**SAFETY WITH ANIMALS**

**Lesson 5: Grades 4-6**

**twelve months of SAFETY AND kindNESS**

**Curriculum Connections, Standards addressed:**

**Academic Goals:** 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6 & 4.7

**Knowledge Goals:** Communication Arts: 1, 4 & 6; Science: 4 & 8; Fine Arts: 1 & 4; Health & Phys Ed: 5

**Objectives:** To help students realize that safety, kindness, respect and responsibility toward animals is a way of life—365 days a year. Incorporating simple changes or modifications and making good choices will help to create a year of humane attitudes for students, making the world a better place for animals and people too!

**Common Core-Aligned Activities**

**W.5.7 – Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.**

Encourage students to research the needs of animals in your community. Do you have a large number of stray animals? Are there animal shelters that could use the collective energy and enthusiasm of your students? Do they have a wish list? What activities can your students incorporate into their daily schedules that would be of help? List these activities and ideas.

**SL.5.1—Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.**

Take the ideas generated by the research above and break them into categories….i.e., things I can do on my own; things our class can do together; things our community can do to help animals. Discuss with students the many, many ways they can make a positive impact on animals in your community whether they be wild, domestic, owned or homeless. Encourage them to think globally too…how can they impact an endangered species? How can their purchasing power make a difference (i.e., avoiding leather, suede, cosmetics tested on animals, etc. These ideas can be researched above as well.) Have students start listing all the ideas.

**Character Concepts:** Citizenship

How can your actions affect the welfare of animals in your community? Do your part to make your community a kinder, more humane environment for all living creatures.

**STEM initiatives: Thinking critically in the connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

**5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment.**

Our everyday activities have the power to build up the community, earth and resources—therefore all living creatures, both domestic and wild—or to tear it down. Given the suggested ideas generated from the discussions above, how can this combined information be used to make a positive impact on earth, ecology and especially the animals with which we share our world?

**Materials Needed**:

* Twelve sheets of poster paper
* Markers or crayons

**Method:** The teacher will write each month at the top of the twelve sheets of poster paper. Help children get started by discussing safety and kindness to animals. Discuss safety measures for pets and daily acts of kindness necessary to keep animals happy and healthy. For example, when the temperature is very hot, dogs get hot, just like we do. A cool drink of water and a shady, breezy resting spot are necessary to be humane (kind.) Is fresh water only necessary during summer months? No, fresh water is essential EVERYDAY. Therefore fresh water is written under EVERY month of the year.

Safety issues would include keeping cats indoors, never leaving your dog outdoors unsupervised, having your pet micro-chipped. Some other topics for discussion may include daily care, such as feeding or brushing or spending time with your pet. Some may include seasonal topics, such as keeping holiday decorations out of reach of pets, keeping all pets indoors during the loud July 4th celebrations, sending valentines or Christmas gifts to the homeless animals at your local animal shelter. Keep the creative juices flowing in your students by suggesting ways they can keep their pets safe and ways to be kind to animals every day!

(To download the Humane Society of Missouri’s Kind Calendar for Animals, go to hsmo.org, click on education, then click on Classroom Calendars. Use this as a prototype to create your own special year for the animals.)

**Call to Action:** Create a Kind Calendar for Animals in art class and distribute copies to other classes in your school. The local newspaper may be interested in a copy as well! Distribute monthly copies with PTA and school notes to parents. Have students create large (poster sized) copies of the calendar and change monthly to display at local businesses and grocery stores. Students can produce copies of the calendars to sell as a fund-raiser for your local animal shelter. Students can present a Year of Kindness to Animals in an oral presentation or drama to other classes.

**Reading:** Visit our section entitled ***Recommended Children’s Literature*** for a comprehensive listing of animal-related books.

**Web sites:**  Visit our section entitled ***Recommended Web Links*** for animal-related web sites.