Be Aware!

The Und-Endangered Species

This "Und-Endangered Species" is a teaching slide/flipstrip set produced by the International League of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The "Und-Endangered Species" is a phrase that may bring to mind thoughts of successful adaptation by some animals to life in a world dominated by humans. In actuality, "und-endangered" is a term used by hunting groups to differentiate "game" animals from those whose numbers are fully protected by law in order to imply that it is "acceptable" to kill animals like deer and turkey for fun because their populations are healthy. That is the message of this teaching tool.

Humane educators who question the veracity of this premise and see concerned about the ethics of managing wildlife primarily to fulfill human needs should be alarmed about this program.

--submitted by Debbie Hillman, fifth grade teacher
Mayo Street Elementary School
Dover-Foxcroft, ME

Beware

Call All Authors

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) wants its catalog of educational activities and other materials you may have authored relating to the education and development of children of any age to age 12. Here's a good deal for budding authors: Now may be the time to be the first to write up those humane education activities we've outlined but never had a chance to put formally into words. Submit activities or curriculum materials that you have written to ERIC. If accepted, your work will be announced in ERIC's monthly journal, cataloged, abstracted, and indexed. In addition, it will be stored for computer retrieval, as well as reproduced and distributed in microfiche and as a paper copy. You will receive a copy of the accepted materials for your files. It's easy to be an ERIC author. And since documents are not copyrighted by ERIC, they may be submitted elsewhere for publication. Send two copies of your material to: ERIC/EECE
Acquisitions, College of Education, University of Illinois, 101 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801-4977.

Broccoli in the Classroom

The Baltimore Vegetarians have published a children's activity book titled I Love Animals and Broccoli. The book explores healthy eating, vegetarianism, animal rights, ecology, and feeding a hungry world. Forty pages of fun and varied exercises include CalcuMath, Nutrition Puzzles, board games, word search and crossword puzzles, rainy day and car activities, and more. A bonus centerfold game teaches children about cooperation and working with others to help animals.

To order I Love Animals and Broccoli, send $5 to Baltimore Vegetarians, Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203.

--submitted by Detra Wasserman and Charles Stahler

Tell Your Favorite Teacher

Tell Your Favorite Teacher

The New England Anti-Vivisection Society announces its fifth Annual Scholarship Essay Contest for high school seniors. Participating students are asked to write an essay titled "A Brighter Day for Animals: Putting a Stop to Animal Experimentation." We want to encourage young people who may or may not have had any contact with vivisection or the anti-vivisection movement, to research the topic and relate their feelings.

NEAVS will award two $1,000 first-place awards, two $500 second-place awards, and four $250 third-place awards. Essays must be received no later than March 1, 1986.

For a list of contest rules, write to Sandra Larson, Director of Education, New England Anti-Vivisection Society, One Bullfinch Place, Boston, MA 02114.

--submitted by Sandra Larson, Director of Education
NEAVS

Teaching About Stray Pets

Charlie, the Dog Nobody Wanted is a hard-hitting, fourteen-minute video documentary on the fate of an abandoned dog.

The story begins with an adorable litter of pups. Charlie is adopted by a man who abandons him two years later in the middle of a financial hardship. Charlie wanders the streets for 30 days without food or water. Ultimately picked up by a humane society, he is eventually euthanized because nobody wants him. The film goes black at this point. I recommend stopping the tape here and discussing with the audience what happened to Charlie and why animals are euthanized.

There is an additional sequence that follows. The film director reappears with Charlie and explains that Charlie's story happens to real for millions of animals each year. My students and I found this additional sequence confusing. I don't recommend using it, although other educators may disagree. It allows for a "happy ending" of sorts, as advertised in the material accompanying the video, but I did not find it very effective. The tape is appropriate for children in third grade and above. It is not appropriate for children that not every animal finds a home and in discouraging people from allowing their pets to breed. It is available from the Humane Society Cooperative 
Human Association, 9725 East Hampden Avenue, Denver, CO 80231. Write to them for price and ordering information.

--submitted by Carolyn L. Rup Program Specialist Massachusetts SPCA

Without A Classroom

For humane educators at shelters and other special places...

Children Animals

Story Time

Want to try a new way to bring out the writer in students? Why not try story capsules? Inexpensive empty gelatin capsules can be purchased at most pharmacies and health food stores. Open each empty capsule and insert a small, rolled-up piece of paper with notes that your animal story starters on it. (For plenty of story starters, please see our March 1985 issue of HUMAN EDUCATION.) The book explores the student's interest in Children & Animals—or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reprint to NAAHE Box 302, East Hadham, CT 06423.) Then recycle the capsule and let students pick their own story starter capsules out of a bowl full of capsules. Kids enjoy the surprise of finding the capsule, and it adds to the fun of writing their own stories.

--submitted by Chris Campbell, fifth grade teacher
Madison Elementary School
Madison, CT

Teachers: Tell Your School Administrators!

Did you know that if your school district joins NAAHE for just $25 per year, teachers in the district can then solicit individual subscriptions to Children & Animals for just $6 each per year? And teachers in your district can also become members of NAAHE for just $11 per year.

--submitted by Detra Wasserman and Charles Stahler

Euthanasia

Euthanasia is not a pleasant topic, yet you probably address it in many of your classroom presentations in schools. A good introduction to this sensitive topic could be the following quick activity which graphically demonstrates the pet overpopulation problem.

Divide the class into two groups. (Students remain seated at their desks, however.) Tell students that both groups will be clapping a rhythm and when you say "stop" they are to stop. (Stress beforehand the students' attitudes to be relaxed to stop their clapping!) Tell one half of the class to clap 15 times with you leading the pace as you count from 1 to 15. Tell the other half of the class that they are only to clap once every five or the other group claps for number 1. Hence, the rhythm is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15; (clap on 15) repeat.

After you have reached 15 four or five times, stop the activity. Explain that for every 15 dogs that are born in the United States, only 1 United States citizen is born. (With older students, you can explain that no one knows the exact ratio of dog births to human births in the United States. This particular estimate is taken from Zero Pet Populations in Los Angeles, California. For cats, the estimated ratio is 45 births for each human birth.) Tell students that in order for every dog to have a home, each person, even newborn babies would have to take care of 15 dogs. Ask students how many many dogs would have to be in their house. Ask if they think they could provide all the love, food, housing, exercise, medical care, and so on that would be needed by all of the dogs in their house.

After extending the discussion to include cats as well as dogs, the students will be better prepared to understand the realities of euthanasia.

On the Rocks

Would you undergo a slight sense of trepidation if your organization were asked to participate in a rockfest? We at the Providence Animal Rescue League were at first, but the opportunity to reach more than 3,000 young people was too good to pass up. We set up a booth, where we provided educational materials and responded to hundreds of questions from young adults. We were very pleased to receive much positive feedback from an age-group that is often neglected by humane education. Diane Donovan Douglas received an overwhelming amount of contributions from concert attendees. Just goes to show, you shouldn't let any idea, even pass event you by—no matter how unlikely an audience you anticipate. Anyone who would like further information on how we got involved in our rockfest, please contact me at the Providence Animal Rescue League, 34 Elbow Street, Providence, RI 02903.

--submitted by Celeste Cabot
Providence Animal Rescue League

Children's Animals / December 1985