

FILM REVIEWS



The most solid comfort one can fall back upon is the thought that the business of one's life is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation, and misery on this earth.

—George Eliot

Often, young people think of animal-related careers as being limited to the services performed by veterinarians and zoo attendants. From humane educators to humane agents, the need to help reduce animal suffering and the ignorance that causes it has led countless people to meaningful careers in a diversity of animal-related fields. The films and filmstrip series reviewed here are designed to help youngsters build awareness of the many animal-related careers that exist in their communities.

KISS THE ANIMALS GOODBYE

This powerful film presents a realistic picture of the duties and concerns of shelter workers, kennel attendants, administrators, and other animal care professionals at a large animal shelter where 400,000 dogs and cats are abandoned each year. Although the primary message of the film is to advocate neutering of pets and pet owner responsibility, the film also presents an effective portrayal of the day-to-day work environment at a community animal facility. Viewers should be aware of emphasis on scenes from the euthanasia room, where animals are calmed and comforted, then injected with a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbital.

By demonstrating compassion for the animals they handle, shelter workers dispel many of the myths associated with animal shelters. Appropriate for middle school grades and above, this twenty-minute, 16mm film includes a discussion guide and is available for purchase (\$428) or rental (\$67.50) from Pyramid Films, Box 1048, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1048.

A WORLD TO BUILD

This film shows how kindness and teaching about kindness can provide a stepping stone to a better world for us all—animals and people alike. In the course of the film, various careers in animal care and protection are explored. Humane society educators are shown conducting a program at a local school. An animal inspector examines horses. An



—John J. Dammers

Various careers in animal care are the subject of Working With Animals, a filmstrip prepared by The Humane Society of the United States and distributed by Troll Associates.

animal control officer is shown at work in the community. Viewers see inner city students as they interact with animals at a shelter-sponsored humane education summer camp. This eighteen-minute, 16mm film is suitable for upper elementary grades and is available for purchase (\$250) or may be rented for free in the New England area. Outside New England, there is a rental fee of \$10 to cover postage and handling. Contact the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

WORKING WITH ANIMALS

Elementary school children will benefit from this helpful overview of careers involving animal care, training, and protection. The six color filmstrips are accompanied by audiocassettes and focus on the skills, duties, and working environments of ten careers, including humane educator, obedience trainer, pet shop worker, dog groomer, veterinarian,

zoo helper, canine control officer, kennel worker, park naturalist, and conservation officer. The entire series is available for purchase (\$120), or individual titles may be purchased separately (\$20 each) from Troll Associates, 320 Route 17, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

A VISIT WITH THE ANIMAL DOCTORS

Two young children each receive a new pet and each visits a veterinarian to get advice about proper care of their animal. A girl and her mother bring their new puppy (adopted from an animal shelter) to Dr. Wade's office in the city. They receive a tour of the animal hospital, and their new puppy gets his shots and an examination. In the country, Dr. Powell visits a boy and his new calf at their farm. He checks the calf for signs of illness and tells its young owner how to care for it properly. Suitable for elementary students, this eleven-minute, 16mm film is available for purchase (\$185) or rental (\$20) from Journal Films, 930 Pitner, Evanston, IL 60202.

WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO?

A behind-the-scenes approach allows children to see the kinds of jobs involved in maintaining animals at a zoo. This twelve-minute, 16mm film introduces concepts of work specialization, division of labor, and chain of command, as well as the importance of team effort and organization in the work environment. Various animal care duties are depicted in scenes that range from zoo workers changing the diapers of a baby gorilla to attendants training an elephant to kneel so that its toenails can be trimmed. Appropriate for elementary grades, the film is available for purchase (\$220) or rental (\$44) from Centron Films, 1621 West 9th Street, Box 687, Lawrence, KS 66044. ♥

Additional films on marine animals and other animal topics are reviewed in Films for Humane Education, which may be purchased for \$5.75 (postage included) from Argus Archives, 228 East 49th Street, New York, NY 10017.

**Watch the upcoming
June issue for our
HUMANE EDUCATION
Children's Book Reviews!**