never Forget](#) - for grades 3 to 8. Videos, Brochures, Posters, Action Plans.



[Born to Be Wild](#) - save the tigers. Elementary and middle grades. Illustrated brochure.

[Under One Sky](#) - explores the many ways that animals matter. Grades 3-4, 5-9. Illustrated brochures, lesson plans.

[Beneath the Waves](#) - dives deep into the world under the seas, exploring whales and other marine wildlife. Grades 3-4, 5-9. Illustrated brochures, plans.

[To the Rescue](#) – animal rescues in disaster situations. Grades 5-9, Brochures, videos.

[Making Waves for Seals](#) - elementary and middle school grades.

Each of these topics contain lesson / teaching plans appropriate to the children’s age and grade level. The students section (below) has age-appropriate discussion of many of the same topics that students could access “on their own.”

Resources for Students. Flyers, Activities, Collectable Cards.

An Elephant’s World

Life on the Ice

A Dog’s World

Amazing Whales

Wild About Tigers

A Penguin’s World

[American Anti-Vivisection Society](#) [Animalearn.org](#)

The educational arm of the American Anti-vivisection Society. Focuses on alternatives to the use of animals in education, e.g. alternatives to dissection.

“Animalearn provides a whole host of resources for educators and students at no cost. Our programs are suitable for a variety of educational levels, including K-12, college/university, and veterinary/medical. We offer humane education curricula and educational kits that cover issues ranging from dissection to product testing. Educators and students can also choose from a large variety of books, brochures, videos, and more, many of which are available for free.”

“Animalearn has created [The Science Bank](#), **our lending program of new and innovative life science software and educational product** that enable educators and students to learn anatomy, physiology, and psychology lessons without harming animals, themselves, or the Earth. Our loan program has been offering products to thousands of people for over a decade.”

“Animalearn conducts free workshops for educators on how to implement our various programs and products in the classrooms, and we also deliver presentations to students and student organizations. Animalearn frequently delivers presentations to classrooms, which serve to foster an awareness of and a respect for animals and others.”

[Program of Red Rover](#)

RedRover is an animal welfare group with programs in disaster animal rescue and help for pet owners in need. It also has a strong humane education activity through the RedRover Readers Program and the student newsletter [Kind News](#). It provides educators the tools they need to teach children [empathy skills](#). Through stories, children’s awareness of emotions and others’ perspectives expands, inspiring them to make the world a better place. “We help animals in crisis and protect

and strengthen the bond between people and animals through emergency sheltering, disaster relief services, financial assistance and education.”

The innovative RedRover Readers curriculum enables educators to teach empathy while at the same time helping students make responsible decisions and become more aware of themselves and their communities. Teachers choose from pre-selected books and then facilitate discussions using our strategies, which also meet Common Core and social and emotional learning competencies. It is a unique program in the humane education community.

STEP 01 Read

Educators choose from a list of high-quality children’s picture books and present one to a group of children ages 5 to 11, asking thoughtful questions before, during and after the reading.

STEP 02 Discuss

Highly engaging, open-ended discussion techniques and questions help students see and share different perspectives and become aware of themselves within a relationship.

STEP 03 Activity

After the reading and discussion, students take part in projects that reinforce concepts — such as trust, respect and friendship — that they discussed during the story. Activities include science, art and role-play.

Red Rover also publishes a quarterly [Teacher’s Humane Education Newsletter](#) and has an illustrated flyer of the books suggested for its Reader’s Program as well as an extensive list of children’s books with humane themes. It has a Training program to help teachers and volunteers learn the RedRover Readers method for humane education.



[Institute for Humane Education](#)

This is the website for the **Institute for Humane Education** founded by educator Zoe Weil. Based in Surry, Maine, but operating over the entire country, it offers a wide variety of resources and

training for humane educators as well as teacher resources, activity and lesson plans, books, and videos.

