

MISSION: HUMANE

Action Guide



*Everything Kids Need to
Speak Up For Animals*



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

YOUTH

How to Use This Guide

K-6 Students:

Using this guide is as easy as 1-2-3!



1 If you're not already part of an animal protection club, use the first section in this guide to set one up. Think about getting your whole class involved, too. Why? Because you can get a whole lot more done together with friends and classmates than you can by yourself. Give each student in your club or class a Mission: Humane ID card (found in the center of this guide). If you really want to go it solo though, no worries. One person can still make a difference!



2 Learn how to make your voice heard and raise funds on pages 6-10. This section will serve as a good reference as you complete the projects.



3 Take action! The rest of the guide features five step-by-step projects to help animals where they need it most:



A Cause for Paws



Combat Cruelty



Friends for Hens



Shoot to Save Wildlife



Fight Fur

Each project includes project instructions as well as a HOTSHEET of facts about the issue. Copies can be downloaded at humanesociety.org/kids, or you may photocopy the HOTSHEETS in this booklet. After completing a project, submit a Mission: Accomplished form to receive a fun prize! Completed Mission: Accomplished forms can be mailed to Mission: Humane, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423, faxed to (860) 434-9579, or you can submit them online at humanesociety.org/kids.

Questions along the way? Just e-mail kids@humanesociety.org or call (860) 434-8666. We want to hear about what you've done; we may feature you on humanesociety.org/kids or in *KIND News*. Be sure to stay up to date by visiting humanesociety.org/kids often!

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Welcome

At The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), I work with a team of people dedicated to protecting all animals. Together, we celebrate the bond between humans and animals. Together, we fight animal cruelty and abuse in all of its forms.

When people imagine helping animals, their first thoughts are usually about their pets or backyard birds. But millions of animals in other situations need a hand too. Life is tough on tigers and elephants in circuses. It is hard on cows, pigs, and chickens in big, factory-style farms. The HSUS's mission is to protect animals in every corner of the world.

Over the years, we've had huge victories for animals. Some of them are because of the work of young people like you. For example, kids played a major role in passing a federal law to protect wild horses and burros and in the campaign to save dolphins from tuna nets in the 1990s.

While we're proud of what we've accomplished, there is still more work to do. We hope you'll help us be a voice for animals. This booklet will guide you. You'll learn how to get other young people interested in helping animals. You'll also learn the basics of spreading the word in your community, raising funds for animals, and lobbying (asking lawmakers to give their support). By taking part in the Mission: Humane projects, you'll be part of a nationwide group of kids working to help all animals—from hounds to hens—where they need it most.

We know that one child can make a difference for animals. Imagine how much many young people working together will do!

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President & Chief Executive Officer of
The Humane Society of the United States



Start a Club

One person can do a lot for animals. So why start 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, and hand out fliers.



Trying to solve problems by yourself can be hard. When you're part of a club, you get support from other club members.



A group of people gets more attention than a single person. People notice when a group comes together to support an important cause. School officials, lawmakers, and other leaders are more likely to listen to the voice of a group.



Members of a club have different skills and talents. If you love art, you could design animal protection posters. One member who likes to write could send letters to newspapers. Other club members might be good speakers, researchers, or organizers. There may be young people at your school or in your neighborhood who want to help animals too. Schools, churches, and community centers are great places to form clubs.

Follow these steps to get your club off and running!

Step 1: Talk to Your Friends

Tell them your ideas for club goals. Do you want to raise money to help homeless pets? Work to stop ani-



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Use this space to jot down notes about your club.

People interested in joining the club: _____

Advisor's name: _____

Some of the club's goals: _____

Date of first meeting: _____

Time: _____ **Place:** _____

mal cruelty in your community? Maybe you want to get the word out about the suffering of animals in factory farms.

Remember, some kids may not know as much about animals as you do. Or they may not share your point of view. Listen to what others have to say.

Step 2: Find an Advisor

An adult advisor can help you organize and run your club. Discuss your club's goals and share this guide with an adult interested in helping. Your teacher(s) are a good place to start. If you don't have luck getting a club started at school, don't give up. Ask a parent, church leader, or other trusted adult in your community. Call your local animal

organization(s) to see if they have a youth club. If they don't, tell staff members that you are interested in starting one. There may be someone who can work with you.

Step 3: It's All in the Details

Your advisor will find a place where you can hold club meetings. You can help decide on a time, date and what you'll cover at your club's first meeting. Make sure you have an agenda or plan for your meeting. A good way to start is to introduce members to one another and discuss the goals of the group




Step 4: Help Spread the Word


Make fliers advertising the club's first meeting. Include a photo or artwork to grab people's attention. Make sure the flier includes the date, time, and location of the meeting. Include some of the goals that your club hopes to accomplish. (Visit humanesociety.org/kids to make a flier online.) Then help post the fliers in your community. Good spots are at school, libraries, community centers, and supermarkets. Just make sure you have permission before putting up a flier. You can also ask your local newspaper to include an announcement in their community events section. Call the newspaper or go on their Web site. Be prepared to give the information outlined in your flier.


If your club will meet at school, ask to use your school's P.A. or closed-circuit television system to make announcements. Write down what you want to say so you won't forget important details. Speak slowly and clearly. Keep your tone upbeat and inviting. Be sure to say that everyone is welcome to join.

Step 5: Your First Meeting

Your club's first meeting will be exciting. Everyone who attends will have something in common—a love of animals. This is a chance for you and your advisor to welcome members.

 **Animal Allies.** Have your advisor explain why you decided to form the club and what you hope to accomplish. Discuss a few problems facing animals and why they need help. Your advisor can explain some of these issues. Good sources of information are humanesociety.org/kids, humanesociety.org/teens, and humane.society.org.

 **Keep a List.** Collect the names of everyone at your meeting. It will become your club's membership list. Include space for club members to write their name, e-mail address and other contact info, and an area of interest (for example, art, homeless pets).

 **The Name Game.** Choosing a name for your club is a fun first task. Ask members for suggestions—then vote on it.



Logos are Lovely. Your club may decide to have a logo—a picture or design to go with your club name. If so, your advisor may ask members to put their ideas on paper and bring them to your next meeting.



Operation: Organization. Your advisor may decide it will help to have club officers—a president, vice president, treasurer, and/or secretary. These are club members who help lead the group and organize activities. The second meeting is a good time for members to vote for club officers. Your advisor might also ask a different officer to lead each meeting so all can play an active role.



**WANT TO HELP
ANIMALS?**

Head to Room 176
Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

Learn how to
help
homeless pets!

Vegetarian
refreshments
will be served!





Decide How Often You Will Meet. Keep in mind that members will be busy with other activities during the school year. If your group schedules meetings too often, there may only be a small turnout at each one. If you don't schedule enough meetings, members may lose interest.

Step 6: Take Action

There are a lot of things your new club can do to help animals. You will have the greatest effect when you work on one at a time. The next sections of this guide will help you complete the projects. When you do, we'll send you fun stuff as a reward! Visit humanesociety.org/kids to sign up and get going!

Step 7: Recruit

As your club moves forward, you'll gain and lose members. In all that you do, think about getting new members. Bring sign-up sheets to all events and keep getting the word out about your meetings with fliers.

Use this space to jot down notes about your club.

Some club name ideas:

Our club officers:

When we will meet:

Kids in Action!

