

HUMANE TEEN

**YOUR VOICE IS THEIR VOICE...
MAKE IT HEARD.**

**REQUEST FREE
STICKERS AND A
MISSION: HUMANE
STARTER KIT!**

**JOIN THE WEB
OF TEENS HELPING
ANIMALS WHERE
THEY NEED
IT MOST.**



LEARN HOW AT HUMANESOCIETY.ORG/TEENS



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

YOUTH

Start your own HumaneTeen Club!

Request a club packet for everything you need to get started (includes a [Mission: Humane Action Guide](#), stickers, flyers, and business cards). Just email us at teens@humanesociety.org with your mailing address and write "HumaneTeen Club Packet" in the subject line. Read on for step-by-step instructions on getting your club off the ground.



One person can do a lot for animals, so what's the point of starting a club? That's simple. When people work as a team, they can accomplish more. Here's why:

- A group has more people to make calls, write letters, hand out fliers and get the word out on important issues.
- Trying to solve problems by yourself can be difficult and frustrating. But when you're part of a club, you get support and encouragement from other club members.
- A group of people speaking with one voice often has more influence than a single person. People sit up and take notice when many people come together to support an important cause. Lawmakers, school officials, and other leaders and decision-makers are more likely to listen to the collective voice of a group.
- A club taps the wide range of skills and talents of its members. If you love art, you could design animal protection posters. If a member has a way with words, he or she could write public service announcements or letters to newspaper editors. Other club members might be good speakers, researchers or organizers. Your projects will be successful because of the efforts, experiences and creativity of all your club's members.

There may be people in your school or neighborhood who want to help animals, too. Schools, churches, and community centers are great places to form clubs.

You or your club can accomplish a great deal with little expense. You may decide, however, that you want to raise funds to contribute to an animal protection charity, to finance one of your club's own activities, or to raise awareness in your community. If so, try one of these fund-raisers:

- **Pick a product to sell.** The old standards such as gift wrap, spring bulbs, and chocolate bars provide people with products they can use, and a good percentage of the money can be put to your cause. Search the Internet or ask your advisor if he or she knows of any companies that will participate.

- **Host a car wash,** dog wash, bottle drive, tag sale or auction.

- **If you love dogs, consider starting a dog walking service** in your neighborhood. Serve only trusted neighbors and work with a friend or family member.

- **Hold a raffle at school** or in partnership with a local animal organization.

- * **Ask a local store** or a cosmetics company that does not test on animals to donate prizes.

- * **Make an animal-lover's quilt** as the centerpiece of the raffle. Ask your friends to decorate each fabric square with an animal protection message. Ask a local crafts store if they'd like to donate fabric.

- **Organize a sports event,** such as a walk or run for animals, or a student/faculty softball or basketball game. Have athletes find sponsors to give a certain amount of money per mile covered or points scored.

- **Hold a "Coins for Critters" or "Pennies for Pets" coin collection.** Decorate collection canisters. Visit different classrooms to explain what you're doing and ask students to donate spare change. You can also place canisters at local businesses to encourage community support.

- **Host a Mardi Paw bake sale.** Ask friends and family to donate baked treats—for humans and canines. Sell them on Mardi Gras in February. Is February too far away? Consider hosting a "Barkery" – a bakery for dogs!



You and/or your club will naturally be an animal protection resource for your school and community. One of the most important things you can do is teach others about the problems facing animals. When you're sharing information, remember to be positive and tell others how they can help. Here are a few ways to spread the word:



Fliers are Your Friends.

Hand out fliers or brochures on different animal protection issues during lunch or homeroom. (Order materials or [make a flier online](#).) Include a "How You Can Help" section in your fliers. You can create a bulletin board display with this information. Make sure you have permission.

You can also post fliers at stores, veterinary clinics, libraries, community centers, and other public places. You may even want to hand out information or set up a display table in a shopping area, library, or community center, or at an event such as a concert or fair. Your advisor can help you get the permission you need. When you go out into the community, be sure to do so with others for safety.

Stick 'em up.

Spread the word with stickers! Put them on notebooks, envelopes, letters, flyers, clothing—wherever. Pass them out at school too! [Get yours today](#) for just \$12 (plus shipping) for 360 stickers!

Write On!

Write articles for your school newspaper on topics that are important to you. Suggest ways others can get involved.

Embrace E-mail.

Send regular announcements or a simple newsletter through e-mail to keep club members and/or interested classmates up-to-date on where action is needed and how they can help. Keep a sign-up sheet to collect e-mail addresses wherever you can.

A Day to Remember.

Organize an animal-protection awareness day at your school. Encourage students to avoid cruelty and celebrate animals by wearing animal-friendly clothing and eating animal-friendly foods. Ask your principal or cafeteria manager to serve vegetarian/vegan food that day. Even if it is for one day, it will get everyone thinking.

Petition, Please.

A petition (a list of signatures of people who support something) is a great way to spread the word and get help from others. Ask classmates to sign a petition to have a vegetarian/vegan meal served every day.

Be a Party Animal!

Throw a party at school, a community center, or other public place. Consider showing an educational video (The HSUS offers them on a variety of issues—[click here to view more](#)). You can also distribute printed information and offer vegan refreshments to tempt people who may not otherwise be interested in hearing about the issue.

Ask the Experts.

Invite a representative from a local humane society, natural or organic food store, or other group to speak at a club meeting. Open it up to all students. Make sure you have school permission.

Compassionate Creativity.

Hold a school-wide poster or T-shirt design contest with an animal protection theme.

A Dazzling Display.

Ask the manager of a natural food store to provide you with samples of vegetarian foods along with household items and cosmetics that were not tested on animals. Use the samples to create a display in your school library or cafeteria. Include information about factory farming and animal testing alongside the alternative products. Your display may encourage others to become compassionate consumers.

Recommended Reading.

Ask your librarian to get animal-friendly books in your library. [Click here for a list](#). Help your librarian set up a display of the books.

A Good Book.

Other people in your area may be looking to make compassionate choices while dining. Put together a guidebook of local restaurants that offer vegetarian alternatives. You may even find restaurants adding vegetarian alternatives to their menu so they can be included in your guidebook.

- **Throw a read-a-thon.** Ask friends and family to donate money for each animal-related book a student reads. This would work well over summer break.

- **Sponsor an art contest with an animal theme.** See if a local art gallery in your community will donate space for the event. Ask students and community artists to enter pieces of artwork at a certain dollar amount per entry. Ask the artists if they would be willing to sell their work and donate the money to your cause.

- **Go caroling during the holiday season** with classmates, friends, family and/or club members. Have one person hold a sign that asks for tips/donations that will go to your cause.

- **Hold an event to raise awareness and funds by charging admission.** (You may need to ask a teacher or club advisor to find out about special permission you might need for charging admission). Here are some ideas to get you started:

- * **Throw a costume ball or Howl-o-ween party** for the animals.

- * With a teacher or club advisor, put together a **student-faculty talent show**. You might be surprised by talents you didn't know existed!

- * **Host a "Puppypalooza" at school or with a local animal group.** (Be sure you have proper permission.) Invite classmates and their families to bring their dogs. Award prizes for various categories such as "Best Trick" and "Owner-Dog-Look-A-Like." You may want to provide families with vegetarian food options and treats for dogs.

- * **See if an upcoming school dance can be devoted to animals.** A local DJ or band may be willing to perform for free or at a discount if they know proceeds from the admission charge will go to help animals.

- * **Host a vegetarian/vegan supper** for students, parents, and faculty.