Breaking the Cycle of Violence
A Farmed Animal-Assisted Humane Education Program for At-Risk Children

An Independent Learning Project
Presented by
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To
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Abstract

This Independent Learning Project includes a complete animal-assisted humane education program that is targeted at children who have a history of neglect and/or abuse and are in need of support outside their families. The project consists of two parts. Part one addresses the structure of the program and includes information on risk assessment and safety, liability insurance, cost evaluation, volunteer recruitment and training, as well as individual and overall program evaluation.

Part two consists of the curriculum for the eight-week program. The lesson plans focus on particular kinds of farmed animals such as pigs, chicken, cows, turkeys, sheep and goats, ducks and geese, and horses. During each lesson the children will have numerous opportunities to safely interact with some of these animals. Each lesson ends with an activity based on nature therapy (Nebbe, 1995). The overall goal of the program is to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all living beings.

Humane educators at farmed animal sanctuaries interested in starting programs for at-risk children can use this ILP as a manual if they slightly modify the lesson plans for their specific needs and conditions.
Violence is increasingly becoming an alarming part of everyday life in the United States and elsewhere in the world. We are exposed to so many different forms of violence that it becomes almost impossible to escape it even if we want to. Violent pictures sneak into our lives when we open a newspaper, turn on T.V., watch a movie, play a video game, or spend time searching the Internet. Acts of violence are part of how we treat other human and nonhuman beings at home, at school, at work, and often as part of our recreational activities.

Children and teenagers are usually the ones who are affected most by regular exposure to violence since they are more psychologically vulnerable due to their developmental stage. Garbarino (1995) argues that “…the mere fact of living in our society today is dangerous to the health and well-being of children and adolescents” (p. IX).

Having been a secondary school teacher in both my home country of Germany and in the U.S. for almost ten years, I was often saddened by witnessing the large amount of emotional and physical violence many young children have to endure in school on a regular basis. I remember being a fifth grade teacher in Germany and having one group of children in which two eleven-year-old girls became the victims of bullying and harassment on an almost daily basis. I spent many hours talking to the victims, the perpetrators, and the parents in order to help these children and stop this kind of harassment, but despite my good intentions nothing seemed to change and the bullying
continued as soon as adults were out of sight. Through many conversations with my German colleagues I learned that most of them had had similar experiences in their classrooms. Teachers in the U.S. struggle with comparable problems as statistics cited by the *National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center* (n.d.) confirm. One survey their web site refers to was conducted by Nansel, Overpeck, Pilla, Ruan, Simons-Morton, & Scheidt (2001). The survey confirms that children in the U.S. are subject to bullying and harassment on a regular basis. One out of twelve students has to endure emotional violence at least once a week, and one out of six students is occasionally bullied and harassed.

Garbarino and deLara (2002) argue that although it is “eye-opening and disturbing to see the environment of school for what it really is”, we need to do so “…if we are to respond effectively” (p. 4). I strongly agree with this statement because it is only when we understand and accept the severity of a problem that we can analyze all contributing factors effectively and try to develop a solution for it. Not only do we need to ask why children engage in antisocial behavior in the first place; we also need to come up with new creative ways to empower and support our so-called “at-risk” children to reverse their negative behavior patterns.

Although many educators and parents struggle hard to protect their children from antisocial behavior, many young people who are bullied feel left alone and without guidance. Some of them decide to take matters into their own hands, leading to such horrific outcomes as the numerous school shootings that we have witnessed in the past ten years in the U.S. and elsewhere (Garbarino, 1999). These incidents suggest that violence prevention among youth is one of the most pressing issues of our time. While
only a small number of adolescents will ultimately commit such extreme acts of violence, Garbarino and deLara (2002) remind us that we need to be concerned about how “average kids” (p. 23) cope with ongoing exposure to “emotional violence” (p. 23). Some of them avoid certain locations at school or stop using school facilities such as libraries to avoid bullying. Others start losing interest in after-school activities or stop trying to perform well in class after being ridiculed by a teacher or by another student (Garbarino & deLara, 2002). Emotional and physical violence has many faces and its impacts are numerous. As parents, teachers, counselors, and humane educators we therefore need to offer young people alternatives to the concept of violence by creating programs that cultivate empathy, respect, compassion, and hope.