Jeff Callis loves a challenge! He went to the principal of his school, Ronald Reagan Elementary, in Yuma, Arizona, with an idea. He wanted to challenge his schoolmates to see how much pet food they could raise for the local humane society. As a reward, the winning class would enjoy a pizza and ice cream party. Jeff's challenge brought in 1,608 pounds of dog and cat food! It was such a success, Jeff wants to hold the drive every year. For his hard work, the humane society gave him its "Compassionate Kid" award. Way to go, Jeff!



Kids in Action!

Tim Eisemann was in sixth grade when he babysat eggs for his classroom's bird-hatching project. When the eggs finally cracked open, he marveled as four tiny ducklings wobbled out and made their way into the world. When the project ended, Tim asked his teacher what would become of their classroom ducklings. He and his friends were shocked to learn that the birds would not live out their lives on a farm. Instead, they would be killed and turned into animal feed and fertilizer.




Determined not to let that happen, Tim sent thousands of e-mails pleading for help. He got 100 phone calls—and an offer he couldn't refuse. An animal shelter agreed to give the birds a good home. Tim showed up at Angel's Gate not with four ducklings, but 22. "He called every class at school that had hatched chicks," said shelter director Susan Marino. "He wanted to save them all." Now, his school in Babylon, N.Y.—and three other New York school districts—no longer hatch ducklings.


Take Action


Pass it on


One of the most important things your club can do is teach others about the problems facing animals. When you're sharing information, remember to be friendly and give ideas for how others can help. Here are a few ways you can spread the word:


 **Fliers are Your Friends.** Hand out fliers or brochures on different animal protection issues during lunch or other free time. Request materials or make a flier online at humanesociety.org/kids. Create a bulletin board display with this information. Make sure you have school 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 a trusted adult for safety.

 **Ask the Experts.** Ask your teacher or principal to invite someone from a local humane society or other animal group to speak at a school assembly.

 **Write On!** If your school has a newspaper, write articles on the animal topics that are important to you. Suggest ways others can get involved.


 **A Day to Remember.** Organize an animal protection awareness day at your school. Ask your principal or cafeteria manager to serve vegetarian food that day. Even if it is for one day, it will get students 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 meal served every day.

 **Be a Party Animal!** Throw an animal


awareness party at your school, community center, or other public place. Think about showing an educational video. (The HSUS offers videos on a variety of issues—visit humanesociety.org and type “video” and other key words in the search box.) You might also serve vegetarian refreshments.

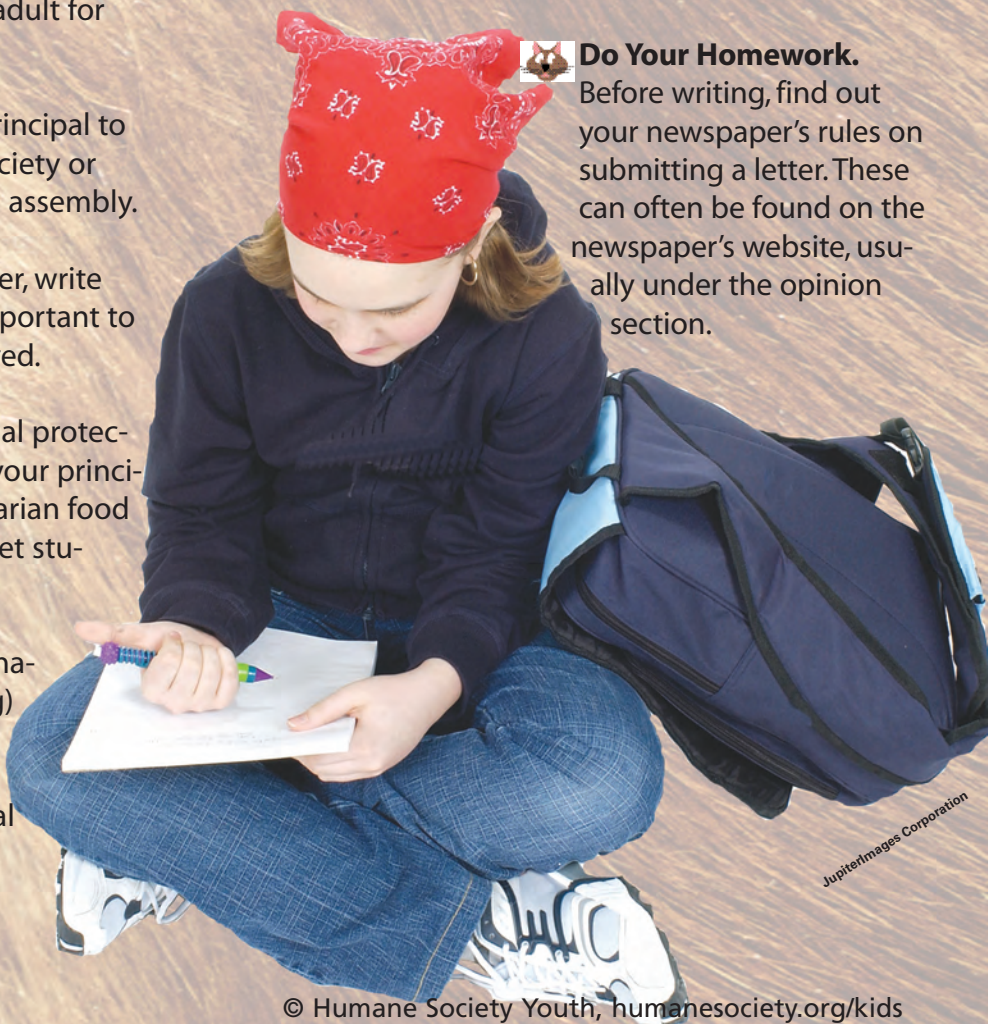
 **Get Hopping!** Host an Easter egg hunt and inside plastic eggs, place tips to help animals. Need some suggestions? Try “Only chocolate bunnies belong in an Easter basket,” or “Save millions of lives—spay and neuter.”

 **Good Books.** Ask your librarian to get animal-friendly books in your library. See humanesociety.org/youth (“Best Books”) for a list. Help your librarian set up a display of the books.

Letters to the Editor

Writing to the editor of your local newspaper is a great way to get the word out in your community on issues that concern you. Here are some tips for letter writing:

 **Do Your Homework.** Before writing, find out your newspaper's rules on submitting a letter. These can often be found on the newspaper's website, usually under the opinion section.



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Start Off on the Right Foot. The first sentence sets the tone. So open your letter with a strong statement.



Keep It Short. Some newspapers restrict the length of the letter they will consider for publication, so aim for 250 words or less.



Don't Wait. If an article on an animal issue appears in your newspaper, respond fast! It's best to submit your letter the same day the article runs (this can be done through e-mail).



Be Nice. It is fine to disagree with something you've read in the paper. But always be polite about it. Be sure to include the title of the article you're disagreeing with and the date it appeared. This will help readers who may not have read it.



Get the Facts. It's helpful to include numbers and other facts about the issue at hand. Make sure you double check them before submitting your letter. (Example: 28,000 animals instead of 2,800.)



Get a Second Opinion. Have an adult read your letter before you submit it. By doing this, you can make sure your letter is clear and makes sense.



Sign Off. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and age. Editors will often call to make sure that you—and not someone else—wrote the letter.



Space Out Your Letters. If you've recently had a letter published, wait before sending another. For most papers, the rule is one published letter per month. Check with your paper to find out its policy.