IHE works to create a better world by:

- offering people the opportunity to accelerate and deepen their change making skills through accredited online **graduate programs, individual online courses, and in-person workshops.**
- providing educators, activists, and compassionate citizens with free and easy online **access to thousands of relevant resources.**
- advocating, writing, and speaking widely, so that as many individuals and influencers as possible know about humane education and our work.
- working to redefine the purpose of ed
- Education through solutions-focused initiatives, including our [Solutionary Program](#).

1) Graduate humane education online courses are fully accredited and offered through and affiliation with Valparaiso University.

- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Humane Education (36 credits)**
- **Master of Arts (M.A.) in Humane Education (36 credits)**
- **Concentration in Humane Education for the M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership (15 credits)**
- **Concentration in Humane Education for the M.A. in Liberal Studies (15 credits)**
- **Graduate Certificate in Humane Education (either stand-alone or added to an existing degree) (15 credits)**

2) [Solutionary Program](#). A **solutionary** is a person who identifies problems, and their underlying systems, and then develops solutions that are just, humane, and sustainable for people, animals, and the environment, and who strives to make personal choices and to support systems that do the most good and least harm for all.

It is an academic program that provides a framework and process for students to make a meaningful difference in their schools, communities, and the world in ways that are just, humane, and sustainable.

Through the program, students (usually working in teams) select a problem to solve, conduct research, and then develop, refine, and implement a solution. The solution must address the root systems that cause the problem and do the most good and least harm for people, animals, and the environment.

The program culminates in an event at which students present their solutions to an audience that includes policy-makers, stakeholders, and media, who can spread their ideas.

Ideal for middle and high school learning environments, the program can be **integrated** into core curriculum, created as an **elective**, or used in an **after-school or club setting**.

3) IHE has an [extensive resource center](#) for teachers offering lesson plans and student activities, books, pamphlets, websites, smartphone apps, videos and movies, and resources in multiple languages. Activities, plans, and other resources are available for all age groups.

Resources cover a wide range of animal welfare- and animal rights-related issues:
activism, animal protection, energy, environment, food and diet, health, human rights, humane education and humane living, language arts, math, media and culture, parenting, peace, science, and history.

[United Federation of Teachers/Humane Education Committee](#)

The [United Federation of Teachers’ Humane Education Committee \(UFT/HEC\)](#) was formed in April 1989. Since that time, it has offered conferences and workshops for teachers at all levels – in grades pre-K to 12 – as well as science and essay contests for students. The goal is to help educators bring humane, environmental and animal-rights philosophies and materials into their classrooms as a source of information for discussion and debate and to help both educators



and students better understand how their daily choices affect the environment, animals and other people.

UFT/HEC offers teacher training workshops, lesson plans and other resources designed to assist educators in developing classroom programs dealing with a wide variety of topics including: companion animals; “wild” or free-roaming animals; the use of animals in education or research and alternatives to this practice; farmed animals; nutrition emphasizing plant-based food choices; environmental and human rights issues; a healthy, compassionate lifestyle; and the relationship between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans.

Humane education materials are readily blended with reading, writing, science, music and art programs. During the school year, the committee also offers essay and humane science contests for elementary, middle and high school students.

As an example of resources available through UFT, the following website contains activities, lesson plans, and discussions on many animal and environment-related topics.

<http://www.uft.org/files/attachments/humane-ed-resource-guide.pdf>

It is a 171-page resource compendium entitled *Humane Education Resource Guide* created by the UFT with the ASPCA and HEART (Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers) with contributions from several animal welfare groups as well.

The [Humane Education Resource Guide](#) is very comprehensive with many H.E. topics appropriate for grades K – 6, and is a particularly convenient resource for teachers with time limits who want to try adding some humane education discussions into their classrooms.