On a personal level, the word “violence” gained a whole new meaning for me when in 1995 my younger sister lost her life due to a senseless, totally unexpected act of violence. My sister’s death was a highly traumatic experience for me as well as for the rest of my family and it changed my life forever. I completely lost my “sense of safety in the world” as Herman (1997) puts it, and I can completely identify with the following statement by Janoff-Bulman: “Traumatic events destroy the victim’s fundamental assumptions about the safety of the world, the positive value of the self, and the meaningful order of creation” (as cited in Herman, 1997, p. 51). For many years after the incident I struggled with the senselessness of her death, the desperation, the anger, and the grief that I felt inside. I therefore empathize with any living being whose life has been impacted by emotional or physical violence.

Perhaps as a result of my sister’s death I found that being with animals had a therapeutic effect on me. When I moved to the U.S. in 2002, I started volunteering at an
animal shelter and shortly thereafter at an animal sanctuary for farmed animals as well as older cats and dogs. Although I had always considered myself an “animal person,” I had never been involved in animal rescue efforts before and I knew very little about the way animals are treated in modern factory farming. I had never seen cut-off beaks or clipped tails and had never heard the screams of a day old calf when taken away from his mother. I did not know how much cruelty was involved in the way humans treat animals who are raised for food. When confronted with the plight of these animals I decided for myself that I no longer wanted to be part of this exploitation of other living beings, and that I did not want to contribute to yet another form of violence. I also realized that education should be more than teaching Math, English, and Science and preparing for tests. We need to encourage children to reflect upon the way we treat each other, all other living beings, and the planet upon which we live.

It was my work with the sanctuary, though, that eventually led me to choose this Independent Learning Project. Since the sanctuary is also a rescue organization, it is often involved in animal cruelty cases and part of its mission is to lobby for stricter animal cruelty legislation as well as to assist in prosecuting animal abusers. As a volunteer I have witnessed a heartbreaking number of animal cruelty cases. I have seen mutilated cats, I was involved in local lobbying efforts asking for tougher legislation against the perpetrators of these crimes, and I have shared some of the frustrations as well as the feelings of relief when yet another cruelty case came to a close. What really disturbed me, however, was the fact that more and more often the suspects in these cases were teenagers or young adults, sometimes even children. Given the fact that young children are usually fascinated by animals (Loar & Colman, 2004) and love to play with them and
pet them, I kept asking myself what had gone wrong in their development to change these caring impulses into desensitized outbursts of violence against helpless creatures.

I started researching this issue as well as looking into existing humane education programs aimed at breaking the cycle of violence. According to the literature, many abusive children and teenagers come from family backgrounds where they either have witnessed acts of violence and abuse or were themselves victims (Ascione, 2001; Loar & Colman, 2004). Very often in homes where domestic violence is present, the family pet has also been the target of abuse. Sadly, the children have learned from this experience.

Loar and Colman (2004) describe it this way:

> Just as children tend to repeat adult quirks and weaknesses when playing house or school, they may also repeat negative behaviors, including abuse and violence they have seen at home and elsewhere. Unfortunately, this behavior requires a smaller or weaker partner, making younger children and small animals vulnerable to abuse at the hands of larger children who have been victims of or witnesses to violence. (p. 14)

Driven by the concern for abused and neglected children and animals, I wondered if I could create a program that would help both groups at the same time. Is it possible to break the cycle of violence before it actually goes into motion? What are the prospects and limitations of such a program? Would it be possible for me to create a program that would focus on the interaction between the animals at the sanctuary and at-risk children? What other components would be useful for such a program? In what way could the beautiful, natural setting of the sanctuary be integrated into such a program? Could a completely designed program serve as a model for other sanctuaries in the country? What kind of agencies, schools, or organizations that deal with at-risk children might be interested in such a program in my geographical area? What other basic criteria does a successful program have to meet? What would be the estimated costs? How could I
ensure the safety of all participants? What would I need to consider in terms of volunteer recruitment and training? From my research I hope to find answers to all these questions.