Don't Give Up. Not every letter you write will be printed. If your letter is not published, don't be discouraged—try again.

Want even more tips for writing to newspapers? Go online to humanesociety.org and type "Tips for letters to the editor" in the search box.

Kids in Action!

Matt Parrish volunteers at the Murray-Calloway County Animal Shelter in Kentucky. After school, he walks and feeds the dogs. He also bathes puppies and small dogs. "Sometimes families looking to adopt a dog will ask me how he or she gets along with a 9-year-old like me," Matt says. "I'm always glad to help animals find good homes." Sometimes he writes the animal ID cards to put on shelter cages. People looking to adopt can read the cards and learn more about the animals up for adoption. He has also participated in shelter events and helped explain why spaying and neutering is important. "I really enjoy volunteering at the shelter and I know that the animals need my help!"



Kids in Action!

As a junior volunteer, Kayla Levasseur spends a lot of time at the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA). But that's not all. Kayla visited her mayor's and governor's offices to discuss homeless animals and the importance of spaying and neutering. The result? The governor signed a proclamation (an official announcement) making August 19, 2006 National Homeless Animals Day in Rhode Island! For her hard work, Kayla was The HSUS's 2007 KIND Kid of the Year!





In 2008, Kayla met with Governor Carcieri and asked him to sign a proclamation making February 26, 2008, Spay Day USA in Rhode Island.


Meet more kids who are active for animals in the Humane Heroes section at humanesociety.org/kids.


Have Fun, Raise Funds


You or your club can accomplish a great deal with little money. But you may decide that an animal protection charity you want to help is in need of funds. Or, you may find that money is needed to support one of your club's own activities. If so, try one of the ideas below. Ask a club advisor or other adult for help in organizing your fundraiser.


 Pick a product to sell. Gift wrap, spring bulbs, and chocolate bars are popular fundraising items. Ask your advisor if he or she knows of any companies that sell fundraising items.


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


 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 with a local animal organization.


 Ask a local store to donate prizes. Any money raised can go to your club!

 Create an "Animal Lovers Quilt." Have your advisor ask a local craft store if they could donate fabric. Your advisor can cut the fabric into squares. Club members can decorate the squares with ways to be kind to animals. Then the squares can be sewn together into a quilt. Raffle the quilt off.


 Organize a sports event, such as a walk or run for animals or a student/faculty softball or basketball game. Athletes can find sponsors willing to donate a certain amount of money per mile covered or points scored.


 Hold a "Coins for Critters" or "Pennies for Pets" collection. Decorate collection canisters and ask students to donate their 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 people and dogs. Sell them on Mardi Gras in February at your school or community event. Is February too far away? Consider hosting a Barkery—a bakery selling homemade dog treats!


 Have a read-a-thon. Ask friends and family to donate money for each animal-related book a student reads. This is a great idea for summer break!


 Ask your advisor to help your club sponsor an art contest with an animal theme. Your advisor can contact a local art gallery in your community. They may donate space. Ask students and community artists to enter photos, paintings and other 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 help animals.

 Ask club members and your advisor to go caroling during the holiday season. Have one person hold a sign that asks for tips that will go to your cause.

 Hold an event to raise awareness and funds by charging admission. (Your advisor may need to get special permission.) Here are some ideas to get you started:

 Host a vegetarian or vegan supper for students, parents, and faculty in your school's cafeteria.

 Throw a costume ball or a "Howl-o-ween" event for animals.

 Ask your advisor how your club can sponsor a student-teacher talent show. You might be surprised by talents you didn't know existed!



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Kids in Action!

Haley Ham loved her two dogs, Sam and Jessie. But one day, Sam became sick and was taken to the vet. Haley found out that someone had fed Sam a "stew" with onions, rawhide, and antifreeze in it. Antifreeze can smell and taste sweet to pets, but it is poisonous. The vet told Haley that Sam would not recover. After saying good-bye to Sam, she returned home and found that Jessie was sick from the antifreeze, too.



Haley wanted to know more about antifreeze. After more investigating, she learned about the bittering agent **denatonium benzoate**. This could be added to antifreeze to make it taste bad. And she learned that five states already had laws that required this bittering agent be added to antifreeze.

Haley became determined to have a similar law passed in Tennessee. After writing letters to many members of the state legislature, State Senator Raymond Finney agreed to help.

Senator Finney and Haley worked with LeighAnn McCollum, Tennessee state director for The Humane Society of the United States, to write a bill.

Haley didn't stop there though. To let people know about the dangers of antifreeze, she set up a website and started an online petition. (At last count, more than 1,000 people had signed it!) She passed out fliers and set up a booth at the county fair. Haley also did interviews with local TV stations to get the word out.

After all her hard work, it was easy to choose Haley as our 2008 KIND Kid of the Year.

And we're not the only ones to honor Haley for her efforts. Senator Finney introduced a Senate Joint Resolution. It recognizes Haley for her "honorable service to the good people of this State and their beloved animal companions by promoting the dangers of antifreeze ingestion."

Way to go, Haley!

Love Your Lawmakers

Decisions affecting animals are made all the time by our elected officials. Senators and representatives pass laws that protect pets, wildlife, farm animals, and animals used in research. The job of these officials is to be a voice for the people they represent.

To get your lawmakers to vote in favor of animals, you must tell them what you think. This section will help you get your opinions across. Your voice counts!

Contacting an elected official may seem scary. But it's their job to be there for the public. Keep these tips in mind when you make contact:



Introduce Yourself. Give your full name. If you are part of a club or other organization, include that as well.



Be Clear. If you are asking an official to support or oppose a bill (an idea before it becomes a law), give the number and title of the bill. Ask him or her to support or oppose it.



Personalize It. Explain why the issue is important to you, your family, and your community. This has more impact than saying, "I oppose this because it's wrong." Knowing as much as you can about animal issues will always help.



Know the Staff. Keep in mind that elected officials usually have helpers in their office who speak

with the public. These staff members will pass on your opinions to the official.



Thanks All Around. If an elected official or staff member takes time to meet or speak with you, send a thank you note. In the letter, repeat what you talked about and ask for his or her continued support.

Get on the Horn

Phone calls are the best way to reach Capitol Hill. If you call during the day, there will be a staff person in the office to take your call and address your concerns. Phone calls also work well when quick action is needed. (You can follow up with an e-mail.)

To contact lawmakers by phone, use the congressional switchboard number, (202) 224-3121. (Be sure to get your parent's permission first!) Give your full name and age. All you need to say is: "I'm calling to ask my representative/senator to support/not support [bill number and title]." The switchboard operator will connect you to your elected official's office. For state officials, you will find two addresses: One in the "district" (your local area) and one in your state's capital. Call the state capitals first.

How Does Our Government Work?

The Constitution is a plan for how our government works and how our country's laws are made. The legislature (the branch of government that makes laws) is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senators and representatives are people for whom Americans have voted. Together, this group of lawmakers is called Congress.

You must be 18 to vote, but did you know that any American—of any age—can suggest a new law? Think of a law you would propose to help animals. Write it here:

Before an idea becomes a law, it's known as a bill. For the legislature to consider your bill, a member of Congress must agree with your idea. Let's say a senator from your state sponsors your bill. Next, more than half of the Senate must approve it. There are 100 members of the Senate. That means at least 50 senators need to vote "yes" for your bill.