LESSONS

Companion Animal Issues

- Animals and Humans Have Similar Basic Needs (Grades Pre-K - 1)
- Companion Animal Care: Fostering a Responsible Attitude to Guardianship (Grades Pre-K – 1)
- Pet Overpopulation (Grades K – 2), (Grades 3 – 5)
- Animal Shelters in Society (grades K – 5)
- Animal Compassion (Grades 4 – 5)
- Laws That Protect Animals

Wildlife Issues

- Pigeons in the City (Grades Pre-K – 1)
- Animals in Our Urban Environment (Grades Pre-K – 1)
- Wild Animals Do Not Make Good Pets (Grades K – 2)
- Insect Rescue (Grades K – 2)
- Monkeys and Apes (Grades 2 – 4)
- Why Are They Endangered? (Grades 3 – 5)
- Bird Observation Experiment (Grades 3 – 5)
- Bird Watching as an Alternative to Chick Hatching (Grades 4 – 6)
- Animals in Entertainment (Grades 3 – 6)
- A Whale’s Stomach (Grades 4 – 6)
- Amazing Geese (Grades 4 – 6)
- Animal Rights (Grades 5 – 6)

Farmed Animals and Food Issues

- Your Food (Grades K – 2)
- Exploring Good Food Habits (Grades 2 – 3)
- Barnyard Gossip (Grades 3 – 5)
- Studying Human Nutrition (Grade 6)
- Farm Sanctuary Selection
- New York Coalition for Healthy Food Choices

[HEART \(Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers\)](#)

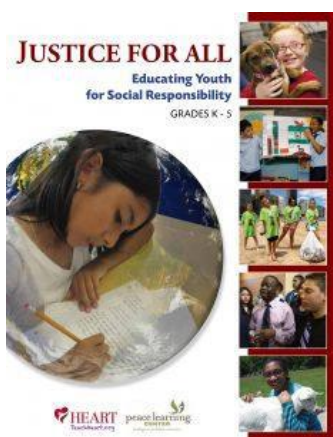
“HEART’s services are specially designed to provide a combined focus on human rights, animal protection and environmental preservation. Our direct services to educators and students, as well as our advocacy efforts, enable us to significantly impact the way young people think about their responsibility to one another, animals and the natural world. By linking our age-appropriate instructional program to our service-based learning program, we give students the tools to make positive changes. We are the only full-service provider of humane education in the New York City, Chicago, Indianapolis and Portland (Oregon) areas and we offer our services at no cost to public schools and non-profit agencies.”

“HEART and the Peace Learning Center partnered to create the Justice for All resource guide to help K-5 educators teach youth about social responsibility. The content supports social-

emotional growth, delving deeply into real world topics related to diverse human, animal, and environmental topics. This 300-page guide contains 31 engaging, standards-aligned activities and lessons with all student materials included and ready to use. We hope this resource will help educators, in both traditional and non-traditional settings, empower youth to gain a deeper understanding of pressing contemporary issues that impact us and confront them using empathy, critical thought, and innovation.”

“HEART sponsors community-wide competitions in Compassionate Communities, on-line games for students with humane themes, summer programs for youngsters, training and workshops in humane education for teachers with professional development credits, and attended and presented at various professional conferences, particularly those that are animal and humane-related.”

“HEART also has a webinar library. Our bimonthly webinar series has been going strong and we now have an extensive free webinar library archived on our website at teachheart.org/webinars. Some of our topics include: teaching compassion for animals; making Earth Day education every day; service learning for elementary students; humane education clubs; humane literature; the political climate and our youth; and fostering empathy and humane behavior.”

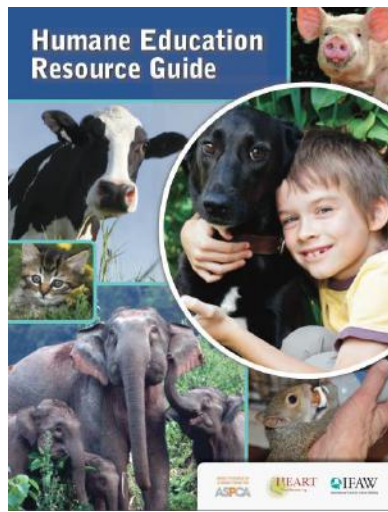


“HEART and the Peace Learning Center have partnered to create this humane education guide to help educate youth for social responsibility. Humane education addresses human rights, animal protection, environmental ethics, and the ways in which these areas are interconnected. By allowing students to earn crucial information and develop solutions for many of the modern issues facing our world, humane education promises to usher in a global community that is prepared to make the planet a more peaceful and sustainable place. This guide contains lessons for students in grades K-5 (the middle school curriculum coming soon). All lessons are aligned to Common Core Standards as well as ISTE technology integration standards.”