**Problem Statement**

There is only one small animal sanctuary in the greater Seattle area that offers programs for at-risk children. These programs, however, concentrate mostly on the interaction between at-risk children and rescued dogs, although they also have some goats, donkeys, and horses. There is no humane education program in the State of Washington that focuses mainly on rescued farmed animals and at-risk children. I therefore believe that there is a strong need for a program like this that benefits at-risk children and farmed animals alike.

It is well known that U.S. society considers farmed animals mostly as a plentiful food resource and among the general public there is very little concern and empathy for them as living beings with individual personalities and the right to a happy, comfortable life. In 2003, more than 10 billion farmed animals were killed in the U.S. alone (Markus, 2005). The majority of these animals lived their short lives in intense confinement in factory farms shielded from public view. I therefore see a strong need for programs that give young people the opportunity to interact with individual farmed animals to offer the children a new perspective on the animals. I also hope that my program will draw attention to the mission of the sanctuary, which is to provide a safe haven to farmed animals rescued from often horrific conditions in the farming industry, thereby encouraging people to educate themselves about these issues.
Fine (2000) describes the history of modern interest in human-animal interactions. Starting with child psychologist Boris Levinson in the 1960s, many psychologists have acknowledged the positive value of human-animal interactions. Mother Hildegard George (1999), a renowned child psychologist and expert on animal-assisted therapy, stated:

Because of the growing need for ways to help children, I have looked for alternate means to help them on the course of normative growth. Utilizing animals in therapies, programs and classrooms with normally developing and at-risk children and teens has proven to be a successful way to help prevent seemingly small problems from turning into nightmares. Animal-based interventions can be methods for creating a healthy environment to assist children in coping with stress as well as deepening their sensitivities. (p. 383)

My program therefore needs to create such a healthy environment where children who have a history of abuse and neglect can feel safe and protected. Among other things they should be able to learn to control aggressive impulses and to develop responsibility for the care of another living being (George, 1999).

Also, I hope that my program can serve as a model for other animal sanctuaries in the country. After talking to a number of smaller sanctuaries in Washington, for example, I realized that many sanctuaries would love to be able to offer programs for at-risk children but often they lack the time or money that it would take to develop such a program. I therefore would like to develop the program in such a way that with appropriate modifications it could also be implemented at other sanctuaries, thereby saving these sanctuaries the time and money that they would otherwise have to invest in program development.
Goal

The goal of this ILP is to develop a complete animal-assisted humane education program that is targeted at children who have a history of neglect and/or abuse and are in need of support outside their families. The program will be a tool to break the cycle of violence by teaching these children empathy, self-esteem, self-control, responsibility, and compassion. After finishing this ILP I hope that this program can be implemented at a local rescue organization and sanctuary for farmed animals and older cats and dogs. However, the purpose of this program will at the same time be to serve as a model for other sanctuaries in the country that are interested in setting up programs for at-risk children. The program will mostly focus on interaction with the animals and it will also incorporate activities used in nature therapy (Nebbe, 1995). Nature therapy is a combination of three therapeutic approaches: animal-assisted therapy, horticulture therapy and natural environment therapy. I hope that the program will draw positive attention to farmed animals, thereby encouraging people to rethink their attitudes towards these animals.

I envision an eight-week program where children would come out to the sanctuary once a week for three hours. However, I am aware that this schedule might have to be adjusted to the particular needs of each group of children once the program is implemented and once I know the agencies or organizations with which we can work.