Next, more than half of the House must vote "yes." Since there are 435 representatives, at least 217 have to vote "yes." Now the president has ten days to decide. If the president votes "yes"—or does nothing—your bill becomes law!

But what if the president vetoes your bill (votes "no")? It can still become a law if $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Senate and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the House vote in favor of it. That means at least 66 senators and 290 representatives must vote "yes" for your bill to become law.

Want to learn more about how the U.S. government works? Check out "Ben's Guide" online at bensguide.gpo.gov.

Writing Letters to Your Elected Officials

Sending personal letters is a great way to let your lawmakers know how you feel. To find your officials, visit humanesociety.org/leglookup. Type in your ZIP code to see who represents you on both state and federal (national) levels. You can click the photos to find each official's contact information. In the letter, focus on one point and explain how it affects you, your family, and your community. You should also have someone look at your letter before you send it. Then ask club members, friends, and family to follow your example. The more letters an official receives on an issue, the better!

Sending Your Letter

Here are some things to keep in mind when sending a letter to an elected official:



Faxing or e-mailing a letter is better than mailing it, especially if it is about a bill or act that will soon be decided on.



Officials receive a lot of e-mails. To make sure yours stands out, include the subject, bill number, and "support" or "oppose" in the subject line.



Postal mail can take some time to make its way to your elected official. So it's best to use e-mails or phone calls for issues that need quick action.



When you address your letter, use the official's title and last name:

To YOUR SENATOR

THE HONORABLE (FULL NAME)
(ROOM #) (NAME) SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DEAR SENATOR _____:

To YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

THE HONORABLE (FULL NAME)
(ROOM #) (NAME) HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE _____:

To YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DEAR DELEGATE _____:



The Dirt on Dissection

Do you have a problem with dissecting animals at school? The HSUS's **Humane Education Loan Program (HELP)** offers models, computer programs, and other alternatives. Learn more at humanesociety.org/dissection_alternatives or by e-mailing ari@hsus.org today!

Also, Student Choice Law allows students access to alternatives without being punished in class. Want to learn more and find out if your state has this law? Log on to humanesociety.org and type in "Student Choice in Your State" in the search box.

Sample Letter to Your Senator

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Your Town, State, ZIP code]

[Today's Date]

The Honorable [full name]
[Room #] [Name] Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator _____:

Please support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 311) to end the slaughter of American horses. This will also stop their export for food in other countries.

With horse slaughter now illegal in Texas and Illinois, too many of our horses are being exported to Mexican and Canadian slaughterplants. Horses are on trucks for too many hours, and are treated badly in the plants.

As a horse lover from a family of riders, this issue is important to me. These animals deserve basic care and freedom from cruelty.

If you have not yet cosponsored this bill, I respectfully urge that you do.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
[Your name]
[Your address]



STOP PUPPY MILLS

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGY IN THE WINDOW?

A trip to your local pet shop to buy a puppy might seem like a fun and harmless way to welcome a new pet into your life. Others are drawn to too-cute-for-words photos of puppies on “breeder’s” websites. But behind the friendly pet shop window and Internet sites, there often lies a puppy mill, a dog breeding facility that houses dogs in shockingly poor conditions.

What’s worse, puppy mills churn out puppies for profit while dogs in shelters wait for loving homes. There aren’t enough homes for them all!



INSIDE A PUPPY MILL

- Because a puppy mill is a business, it is designed purely for profit, not for the well-being of dogs. The dogs receive little or no exercise or veterinary care and never see a bed, treat or toy.
- Life is particularly bad for the adult dogs who live their entire lives in cages, without human companionship and with little hope of ever becoming part of a family.
- Several hundred thousand puppies are born in puppy mills each year and shipped cross-country to be sold in pet shops. Many more are sold through newspaper classified ads or Internet sites.
- Because of the poor conditions, puppy mill dogs are more likely to have behavior and/or health problems. Some of the puppies die within days or weeks of purchase.
- Current laws provide minimum-care standards for puppy-mill animals, but puppy mills can get around these laws, either by selling directly to consumers (thereby avoiding U.S. Department of Agriculture licensing requirements) or by simply avoiding the reach of law enforcement (with so few USDA inspectors and minor fines, it’s easy to stay in business).



THINK ABOUT IT

Think about life for the dogs in your home and your friends’ homes. Then think about the things they need to be healthy and happy—food, water, shelter, veterinary care, grooming, training, exercise, toys, bedding, and love and attention. As you learn about puppy mills, consider how they measure up with how life **should** be for dogs. Do puppy mill dogs have their basic needs met? What are some of the first things that should change at puppy mills to make life better for the dogs?

GET A PUPPY ... WITHOUT SUPPORTING CRUELTY

- **Opt to adopt.** Animal shelters have a variety of dogs, many of them purebreds, just waiting for homes. There are also rescue groups for every breed of dog. Shelters and rescue groups have many “designer” or “hybrid” mixes like Labradoodles and Puggles up for adoption. These and other mixed-breed dogs make wonderful pets.
- **See for yourself.** Those who choose to purchase a dog should find a compassionate breeder that provides a loving and healthy environment for their canine companions. But don’t take their word for it. Never buy a puppy without seeing where they and their parents are raised and housed with your own eyes.
- **Don’t be fooled.** While many pet stores will tell you otherwise, they do sell puppy mill puppies. Many newspaper classifieds and Internet sites are often accompanied by false claims such as, “We’d never sell puppies from a puppy mill” or promises that the puppies are “home raised,” “farm raised,” or “raised with kids/grandkids.”
- **Don’t “rescue,” report!** Even though your intentions may be good, don’t buy a puppy with the idea that you are “rescuing” him or her. Your “rescue” opens up space for another poor puppy mill puppy and puts money into the pockets of the puppy mill. If you see someone keeping puppies in poor conditions, alert your local animal control authorities instead of buying.

YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the “A Cause for Paws” project—promote improved conditions for dogs in puppy mills and raise community awareness about how to get a dog without supporting cruelty. Visit humanesociety.org/kids to sign up!

Photos by Michelle Riley/The Humane Society of the United States

A CAUSE FOR PAWS

YOUR MISSION: Learn proper dog care, promote improved conditions for dogs in puppy mills, and raise community awareness about how to get a dog without supporting cruelty.

Why? Puppy mills, mass dog breeding operations, house dogs in shockingly poor conditions. What's worse, puppy mills churn out puppies for pet stores while dogs in shelters wait for loving homes. There aren't enough homes for them all!

Life is particularly bad for the adult dogs who live their entire lives in cages, without human companionship and with little hope of ever becoming part of a family. These dogs receive little or no veterinary care and never see a bed, treat or toy.

Many of the puppies who are born in puppy mills have behavior and/or health problems.

How? Write letters to your lawmakers. Educate your family, classmates, and community about proper dog care and the cruelty of puppy mills using the steps below

1. **Know your stuff.** Because a puppy mill is a business, it is designed for profit, not for the well-being of dogs. Dogs in puppy mills receive little or no exercise or veterinary care and never see a bed, treat or toy. At the federal (national) level, the law states that dogs in puppy mills should have basic care, but puppy mills often don't follow it. There are few inspectors and minor fines which make it easy to violate the law. Puppy mills can also get around the law by selling puppies directly to consumers through the Internet instead of pet shops.