HEART also has created an extensive [resource guide](#) with lesson plans and activities. This guide is a major resource for teachers wishing to incorporate humane education in their classes. It is designed for grades K – 12.

“We all know that children love animals, and that teaching kids about animal-related issues can be a great way to develop more caring and compassionate students. That’s why HEART, in collaboration with the ASPCA and IFAW, created this resource guide filled with 40 lessons and activities on issues like companion animal overpopulation, urban wildlife, endangered species, animal emotions, factory farming and animal testing. Youth learn about the topics, and find out how they can take action to make the world a better place for all life on earth.

This guide contains lessons for students in grades K – 12 (each lesson is aligned to the Common Core Standards) and activities that can be conducted both in school settings as well as more nontraditional out-of-school venues like community centers, libraries or camps.”



Grades K-2.

Activities

Circle of Caring.

Make A Puppy Face

Happy Pet Environments

Catnip Toy and Dog Kong

Nonfiction Stories

Lesson Plans.

Communication and Empathy.

Companion Animal Advocates.

Help Me Find A Home.

Moo, Oink, Cluck

Urban Wildlife

Grades 3-5.

Activities

Circle of Compassion

Helping Homeless Animals

Clean It Up!

Humane Message Stickers

Lesson Plans

Animals: It's Their World Too

Animal Communication

Animal Investigators

A Happy Home for Every Dog and Cat

Friends on the Farm

Wildlife Under Fire

Grades 6-8

Activities

Puppy Mills Exposed

My Story: How Did I Get Here?

Finding Your Match

Humane Map

Humane Movie Review

Lesson Plans

How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?
How Much Is The Cost Of Care?
Don't Test On Me
Behind Closed Doors
What's Your View?

Grades 9 – 12

Activities

A Day In The Life
Attitudes Toward Animals
Letter Writing

Lesson Plans

Can Anyone Be A Hero?
Understanding Habitats
The Omnivore's Debate
Clothing: The Tough Choices
When Does Animal Use Become Animal Abuse?
Looking At the Root
Standing Up For Animal Rights

Wayside Waifs

Wayside Waifs is an animal shelter in Kansas City but has a unique and very effective humane education program, reaching many thousands of children in grades 2-5 each year but soon to be expanded to K-2 grades as well. The program, begun in 2004, is known as [No More Bullying](#), and is specifically designed to reduce human violence and animal cruelty by teaching children respect for others, including non-humans, while eliminating bullying in schools.

From their website:

While [No More Bullying](#) is not the first bullying prevention curriculum on the market, we believe it has the potential to be one of the most effective. Wayside Waifs wants to be part of the team that creates a positive learning environment for students that is bully and violence free. One chilling statistic is the majority of students who committed school shootings have a history that includes animal cruelty and animal violence. **Having a companion animal in the classroom changes the dynamic, students are learning to convey the significance of treating all living beings with care.** No More Bullying inspires the students to embrace empathy for all living beings and become valuable contributors within their community. In 2016, we were asked to come back to 85% of schools in 2017. With the recent implementation of the No More Bullying Pilot Program (Kindergarten-2nd grade) in 2016, we hope to reach 2,820 students in 2017. "This program was one of the best resources our school has ever implemented." - Paul, 4th grade teacher.