I will work out the complete curriculum and lesson plans for this program and I will also look into issues such as risk assessment, volunteer recruitment, program costs, insurance, transportation, and program evaluation as suggested by Loar and Colman (2004).
Population

This ILP will be designed to benefit at-risk children and rescued animals. As stated in the beginning of this chapter, I see violence prevention among children as one of the most pressing issues of our time. Both groups – animals and children – will benefit from the interaction with each other. The animals will get attention, exercise, and care from these children. The children, on the other hand, will learn to competently care for other living beings, which will make them feel valued and responsible.

This ILP may also serve as a model for founders and staff members of other animal sanctuaries in the country who are interested in starting programs for at-risk children. At the same time it will assist organizations and public agencies that are looking for new, creative approaches to help these children.

The ILP may also help future humane educators who are interested in setting up humane education programs focused on breaking the cycle of violence. It will give them an example of how to design a complete program curriculum and teach them about additional components that need to be part of the planning process.

In addition, this ILP may aid the sanctuary by bringing in new donors who may not contribute to animal-only programs.

Methodology

The animal-assisted humane education program proposed in this ILP will consist of two parts: Part one will address the structure of the program and part two will be the design of a complete curriculum for an eight-week program.
Part One

Part One will include information on risk assessment and safety, individual progress assessment, overall program assessment, insurance, cost evaluation, and volunteer recruitment and training. This list of topics is based on suggestions by Loar and Colman (2004). Besides researching these topics in a variety of literature, I will contact at least six nonprofit organizations that offer animal-assisted programs for at-risk children and teenagers. If possible I will include the following organizations in this survey: Forgot Me Not Farm in California, PAL In Washington D.C., Furrytale Farm in Washington, Green Chimneys in upstate New York, Kids 'n' Canines in Columbus, Ohio and Best Friends in Utah. With the exception of Furrytale Farm, which has just started offering programs for at-risk children, all these organizations have extensive experience running their programs and will therefore be valuable resources of information. I will contact them over the course of my project and present a list of questions to them that will address the aforementioned issues.

In addition to this list of organizations, I will contact Delta Society, an organization that has extensive experience in animal-assisted therapy and offers numerous courses for people interested in starting animal-assisted therapy programs. Delta Society also certifies people and nonhuman animals in their Pet Partner program. I hope to gain valuable information from this organization about safety and insurance issues. Furthermore, I will contact Society & Animals Forum (formerly PsyETA), an organization that has developed “the first-ever psychological intervention program for treatment of animal abuse” (Society & Animals Forum, n.d.) entitled ANICARE and ANICARE Child. ANICARE is a psychological intervention program directed at animal
abusers over the age of seventeen. It can be used by experienced mental health professionals. ANICARE Child is a treatment and assessment plan for children who have abused animals. It is designed for mental health professionals as well as other professionals working with children in “agencies, domestic violence organizations, hospitals, schools, and private practice” (Society & Animals Forum, n.d.). Society & Animals Forum will be an excellent resource on risk assessment. On the following pages I will give a short description of each chapter in Part One of the ILP.

**Risk Assessment and Safety**: Conducting a risk assessment and ensuring the safety of all participants is the most important part of any program evaluation process. The program will only be successful if it is safe for the animals, children, and adults involved. I will look into risk assessment tools to avoid exposing any participant and animal to danger. Naturally, the age and the background of the participants will make a significant difference in this process. Older children might already have been exposed to a large amount of violence in their homes if they come from families where domestic violence is prevalent, and might therefore be more desensitized than younger children.

Most risk assessment tools consist of detailed questionnaires given to potential participants before they are selected for the program. If a program is targeted at children, which it would be in my case, it is important to involve the caregiver in the risk assessment plan also. This means that the caregivers will also be required to fill out questionnaires as part of the process (Loar & Colman, 2004). I will further research this issue by reviewing relevant books, articles, and web sites. Risk assessment is something that I will also address when talking to directors of similar programs.
Assessing Individual Progress: The goals that we will have to set for each child might vary. I will therefore need to review assessment tools that measure individual gains. One possibility is to have a detailed questionnaire that can be handed out at the beginning of the two-month program. The questions could be designed to measure behavior and possibly attitude changes for each child. Also, to measure individual progress I will need to work closely with the adults in the program (e.g., counselors, caregivers, teachers, and volunteers) because they will be the ones who will be able to observe and document any behavior or attitude changes. Individual goals could be, for example, to build or rebuild self-esteem, self-confidence, and trust, or to empower children to deal with frustrations and anger in a positive, non-violent way.