Every state has different laws regulating the care of dogs in puppy mills. Some require kennels and breeders to be licensed and inspected, while other states do not. How does your state define proper care? Are puppy mills required by law to give proper sanitation, ventilation, or nutrition for their dogs? Learn the laws for your state at gateway.hsus.org/spm/bigpicture/index.cfm.

Get to know the steps that people can take to be sure they bring healthy pets into their families while not supporting cruelty. Read Stop Puppy Mills (HOTsheet) to get more facts.

2. **Write on!** Write letters to your state and federal lawmakers. Let them know that you are concerned about how dogs in puppy mills are treated. Ask them to make the puppy mill issue a priority. Or thank them if they have supported these laws in the past. Visit humanesociety.org/leglookup and enter your ZIP code to find your elected official. For tips on writing to legislators see page 10. You may also want to consider sending



Michelle Riley/The Humane Society of the United States





a letter to the editor of your local newspaper (see page 6).

3. Entertain and educate. Think about the things that all dogs and puppies need in order to be healthy and happy. Then create a puppet show to educate your community about proper dog care and how puppy mills fall short. See if you can perform the show for your class, other students in your school or church, or other community group. You may want to find a friend or two to help you present your puppet show.



Michelle Riley/The Humane Society of the United States

- ◆ Prepare a script for the play you will present. You can write the script on your own or you can use our story starter located on the next page. Some important words you may want to include in your script are located below.

food	shelter	veterinary care
water	exercise	bedding
toys	training	collar/leash
ID tags	love	grooming
puppy mill	breeder	cage

- ◆ Construct puppets for your presentation. These sites may help you find ideas and patterns:

familycrafts.about.com/od/puppets/Puppet_Craft_Projects.htm

storyplace.org/preschool/activities/petstakehome.asp?themeid=13 (stick puppet puppy)

crafts.kaboose.com/doggy-hand-puppet.html (dog hand puppet pattern)

- ◆ dltk-kids.com/type/paper_bag.htm (bag puppet patterns)

Practice your play before you present. Be sure to cover the basic needs of dogs, what a puppy mill is, and how people can make sure that a new puppy is not from a puppy mill. Emphasize that the number one way consumers can help shut down puppy mills is to avoid purchasing dogs from pet stores, and adopt from a local shelter or rescue group instead.

4. Pass it on. Print the puppy buying tips (stoppupmills.org/puppy_buying_tips.html) and fliers to share with your audience about how to buy a healthy puppy at hsus.org/web-files/PDF/PuppyMillFLYER_Rev_4C.pdf. Or you can go to humanesociety.org/kids to make your own flier. You can also print them and pass them out to classmates and family members. Tell everyone to make sure they are bringing healthy pets into their homes.

5. Tell us about it. Fill out our **Mission: Accomplished** form on page 23. Send it to us along with copies of your letter, fliers, and the play script. We'll send you a T-shirt!

Script Starter

Characters:

Ginger –a spoiled cat

Harley –an adopted dog who was born in a puppy mill

Setting:

A house, the day after Harley was adopted and brought home by his new forever family.

Scene 1:

Harley: (scared and shaking a little) Who are you? You are a funny looking dog.

Ginger: (haughtily) I am Ginger, and I am a cat. I think I should be asking you the same question. Who are you and why are you in my house?

Harley: My name is Harley. The people who live here brought me to this place yesterday. They kept telling me I would never have to be hungry, itchy, or cold again. I am glad about that, but I have never been to a place like this before or met people who were so nice. Are they always this nice?

Ginger: (a little nicer) My people? Yes, they are very kind and use a calm gentle voice to talk to me. They take very good care of animals and I am sure they will be nice to you too. They did go out and buy a new water and food dish, a harness, collar, and leash, and a giant pet bed a few weeks ago. Maybe they were for you. Where did you say you came from again?

Harley: I am not really sure. The people from the animal rescue group that took me in kept saying the word “puppy mill,” so I guess that is where I was born. I am not really sure what it looked like there though because I always lived in a cage. Wait you said they bought a...bed? What is a bed?

Ginger: (much nicer now) Oh, you poor boy. A bed is a soft fluffy place to sleep, every pet should have one! You must have been really uncomfortable and sad at the place called a “puppy mill.” What else can you tell me about it? I may need to show you the ropes.

Finish the story of Harley and Ginger.





COMBAT CRUELTY

WHAT IS ANIMAL CRUELTY?

Animal abuse has many faces and comes in many forms. It's a dog in a puppy mill producing litter after litter of puppies. It's an elephant or tiger forced to perform for a circus crowd. It's a dog or rooster thrown into a pit and made to fight to the death. It's a raccoon tortured at the hands of teenagers for "fun." It may even be a pet in your neighborhood, who is mistreated or doesn't get enough food, water, or attention. In short, it's any behavior that's harmful or life-threatening to an animal.

Why should you care? Because it's the right thing to do. Because cruelty to animals is illegal. And because people who harm animals may also harm people. Stopping cruelty to animals helps everyone.

JUST THE FACTS

- ◆ Cruelty to animals is illegal in all 50 states and a felony in 44.
- ◆ Most cruelty investigated by humane officers is unintentional neglect that can be resolved through education.
- ◆ Intentional cruelty is knowingly depriving an animal of food, water, shelter, socialization, or veterinary care or maliciously torturing, maiming, mutilating, or killing an animal.
- ◆ Intentional animal abuse is often committed by a person who feels powerless and unnoticed. The motive may be to shock, threaten, intimidate, or offend others. Some who are cruel to animals copy things they have seen or that have been done to them. Others see harming an animal as a way to get revenge on someone who cares about that animal.
- ◆ Studies indicate that in homes where animal abuse takes place, child and spouse abuse are often occurring as well.

KNOW THE SIGNS

The following are common clues that an animal might be in trouble. They don't necessarily mean a pet has been hurt on purpose, but they shouldn't be ignored. Look out for animals who:

- ◆ have cuts, scrapes, or other bruises
- ◆ duck, whimper, or act aggressive when certain people approach
- ◆ are limping
- ◆ are too thin
- ◆ are almost always left outside
- ◆ are missing fur
- ◆ have ticks or fleas



FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES

Cockfighting and dogfighting are centuries-old "blood sports" in which two animals are forced to fight in a pit. People watching the fights bet on who will win. Those who organize and attend these fights see the animals' pain and suffering as "entertainment."

- ◆ Dogfights may last one to two hours and end only when one of the dogs is no longer willing or able to continue.
- ◆ Cockfights, which may last several minutes to half an hour, usually result in at least one animal's death.
- ◆ Dogfighting and cockfighting are against the law in all 50 states. Dogfighting is a felony in all 50 states, while cockfighting is a felony in 35 states.
- ◆ Animal fighting is usually accompanied by other illegal activities. Raids of animal fights often turn up illegal firearms and drugs. Young children are often present at animal fights, sometimes even taking part in gambling.



CAPE COD TIMES/STEVE HEASLIP

YOU CAN HELP!

- ◆ **Be on the lookout.** If you see any signs of animal abuse, write down the details, including date, time, location, and descriptions of the people and animals involved. If there are other people around, ask them for their names and phone numbers. Ask a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult for help in reporting the case. **You should never handle something as serious as animal cruelty alone!** Then contact your local animal shelter, animal care and control officer, or sheriff's department. (You can usually find this information in the phone book.) Provide them with the details you have gathered.
- ◆ **Be a role model.** Set a good example for others by being a responsible pet caregiver. Cats are safest when kept indoors. When outdoors, dogs should be walked on a leash or supervised in a fenced yard. Keep your pets safe and out of harm's way. Be kind to all animals and let others know that hurting animals is wrong. Speak up for animals and urge others to do the same!
- ◆ **Join Mission: Humane** and do the "Combat Cruelty" project. Spread the word about the need for tough anti-cruelty laws, and teach kids to be kind to animals. Visit humanesociety.org/kids to get started!