Wayside Waifs implements 7 educational programs offered for elementary age students. Dog Safety, Activating Empathy, Once Upon a Time, and Kids in Action are just a few to name. The crux of our Humane Education programming is No More Bullying. The connection between the various forms of violence has been extensively studied and researched. Wayside wants to prevent animal abuse and

abuse towards humans. To do this, Wayside created No More Bullying 13 years ago, reaching tens of thousands students with this violence prevention program. Wayside Waifs wants to be part of the team that creates a positive learning environment for students that is bully and violence free. One chilling statistic is the majority of students who committed school shootings have a history that includes animal cruelty and animal violence. Having a companion animal in the classroom changes the dynamic, students are learning to convey the significance of treating all living beings with care.



The connection between the various forms of violence has been extensively studied and researched. This research has found*:

- Children who abuse animals often have experienced abuse or neglect.
- When children abuse animals it is likely a precursor to future violence.
- There is a direct link between school-age students who practice bullying and adult perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Most teen school shooters have a history of abusing animals.
- Many people incarcerated for violent offenses to people report abusing animals as part of their first experiences with violence.
- The majority of families experiencing domestic violence report their family pet was also abused by the perpetrator of violence.
- Virtually all serial killers report tormenting and abusing animals early in life.

People, abused by people, often abuse animals. People who abuse animals often also abuse people. And so the cycle goes.

[Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots](#)

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall, *Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots* is a youth service program for young people of all ages. Its mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, other animals, and the environment.

Leaders from the playground to the boardroom hold the key to shaping the world. To make the world a better place, we have to change the way we make decisions. We need leaders who care about how their actions affect the world we all share. Roots & Shoots empowers young people to become the type of leaders who will make right choices to build a better world. The Roots & Shoots program allows young people, or people of any age, to join or start their own community-oriented programs to benefit animals, people, and the environment. Programs are designed to build compassion and character, developing future leaders.



Curriculum Based Service Learning Lesson Plans

It also offers classroom lesson plans for elementary, middle, and secondary school grade levels.

Use these sample lesson plans independently or alongside the Roots & Shoots Formula Toolkit. These lesson plans have been aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

	Animal Community	Human Community	Environment
Elementary	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan
Middle School	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan
High School	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan	PDF, Lesson Plan

Roots & Shoots also has other tools for educators including the ability to invite a guest speaker to classrooms via Skype from experienced young people, part of Roots & Shoots National Youth Leadership Council. This extraordinary group of young people can help to introduce Roots & Shoots to your students and share their own project's successes and challenges. Members of the NYLB can present their experiences and be the youth voice to help inspire your students by talking about the impressive work they are doing to help their communities and people, animals, and the environment.

[PETA's Humane Education Dept., "TeachKind"](#)

PETA has an extensive humane education activity with resources and information on almost any and all animal issues one can imagine. The resources are divided into grade levels and teachers/humane educators have a wide variety of choices of topics within each grade level. They also have several full-time humane educators willing and anxious to help interested parties in starting or advancing humane education activities.

From Peta's website:

Welcome to [TeachKind](#), PETA's humane-education division! We're here to help schools and educators promote kindness and compassion for animals through free lesson plans, classroom presentations, materials, advice, online resources, and more. Teaching kids to have empathy for *all* beings is a big step toward building a better, more compassionate world. Check out TeachKind's [resources](#) and start teaching animal rights now!

We work with hundreds of teachers and school staff across the country to help them incorporate humane education into their lesson plans, start animal-rights clubs, replace animal dissection with humane alternatives, get healthy vegan options in their cafeterias, and more.

We provide schools with free educational materials and even host classroom presentations on many different animal rights issues. Whether you want to get your entire school district to ban field trips to the circus or just want some information on teaching kids about vegan eating, TeachKind is here to answer your questions and provide free resources so that you can make a difference for animals.

We know that educators have the power to plant seeds that can grow into a passion for helping others, so we want to make humane education easy. We hope that with TeachKind, you'll find what you need to bring animal rights into your school!

In addition to providing you with great online resources, we're also available to speak at your school! If you're located in Southern California or the Bay Area, we can appear in person—and if not, we can arrange to give a presentation via Skype!