Program Assessment: The program assessment needs to measure the success of the program as a whole rather than the success of the individual participant. Loar and Colman (2004) differentiate between objective and subjective feedback. Objective feedback in this context means asking people to give information on a child’s frustration tolerance or ability to focus on a task or to verbalize things, to give just a few examples. Subjective feedback means asking participants how they feel about certain aspects of the program, such as contents, staff members, volunteers, and animals.

According to the authors, objective feedback has to be gathered from people such as parents, teachers, counselors, or social workers who see the participants regularly in another context. In my program I could give questionnaires to counselors, teachers, or the children’s caregivers. The questions will have to target observable behavior and attitude changes. Sample questions could be: “Have you noticed any significant differences in the
child’s attention span?” and “Could you observe any differences in the child’s social behaviors?”

Subjective feedback, which asks people how they feel about the program, could come from anyone involved in the program including volunteers and staff members (Loar & Colman, 2004). To receive subjective feedback, I will develop a questionnaire to hand out to participants. Sample questions could be: “What did you like or dislike about the program?” and “Did you feel safe to be around the animals?”

Overall, I think that each of the evaluation components is equally important, and therefore needs to be an essential part of the program development. I will discuss program assessment with other organizations and review reliable literature resources.

**Insurance:** It is necessary that staff members and volunteers have liability coverage. I will address this question with the other organizations and I will contact the insurance agency of the sanctuary about this matter. While we will do everything to make sure that the program will be as safe as possible, accidents unfortunately can happen despite our best intentions and it is therefore important to be as well informed as possible about this issue.

**Cost evaluation:** While a detailed budget plan for the program would be an ILP by itself, I will nonetheless include some basic information about the approximate costs for such a program. We need money to feed the children and possibly for transportation to and from the sanctuary. Some other expenses I anticipate are: insurance, brochures and other advertising materials, paper and other materials used by the children, and staff
salaries. Getting input on this issue from other experienced organizations will be very helpful.

**Volunteer recruitment and training:** Volunteers will be an essential part of this program. Ideally I would like to have one volunteer for up to two children. Volunteers as well as staff members will help to ensure safety for all participants. They will also provide support for the children and the animals. This means that volunteers need to be thoroughly trained about how to interact with the children, how to handle the animals, and how to handle an emergency situation.

Staff members from the sanctuary could advise the volunteers on proper handling of the animals. However, I would like to have an expert from a child abuse agency educate the volunteers about appropriate interaction with the children. Again, this is an issue that I plan to discuss with other organizations.

My ideal volunteers would be university students who are studying to become psychologists, counselors, or social workers, as well as students in humane education, special education, or in early childhood development programs. I know that Forget Me Not Farm, run by the Humane Society of Sonoma County, California, has a similar humane education program where university students are offered an accredited internship at the facility. To figure out if this is a possibility for my program I will contact colleges and universities in the Puget Sound area.

For safety reasons it will also be necessary to screen the volunteers, which means that a background check will have to be done before they start participating in the
program. I will check Washington State regulations to find out the particulars about background checks.

**Part Two**

Part Two of my ILP will cover the actual curriculum design for the program. One problem that I foresee is that at this early planning stage I do not have a child abuse or domestic violence agency to assist in developing the program so I am not sure for what time period children would be able to come out to the sanctuary. I am therefore in the process of trying to find a suitable agency that might be interested in the program and would be willing to meet with me during the planning stage and discuss these issues with me. Unfortunately, I have already learned that these agencies are extremely busy so it is not easy to find somebody who can invest time in such meetings. However, I will continue to work on this problem.