COMBAT CRUELTY PROJECT

YOUR MISSION: Let people in your community know how to report animal cruelty and write about the need for strong laws against cruelty to animals.

Why? Because it's the right thing to do. Cruelty to animals is against the law. Animals are living beings who deserve kindness, respect, and understanding. Remember, animals can't speak for themselves. They need us to speak up for them!

How? Write letters to your lawmakers and a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Let your classmates know what they should do if they think an animal is being mistreated. Follow the steps below to prevent cruelty in your community.



HSUS



1. Know your stuff. Cruelty to animals is against the law in all 50 states, but the laws are different from state to state and even city to city. In some states, animal cruelty is a misdemeanor (a less serious crime). In other states, it is a felony (a serious crime). How does your state define animal cruelty? Does the law only apply to cats, dogs, and other pets? Does it include cruelty to farm animals or wildlife? Good sources for this information include your state's official Web site and humanesociety.org/web-files/PDF/state_cruelty_chart.pdf.

Once you know your state's laws, get to know the steps people should take to report abuse. Find them in the HOTsheet on page 16. Get more info on our Help Stop Cruelty page at humanesociety.org/kids (Click on "How to Help"). You can also print out your own Junior Animal Care Agent badge!

2. Get the law on your side. After you've armed yourself with the facts, write letters to your state lawmakers. Visit humanesociety.org/leglookup and enter your zip code to find your elected official. Write to them and ask them to support strong laws against animal cruelty. If you live in one of the states where animal cruelty is still only a misdemeanor, ask your legislators to make it a felony offense. For tips on writing to lawmakers, see page 9.

3. Use the news. Help inform the rest of your community by writing to your local newspapers. Explain the steps people should take to report animal abuse. Let them know you've written to your lawmakers about passing strong laws against cruelty. Ask readers to do the same. Find tips for writing and submitting a letter on page 5. If your school has a newspaper or newsletter, send the same letter.

4. Pass it on. Be sure to tell your classmates, teachers, and family what you've learned. You can download a flier for kids at humanesociety.org/web-files/First_Strike/First_Strike_Kids_Brochure_2004.pdf. You can also go to humanesociety.org/kids to make your own flier. Print it out and make copies. Pass them out to your classmates. Tell everyone to treat all animals with respect and kindness.

5. Tell us about it. Fill out our **Mission: Accomplished** form on page 25. Send it to us along with copies of your letters to lawmakers and a copy of your letter to the newspapers. We'll send you a Be KIND wristband!





HENS NEED A HAND!

THE HARD-BOILED TRUTH

When you think about where our eggs come from, you may picture a little red barn on Old MacDonald's farm. But nothing could be further from the truth. Most eggs in the United States come from **factory farms**, windowless warehouses with hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of hens. Hens in today's egg factories are some of the most abused of all farm animals. Instead of roaming in the sun, scratching and pecking at the ground, they're confined in **battery cages**—tiny, barren wire enclosures stacked one on top of another in long rows.



Farm Sanctuary

FREE AS A BIRD?

- ◆ About 95 percent of the nearly 300 million laying hens in the United States are confined in battery cages.
- ◆ Each hen raised in a battery cage has a space less than the size of a sheet of paper.
- ◆ Hens kept in battery cages can't lay their eggs in nests, walk, or even spread their wings.
- ◆ The inability of hens to nest in battery cages is the greatest source of frustration for these caring mothers.

YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the "Friends for Hens" project. Ask your family, friends, and school to buy eggs only from farms that don't cage hens. Visit humanesociety.org/kids to sign up!

GET TO KNOW CHICKENS

While there are some pet chickens in this country, most of us don't spend much time with these animals. Here are some fascinating facts about them:

Social butterflies. In nature, chickens live in groups of up to 30 other birds and, like dogs and other animals, have a social order. Members of a flock do everything together, from dust-bathing to finding food.

Feathered friends. Chickens know each other by their facial features. They can recognize more than 100 other chickens—and remember them!

Family ties. A mother hen starts bonding with her chicks before they are even born. She will turn her eggs as many as five times an hour and softly cluck to her unborn chicks, who will chirp back to her. In the wild, a mother hen will threaten other hens who come within 20 feet of her chicks. Chickens will also fight with eagles and foxes to protect their family!

Cluckin' clever! Chickens are intelligent animals and good problem-solvers. More advanced than young children, chickens can understand that an object, when taken away and hidden, continues to exist.

Chicken speak. Chickens have more than 30 types of vocalizations. They use separate alarm calls depending on whether a predator is traveling by land or in the sky.



WIND OF CHANGE

There's no need for cruel cages. These folks know it!

- ♥ Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Austria have banned battery cages. The entire European Union is phasing out barren cages by 2012.
- ♥ Whole Foods Market and Trader Joe's, as well as a number of regional grocery chains, now sell only eggs from hens who aren't confined to cages.
- ♥ AOL and Google have switched to cage-free eggs in their employee cafeterias!
- ♥ Ben & Jerry's is phasing out battery-cage eggs used in its ice cream.
- ♥ Dartmouth, University of California-Berkeley, University of New Hampshire, Georgetown, and many other colleges and universities have policies to do away with or decrease their use of eggs from caged hens.
- ♥ The city councils of Takoma Park, Maryland, and West Hollywood, California, have passed resolutions opposing the confinement of egg-laying hens. Both resolutions encourage consumers not to purchase battery-cage eggs.



Farm Sanctuary

FRIENDS FOR HENS PROJECT

YOUR MISSION: Put the chicken before the egg! Get the word out about cruel cages for hens. See if you can help your community go cage-free.

Why? Most eggs produced in the U.S. don't come from Old MacDonald's Farm. Instead, they come from large factory farms. There, millions of hens are kept in battery cages. Stacked one on top of another, each small wire cage may hold as many as 10 hens. Each hen has less space than the size of a sheet of paper.

Hens kept in battery cages can't walk around or even spread their wings. Because battery cages are so bare, hens who live in them can't do the things they were born to do. They can't lay eggs in a nest or peck the ground. While birds like to sit on branches or perches, hens in battery cages must stand on wire cage floors day after day. And, they have no areas for taking dustbaths (fluffing dust on their feathers to keep them clean).

How? Write letters and talk to your parents, friends, and school cafeteria manager. Ask them to make the switch to cage-free eggs.

1. Do your homework. Read our *Hens Need a Hand* factsheet to get the facts.

2. Family first. Take a look at the egg carton in your fridge. Does it say "cage-free," "free-range," "organic," or "free-roaming" on the label? If not, the eggs probably came from chickens confined in battery cages. Ask your parents that if they keep buying eggs, why not choose only eggs that come from cage-free chickens?

You can have a talk with your parents or even write them a letter. Think about making these points:

♥ Describe what life is like for hens confined in cages.



iStockphoto.com/Christian Carroll

♥ Explain why you would like your family to not buy eggs from caged chickens.