All of our presentations are based on age and grade level, and we'll work with you on any issue that you feel passionate about bringing into the classroom—from the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals to all the reasons why students should never go to a circus that uses animals.



Debate Kit: Should Animals Be Used in Experiments



What Winter Is Like When You're a Backyard Dog



An Elephant's Life

Lessons Designed for Elementary and Middle School Levels (up to grade 6):

- Amazing Arctic Animals. Printable Mini Book and Activity
- Grammar Packet: Compassionate Nouns and Verbs Worksheets
- Valentine’s Day Activity: What Do Animals Love?
- Black History Month Activities: Celebrate Civil Rights Leaders Who Have Stood Up for Humans AND Other Animals
- What Winter Is Like When You’re a ‘Backyard Dog’
- Nouns: Animals Don’t Belong in the ‘Thing’ Category
- Activity: Santa’s First Vegan Christmas
- Truly Awesome Turkeys: A Thanksgiving Lesson
- Make Math Fun (and Tasty!) With Vegan Food Manipulatives
- Community Helpers Can Be Heroes for Animals, Too! (Grades Pre-K–1)
- Tilikum: Casualty of Confinement (Grades 3–5)
- Orcas Belong in the Ocean (Grades K-2)
- Woody: A Survivor’s Story (Grades 3-5, English and Spanish)
- Not Just Part of the Flock! (Grades K-2, English and Spanish)
- Humane Science Lessons for Teachers
- Teach Compassion With TeachKind’s ‘Share the World’
- How Littering Hurts Animals
- Send Love to Orcas This Valentine’s Day
- Learning Compassion From Martin Luther King Jr. (K–6)
- Activities and Essays for Elementary and Middle School Students
- Humane Science Projects
- It’s Raining Cats and Dogs!
- Create Your Own Animal Masks
- Thanksgiving Class Project: Give Turkeys a Hand!
- An Elephant’s Life
- A Rat’s Life
- A Chicken’s Life
- A Cow’s Life
- Animals Don’t Belong in Labs
- ‘We’re All Animals’ Coloring Sheets
- How Your School Can Help Chained Dogs
- Where Do Eggs Come From? (Kindergarten–5th Grade)
- ‘Let’s Ask the Animals’ (Video)
- ‘Don’t Be a Woolly Bully’ Lesson Plan (Video)
- ‘Help Tilly the Orca’ (Video)
- FREE TeachKind Materials

Lessons Designed for Secondary School Levels (6,7 - 12):

- Debate Kit: Should Animals Be Used in Experiments?
- Captivity Kills—SeaWorld Exposed (Grades 6–12)
- From Sheep to Sweater—the True Cost of Wool (Grades 6–12, English and Spanish)
- Humane Science Lessons for Teachers
- Help Free Chimpanzees Tootie, Louie, and Joe
- How Littering Hurts Animals
- Animal Rights and Women’s Rights (VIDEO)
- Remembering Martin Luther King Jr. (Grades 7–12)
- Chew on This: Reasons to Go Vegetarian (Video)
- Research and Discussion Topics for High School Students
- Conflict Resolution
- Humane Science Projects

- Making Kind Choices: Animal Testing
- ‘Their Future in Your Hands’ (Video)
- How Your School Can Help Chained Dogs
- Wool Is Cruel: The Truth About Wool (Video)
- Where Do Eggs Come From? (Grades 6–12)
- Help Homeless Animals in Shelters (Video)
- Ask SeaWorld to Release Its Prisoners!
- FREE TeachKind Materials

In addition to lesson plans designed for humane education presentations, PETA has extensive libraries on many other animal topics: dissection and alternatives, diet and health, factory farming, wildlife issues such as hunting and poaching, trapping, feral cats, circuses, zoos, marine mammals, fish and aquaculture, dogs, cats, horses, and many more.