**Curriculum development:** I believe that an eight-week program where children visit the sanctuary once a week for three hours is a realistic goal. I will write one lesson plan for each week. As mentioned before, the program can be adjusted for each group of children. The age group that I am thinking of is 8 to 12, since according to one study by Eron and others (as cited in Garbarino, 1999, p. 66) by the age of eight, aggressive behaviors have already been established. However, Mother Hildegard George (1999) refers to Eric Erikson’s child development model when she states:

By the age of eight or nine children should develop a sense of the rights of others as well as valuing the differences in others. They should likewise be overcoming childhood fears and developing courage and a conviction in what they believe.
Between the ages of 10 and 12, children should develop a sense of the feelings of others, especially those less fortunate than themselves. (p.383)

Taking this research into consideration, I believe that since the mission of my program will be to break the cycle of violence this would be an ideal age group with which to work. However, this is also an issue that I will research further and will address with directors of other programs.

As for the contents of my lesson plans, I will review a large variety of literature that deals with humane education, animal-assisted therapy, nature therapy, issues of child development, domestic violence, and abuse and neglect of human and nonhuman animals. I will also review curricula that have been successful in other programs and I will draw on the things I have learned during my studies in the IIHE humane education master’s program.
Chapter 2

Review of Literature

The Need for Humane Education Programs for At-Risk Children

Why do many children and teenagers either become victims of violence or commit acts of violence themselves? Why do animals often become a target of abuse? Is there a link between domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse? If violence prevention has become one of the most pressing issues for our society, how can I, as a humane educator, contribute to violence prevention efforts in my area? What do I need to take into consideration to design a successful humane education program for at-risk children? What would be the benefits for the children of integrating animals into such a program? What do we know about the human-animal bond? How do we perceive animals in our society and what are the consequences of our perceptions? Could farmed animals be part of a program and how would they benefit from it? How can we evaluate humane education efforts? Can humane education programs really make a difference in violence prevention? What would be the goal of such a program? What resources can I use for planning the curriculum? How can I integrate elements of nature therapy into the curriculum? After reading a large variety of literature on these issues, I have come to the conclusion that creating an animal-assisted humane education program that focuses on breaking the cycle of violence can be a powerful tool that both children and animals can benefit from. Mother Hildegard George (1999) put it this way:

Programs that incorporate animals help build self-esteem and give children and teens a chance to show that they can do something well. Such programs give them a place to develop relationships safely by beginning with a relationship with the animal. Often, children and teens have not had good relationships with the adults in their lives. To start with an animal and those who relate to the animal is an honest and safe way to begin. (p. 380)
Child Abuse and Neglect in the State of Washington

Since my program will be designed for at-risk children who might have a history of abuse and neglect or come from a family background where domestic violence is prevalent, it is important to understand what the situation in the State of Washington is like in this respect. Washington State Law (RCW 26.44.020) defines child abuse and neglect in the following way:

'Abuse or neglect' means the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child by any person under circumstances which indicate that the child's health, welfare, and safety is harmed, excluding conduct permitted under law. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section. (NCCAN, 2004, State Statutes Search Results: Washington section, ¶ 2.)

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 896,000 children nationwide were abused or neglected in 2002 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002, Summary Child Maltreatment section, ¶ 6). In 80% of the cases the parents of these children were the perpetrators (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002, Summary Child Maltreatment section, ¶ 14). The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), whose website offers a large collection of data referring to child abuse and neglect, states that in the State of Washington “22,709 children were reported as abused and neglected and referred for investigation” (CWLA, 2004, Washington’s Children 2004 section, ¶ 1) in 2001. Of these children, 6,007 “were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected”. While it is good news that the rate of victimization actually decreased by 15% from 2000 to 2001, it still means that 3.9 out of every 1,000 children in Washington State suffered from abuse and neglect in 2001 (CWLA, 2004, Washington’s Children 2004 section, ¶ 1). At the same time, however, the number of child fatalities from child abuse and neglect increased from 14 in 2000 to 16 in 2001.
Equally alarming is the fact that the number of children and teenagers killed by firearms rose from 5 in 2000 to 10 in 2001 (CWLA, 2004, Washington’s Children 2004 section, ¶ 6).