♥ Ask your parents to look for the cage-free labels. They can find out more at EggLabels.com.

♥ Thank your parents for what they have done to teach you kindness to animals.

3. Cage-free cafeteria. While you may not see scrambled eggs on your lunch menu, cafeterias use a lot of eggs in cooking. Think of all the eggs that go into the cookies and breads served. Using eggs from hens who don't suffer in cages will help a lot!

Set up a meeting with your school's principal or cafeteria manager to ask about the eggs used at school. Explain why you would like the school to switch to cage-free eggs. If you're not in an animal club at school, see if any friends or classmates want to help. Ask them to go to the meeting with you. E-mail us at kids@humanesociety.org or call 860-434-8666, extension 13. (Be sure to get permission to call long distance first.) We'll work with you every step of the way in your efforts to get your school to go cage-free.

4. Pass it on. Whatever your family or school decides, you can still help hens by teaching others. Write letters to your local newspapers about life for hens in cages. Ask readers to choose cage-free if they buy eggs. Place flyers in your school, library, community center, and other public areas. Photocopy extra copies of *Hens Need a Hand*. Tell your community that people care about egg-laying hens.

5. Tell us about it. We want to know about your work to help egg-laying hens. Fill out our **Mission: Accomplished** form on page 27. Send us copies of your flier and the letters you have written. We'll send you a messenger bag!





Go Wild For Wildlife

A WILD WORLD

No matter where you live, you're sure to have wild animal neighbors. Though many people enjoy the sights and sounds of wildlife, people and wild animals don't always get along. Conflicts with wildlife are sometimes dealt with by trapping, killing, or otherwise causing harm to the animals. There is a better way! For just about every wild animal problem, there is a safe, effective, and humane solution:

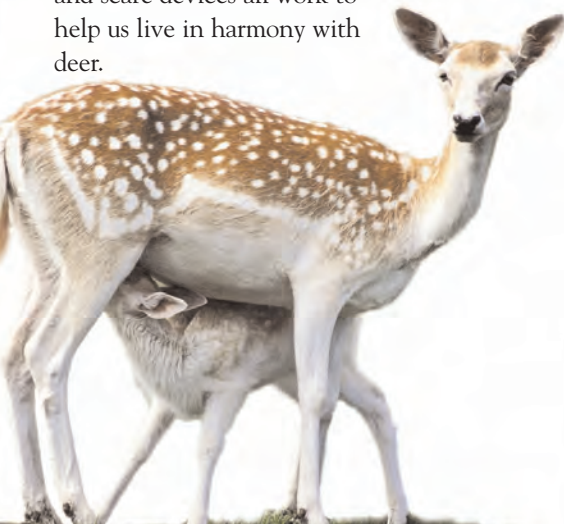


◆ Bushy-Tailed Charmers

Squirrels are consistently judged "Most Popular" among our wild neighbors. They also rank as the top problem-makers among all species of urban wildlife. Adult females often establish nests in buildings and squirrels often become nuisances at bird feeders, consuming large quantities of birdseed or gnawing on the feeders. Scaring squirrels away, sealing off chimneys and other openings to homes, and using "squirrel-proof" bird feeders are a few ways of humanely solving unwelcome squirrel encounters.

◆ Oh, Deer

Deer are faithful to their home ranges, areas that are shared by related females and young males. When their home ranges happen to be in people's backyards or fields, there is usually some damage to gardens or crops. Choosing plants wisely and using fencing, repellents, and scare devices all work to help us live in harmony with deer.



◆ Night Ranger

At least as intelligent as cats or dogs, raccoons use their paws to eat and have a highly developed sense of touch. These nocturnal animals have been known to raid gardens, garbage cans, and bird feeders. And chimneys, attics, and porches are all attractive denning sites for raccoons. Turning on a radio to harass the animals, keeping trash secure, and sealing openings to homes are ways of solving and preventing conflicts with raccoons.

◆ Urban Bird

Brought to North America by early European settlers, pigeons thrive in cities. There, food and water are readily available, there are few predators, and there's free housing: window ledges, rooftops, bridges, and warehouses. Droppings are the number one problem for people. Wire barriers, netting, and door curtains are humane ways of preventing pigeons from setting up house on buildings.



◆ Clever "Caw"

Crows are considered to be among the most intelligent and social of all birds. Scientists have observed them making leaf and twig tools and then using them to catch insects. Crows also plan ahead, hiding food in crevices in tree bark and on the ground in dry grass and leaves. In recent decades, crows have been moving from the country to cities, where residents are beginning to call for the control of their noise and droppings. City governments often look to deadly means. Humane solutions include using bright and flashy objects like Mylar balloons to repel crows and securing trash outside to prevent problems.



◆ Love Stinks

Occasional sightings of these nomadic animals in a neighborhood need not be cause for alarm. Skunk spray (used for defense) has given the wrong impression about these gentle, non-aggressive creatures. Skunks are omnivores and have a hearty appetite for grubs and insects who are pests to



PUT A LID ON CANNED HUNTING

In canned hunts, people kill animals who are trapped within enclosures. These animals—from private breeders, animal dealers, or even zoos—are often hand-raised and bottle fed. They have lost their natural fear of people and make easy targets. No federal law bans canned hunting, and most states allow it. Ask your lawmakers to crack down on canned hunting! Visit humanesociety.org/teens for campaign updates and tips on contacting your lawmakers.

humans. You can make your yard uninviting to skunks by not leaving garbage or pet food out at night and by sealing openings to sheds and under porches. Placing ammonia-soaked rags by the entrance to burrows is one way to get skunks to go away.

◆ Nature's Engineers

The hard-working aquatic mammal that was once nearly trapped out of existence is now recognized as a "keystone" species—one that is necessary in an ecosystem. But as beavers return to long-abandoned watersheds, conflicts with humans increase—the two most common are the flooding that results from dam building and the destruction of trees. Tree guards and devices called beaver "bafflers," which control water level, can help solve these problems.



◆ The Bear Facts

In many parts of North America, sightings of black bears—the most widely distributed of the three species of bears found on the continent—are increasing. Part of the reason is that more and more, suburban areas are moving into wildlife habitat. In some areas, shortages of food or water may bring bears into closer contact with humans. Not leaving trash and food around outdoors is an easy way of preventing conflicts.



YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the "Shoot to Save Wildlife" project—take photos of wild animals as part of a public awareness campaign about living peacefully with wildlife. Visit humanesociety.org/kids to get started!

SHOOT TO SAVE WILDLIFE PROJECT

YOUR MISSION: Raise awareness in your community about wild animals and how to live peacefully with them.

Why? Whether you live in the city, the country, or somewhere in between, you're sure to have wild neighbors. Deer, geese, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, bears, pigeons, crows, coyotes... These are just some of the animals who live near humans.

Many people enjoy the sights and sounds of wildlife, but people and wild animals don't always get along. Sometimes, conflicts with wildlife are dealt with in ways that hurt or kill the animals. For example, pigeons have been poisoned because of the droppings they leave outside of restaurants and other businesses. There is a better way! For just about every wild animal problem, there is a safe, humane solution.

How? Teach your community how to humanely solve conflicts with wildlife. Just follow the steps below.

