

PET OVERPOPULATION

LESSON 5: Grades K-3

12 MONTHS OF KINDNESS

Show Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6 & 4.7; Communication Arts: 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Mathematics: 1 & 3; Science 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8; Social Studies: 5, 6 & 7; Fine Arts: 1, 2 & 4; Health & Phys Ed: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6

Objective: To help students realize that kindness, respect and responsibility towards 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! The ultimate responsibility we have for our companion animals is to prevent too many from being born and to assure that there are homes for all. See how many ways this message can be blended with messages about kindness to all living creatures.

Materials:

- 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 simple acts of kindness to animals. Discuss daily acts of kindness necessary to keep animals happy and healthy and seasonal acts. For example, when the temperature is very hot, dogs get hot, just like we do. A cool drink of water 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.

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 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 be kind to animals in your community everyday.

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 fundraiser for your local animal shelter. Students can present a Year of Kindness to Animals in an oral presentation or drama to other classes.

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.