Humane educators, staff members, and volunteers involved in humane education programs need to know that workers that come in contact with children are required by Washington state law (RCW 26.44.030) to report any indications of child abuse or neglect that they come across when dealing with the children. The Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect provides detailed information on their website about phone numbers and offices in Washington State where reports have to be filed.

Loar and Colman (2004) argue that it is not uncommon that educators who are running animal-assisted humane education programs are confronted with stories of abuse. They state: “Humane educators are especially likely to be told very specific stories as children react to their descriptions of responsible care for animals” (p. 17). The authors regard “the inherent message” of humane education programs as a possible reason for this likeliness. They suggest:

When teachers talk about how humans can nurture other living creatures, they do not intentionally contrast good pet care with the inadequate care some children receive at home. Nonetheless, neglected children hear clearly the teacher’s opinion that things should be different “even for a dog.” The message is that all living things deserve love and attention. Here at last is an adult who, like most children, wants life to be fair and just and loving. It is a message of hope. No wonder children want to talk about upsetting things with such a person. (p. 18)

Since my program will be targeted at children with a history of abuse and neglect, it is necessary that we work closely with counselors, social workers, or the children’s teachers to make sure that we exchange all information that is important in this context.
**Children and Domestic Violence in the State of Washington**

Washington State Law (RCW 26.50.010) defines domestic violence in the following way:

(1) “Domestic violence” means: (a) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, between family or household members; (b) sexual assault of one family member by another; or (c) stalking as defined in RCW 9A.46.110 of one family member by another family or household member. (Washington State Legislature, n.d., RCW 26.50.010 section 1)

Animal Abuse in the State of Washington

Finding reliable statistics on animal abuse is much harder than finding statistics on child abuse or domestic violence. Very often animal abuse cases are not reported or if they are reported authorities do not take them seriously (Loar, 1999). Therefore, there are a number of animal welfare organizations in the state that are currently working very hard to introduce legislation that will update the state’s animal cruelty laws and will ask for harsher penalties for animal cruelty violations (Pasado’s Safe Haven, 2005, Senate Passes S.B. 5352 section, ¶ 1). Pet-Abuse.Com, an organization that tries to raise public awareness of animal cruelty and the animal/human violence link (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Goal section, ¶ 1), provides a large online database for animal cruelty cases in the U.S. with separate listings for each state. The database is called AARDAS, which stands for “Animal Abuse Registry Database Administration System” (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Abuse Database FAQ section, ¶ 6). According to this database, there were 94 cases of animal cruelty in the State of Washington in the past ten years. (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Search Results in WA section, ¶ 1). This does not necessarily mean that this is a complete list of all the cases in the state, but since the database is shared by most Washington animal welfare and animal protection organizations, it gives a pretty good idea of the incidents that occurred (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Abuse Database FAQ section, ¶ 2). As of March 22, 2005, nationwide 30% of animal cruelty cases had to do with abandonment and neglect (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Animal Abuse Crime Database Realtime Graphical Statistics, ¶ 5). 312 out of 2835 cases of animal cruelty in the U.S. were committed by children 17 years of age or younger. Another 708 perpetrators were between 18 and 25 years old (Pet-Abuse.Com, 2005, Animal Abuse Crime Database – Life Cycle of Abuse...
section, ¶ 2). These figures show that cruel behavior can start early and we therefore need humane education programs that are designed especially for young children.

None of the cases listed in this database, however, addressed the treatment of animals in factory farms. Debeaking millions of chickens, taildocking and ear-notching millions of pigs, tethering newborn calves, and other practices common in modern agriculture are not considered animal cruelty by these lists. The general public is typically unaware of and therefore unconcerned by these animal husbandry practices.