1. Get the bear facts. Find out if there is an animal causing a conflict in your town. Have flocks of geese taken up residence on the athletic fields? Are herds of deer munching on landscaped lawns, shrubs, and flowers? If not, choose any animal that is common in your area. Learn all you can about the animal. Some great sources of information are humanesociety.org/wildlife/a_closer_look_at_wildlife and wildlife-international.org. Then learn about what can be done to solve any problems humanely. Visit humanesociety.org/wildneighbors and click "Solving Problems with Your Wild Neighbors" for details on the animal you picked. If you're having trouble finding info on the animal you've picked, e-mail us at kids@humanesociety.org for help.

2. Write on. Write a letter to your local newspaper about living peacefully with wildlife. Include the info you learned while

doing your research. Encourage readers to appreciate their wild neighbors. Find tips on writing a letter to the editor on pages 6-7.

3. Ready, aim, shoot! Send us a copy of your letter to the editor. (E-mail it to kids@humanesociety.org or mail it to us at Mission: Humane, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423.) Once we receive it, we'll send you a disposable camera. (When contacting us, please be sure to include your name and mailing address. Group leaders, indicate how many students are in your group.) Use it to take pictures of wild animals you see—but do not disturb! Remember the 4 L's of watching wildlife: *Look. Listen. Learn about them. Leave them alone.* Also, please do not feed wild animals. It can cause problems for both animals and people.



4. Start spreading the news. Make posters and fliers about the animal you choose. Use the photos you took or pictures printed from the Internet or cut from magazines. Include interesting facts about the animal and suggestions for solving common problems with that animal. Make sure you let people know where to turn for advice. Include a Web address (such as humanesociety.org) and the phone number of a wildlife hotline. The HSUS's Urban Wildlife Hotline is available seven days a week at 203-389-4411.

Post your posters at grocery stores, libraries, vet's offices, shopping areas, and community centers. (Make sure you have permission first.) You may also want to set up a booth at a fair, concert, or other community event.

5. Tell us about it. Fill out our **Mission: Accomplished** form on page 29. Send it to us with your photos, posters, and fliers.



istockphoto.com/Dan Wifron

COATS FOR CUBS PROJECT

YOUR MISSION: Collect unwanted fur items to donate to a wildlife rehabilitator.

Why? Animals need their fur more than we do! Wearing fur was once considered a sign of wealth and style. These days, it's more likely to be seen as a sign of animal suffering. Millions of raccoon dogs, foxes, mink, chinchillas, and other animals are raised in tiny cages on "fur farms." Other animals are caught in the wild in traps or snares. People who don't want to support this cruelty choose not to buy or wear fur.

Some people no longer wear fur but aren't sure what to do with that old fur coat in the attic. That's where The Humane Society of the United States' "Coats for Cubs" program comes in. We collect fur items to give to **wildlife rehabilitators**. (Rehabilitators take care of injured or orphaned wildlife until they can be released back into their natural habitats.) Rehabbers cut the fur coats, stoles, and gloves down to size, then give them to baby bunnies, raccoons, and other little critters. The animals use them as burrows, blankets, and "playmates."

How? Ask people in your community to give their furs or fur-trimmed items back to the animals. Follow the steps below.

1. Promise to be fur-free. First, set a good example for others by promising not to wear fur!

2. Decide on the details. Decide when and where to hold your collection. Think of places where you can set up drop boxes. These might include schools, community centers, churches, vet hospitals, or libraries. Come up with a deadline for people to drop off items.

3. Be creative. Decorate large, sturdy cardboard boxes to use as drop boxes. (Many businesses throw boxes away—ask local stores to save a few for you.) On your boxes, write "Coats for Cubs." Describe the prob-



lems with wearing fur. Explain how the furs you're collecting will be used. Add some pictures of baby wild animals. Then place them out in your community.

4. Get the word out. Make posters explaining your project to hang around town. Ask if you can make an announcement over the PA system at school. Write a letter about your project to your local newspaper. Contact radio and TV stations and ask if they would mention it on the air. Be sure to mention that fur is cruel and urge others not to wear fur.

5. Pack it up. Once your deadline has passed, gather the items and pack them up. Send them to:

*The Humane Society of the
United States
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Attn: Coats for Cubs*



Note: If you need help getting the furs to us, please e-mail us at kids@humanesociety.org.

6. Tell us about it. Fill out our **Mission Accomplished** form on page 31. Let us know how your project went and how many items you collected! We'll send you a Compassion is My Fashion temporary tattoo for your completed project!



MISSION: HUMANE

A CAUSE FOR PAWS

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED FORM



If you did this project as a class or group, have your teacher or adult group leader complete this form.

Your Name or Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

T-shirt size (adult sizes only: small, medium, large, x-large): _____

For teachers/group leaders only:

Number of students who participated _____

How many of each T-shirt size do you need? _____

What did you find out about the puppy mill laws in your state?

To which lawmakers did you write?

Tell us about your puppet show or play. Where did you perform it? How did the audience react?

Don't forget to send a copy of your letters, fliers and your puppet show or play script to *Mission: Humane*, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423. Or, visit humanesociety.org/kids to fill out this form online. We'll send you a Mission: Humane T-shirt for your completed project!



notes

MISSION: HUMANE

COMBAT CRUELTY

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED FORM



If you did this project as a class or group, have your teacher or adult group leader complete this form.

Your Name or Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

For teachers/group leaders only:

Number of students who participated _____

Describe your project in *detail*, from start to finish. To which lawmakers did you write?

To what newspapers did you write a letter asking for others to help you get stronger animal cruelty laws? Was your letter published?

Additional notes:

Mail this form, along with copies of the letters you wrote to your lawmakers and local newspapers, to *Mission: Humane*, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423. You can also visit humanesociety.org/kids to fill out this form online. We'll send you a Be KIND wristband for your completed project!



notes

MISSION: HUMANE

FRIENDS FOR HENS

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED FORM



If you did this project as a class or group, have your teacher or adult group leader complete this form.

Your Name or Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

For teachers/group leaders only:

Number of students who participated _____

Describe your project in *detail*, from start to finish.

To what newspapers did you write a letter informing others about the cruelty of battery cages? Was your letter published?

Additional notes:

Mail this completed form to *Mission: Humane*, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423. Or, visit humanesociety.org/kids to fill out this form online. We'll send you an HSUS messenger bag for your completed project!



notes

MISSION: HUMANE

SHOOT TO SAVE WILDLIFE

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED FORM



If you did this project as a class or group, have your teacher or adult group leader complete this form.

Your Name or Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

For teachers/group leaders only:

Number of students who participated _____

Describe your project in *detail*, from start to finish.

What type of media did you contact about your project? (Newspaper, radio, TV station, etc.) Please describe in detail.

Additional notes:

Make copies or take photos of the fliers and posters you made. Mail them, along with this form and the photos you took of wildlife, to *Mission: Humane*, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423. You can also visit humanesociety.org/kids to fill out this form online.

notes

MISSION: HUMANE

COATS FOR CUBS

MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED FORM



If you did this project as a class or group, have your teacher or adult group leader complete this form.

Your Name or Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

For teachers/group leaders only:

Number of students who participated _____

Describe your project in *detail*, from start to finish. Where did you place your drop boxes and posters?

What type of media did you contact about your project? (Newspaper, radio, TV station, etc.) Please describe in detail. Was your story publicized?

Additional notes:

Mail this form to *Mission: Humane*, 67 Norwich Essex Turnpike, East Haddam, CT 06423. You can also visit humanesociety.org/kids to fill out this form online. We'll send you a Compassion is My Fashion Temporary tattoo!



notes