[Mutt-i-grees](#)

Building Calm, Confident and Caring Kids. The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum

An innovative [PreK-12 social and emotional learning curriculum](#) that highlights the unique characteristics of shelter pets to teach essential skills for academic and life success. Guided by the research on resiliency, social and emotional learning, and human-animal interaction, the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum includes lesson plans and strategies to actively engage students and promote social and emotional competence, academic achievement, and awareness of the needs of shelter pets, also known as Mutt-i-grees. The programs have reached 3 million kids in 4000 schools across the country.



Curricula are available for grades [K-3](#), [4-6](#), [7-8](#), and [9-12](#).

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum teaches social and emotional skills and is unique in its bridging of humane education and the emerging field of [Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\)](#). SEL is based on the research on emotional intelligence and is the process by which students learn to manage their emotions, get along with others, acquire empathy and compassion, and discover essential decision-making and teamwork skills.

In a series of easily implemented lessons, students learn critical skills that will help them in their interactions with people (and animals) in school, at home, and later on in the workplace. The

lessons are presented in five units: Achieving Awareness, Finding Feelings, Encouraging Empathy, Cultivating Cooperation, and Dealing with Decisions.

Each lesson is scripted to enable easy implementation and includes various different types of activities. Depending on students' developmental level and their own teaching styles, teachers may select from discussions, role playing and hands-on activities, or they may use the readings and vocabulary words highlighted in each lesson plan. Song and dance, art, and writing activities provide opportunities for creative expression and collaboration.

Outcome studies have been conducted with more than 800 students in schools in rural and low-income urban communities. The studies randomly assigned some classrooms to receive the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum and included student and educator surveys on school climate, as well as behavior, empathy, and parent involvement measures. Comparing students in classrooms using the Curriculum with students in non-Curriculum classrooms, we found:

- Significantly higher understanding of shelter dogs and dog behavior among teachers and students in classrooms using the Curriculum;
- Significantly higher levels of empathy and pro-social behaviors among students and
- Higher levels of positive school climate (linked to bullying prevention) and parent involvement.

More than 3 million students and their families in more than 4,000 schools, libraries, and afterschool programs have been touched by this unique curriculum, which prides itself on building calm, caring, confident kids.

[National Humane Education Society](#)

Based in West Virginia, NHES is involved in several animal welfare activities as well as humane education, including animal rescue and adoption services. They advertise free Humane Ed programs nation-wide. They also offer brochures, posters, and a Teaching Kindness Handbook.

From the website:

The National Humane Education Society (NHES) offers *free* humane education programs for schools, churches, clubs, libraries and other venues serving children across the United States.

What is Humane Education? Meet Our Humane Educators

Learn about the goals of humane education and about the members of the NHES Humane Education Department.

Request Humane Education Presentations

NHES offers free humane education programs and assemblies to schools across the United States.

Request Humane Education Materials

NHES offers brochures on various animal welfare topics, NHES calendars, and humane education lesson plans for parents and teachers.

Recommended Reading List

Our humane educators have compiled a list of reading materials that cover a wide variety of animal welfare issues.

Activities for Children

NHES facilitates humane learning activities for children at The Briggs Animal Adoption Center, located on the NHES Campus.

Humane Education Lesson Plans

Our humane educators have put together a number of creative activities to help children learn about animal welfare in a fun and engaging way. Every NHES lesson plan includes a material list and step-by-step instructions on how to complete the activity from start to finish.

“We live in proximity and share space with animals, partner beings in our community. We need to be mindful of their presence, respect their lives, and be considerate of their existence. Our compassion for and care for them is the right thing to do.”

About our “Kindness in the Classroom” Humane Education Presentations

“Kindness in the Classroom” is NHES’ free interactive humane education presentation offered to schools nationwide. Our standard program lasts between 30-45 minutes and is designed for students in Kindergarten through 5th grades. “Kindness in the Classroom” addresses:

- Meeting the basic needs of companion animals
- Ways to interact with pets safely and responsibly
- The importance of showing kindness and respect to animals

Our programs are free to all schools, public and private, and can accommodate 20 to 300 students per assembly.