**The Connection between Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Animal Abuse, and Children**

Becoming a victim of abuse and neglect is a traumatic experience. It usually leaves the victim feeling powerless and helpless. While domestic violence is usually first targeted at women (though men may also be victims of domestic abuse), other weak members of the family are often in great danger of becoming victims as well. Historically women, children, and animals were considered as property under the law, and although this is no longer the case for women and children, the position of animals remains unchanged, thereby leaving them in the most unprotected position in our society (Lacroix, 1999). However, the three groups have more in common than a legacy of discrimination: “Women, children, and family pets share the results of their abusers’ misuse of power and control. And they share economic dependence, strong emotional bonds, and a enduring sense of loyalty to their abusers” (Lacroix, 1999, p. 64). Herman (1997) calls psychological trauma “an affliction of the powerless” (p.33).

Watching a family member getting hurt by another member of the family puts children into the same helpless situation as the victim her- or himself. Having to witness
the victim’s physical and emotional distress is extremely stressful for these children. This also applies when animals are the victims, since animals are sentient beings who experience pain and suffering just like humans do (Ascione, 2001). Loar (1999) argues that if an animal is frequently victimized in a family, children might even decide to kill their beloved pet themselves before the parent might do it in order to spare the animal from prolonged pain and suffering. However, being exposed to repeated violence can have a desensitizing effect in the long run which may lead to children imitating the behavior that they have witnessed. Loar (1999) explains:

Children who repeat abusive behaviors are often referred to by mental health professionals as “abusive-reactive”. That is, they react to the abuse they themselves have experienced by re-enacting it with others, often those they can easily victimize, usually smaller children and animals. Few children can maintain their sympathetic view of animals, younger siblings, and other small children in the face of pressure to act like the violent parent. (p. 126)

Ascione, Thompson, and Black (1997) conducted a study that came up with a list of reasons why children abuse animals. The study was based on interviews with 20 children over four years of age and their parents. Besides soliciting participants from the community, the authors included interviews with children and adolescents who came from families with a history of domestic violence, participants who were enrolled in residential programs for emotionally disturbed children, and interviews with adolescents who were incarcerated.

Based on this study as well as on case reports of animal cruelty committed by children and teenagers Ascione (2001) describes the reasons why children may harm animals: besides killing an animal to spare the animal from further torture by another family member or repetitive behavior as explained above, children abused an animal out of curiosity because they wanted to examine her or him or because they were pressured to
do so by other children or teenagers. Some children became abusers because they were bored or depressed. For others the abuse was sexually motivated, and some children acted out of fear of the animal. Since some children who were abused or grew up in a domestic violence situation were traumatized, reenacting their traumatic experience was another reason why children became animal abusers.

In some cases children used animals to rehearse future violent acts against people; some of the school shooters such as Luke Woodham who in 1997 killed three people in Pearl, Mississippi, (Ascione, 1999) or Kip Kinkel, who murdered his parents and a number of students at his school in Springfield, Oregon, (Garbarino, 1999) have a documented history of animal abuse.

Unfortunately, it often happens that adults do not take such abusive behavior seriously enough. The life of an animal is considered less valuable than the life of a human being and therefore children often get away with such violent and harmful behavior without any consequences. This, however, is very dangerous for the further development of the child. Ascione (1999) states: “When children engage in animal abuse and there are no negative consequences, their threshold for being interpersonally violent may be lowered.”(p. 51)

So, is it proven that animal abuse will lead to interpersonal violence? Some authors that I have reviewed in my research (Ascione, 1999; Garbarino, 1999; Arkow, 1999) agree that “animal abuse does not inevitably lead to interpersonal violence” (Ascione, 1999, p. 51); however, it is undoubtedly a serious warning sign that should not be ignored. Herman (1997) argues that it is the level of resilience of the individual that makes the difference in how children act in the future. She refers to a study by E.E.
Werner (1989): “… when a large group of children were followed from birth until
adulthood, roughly one child in ten showed an unusual capacity to withstand an adverse
early environment” (p. 58). Unfortunately, the majority of people are not blessed with
such healthy resilience, and are therefore in danger of developing progressive violent
behavior patterns. Beirne (2003), however, criticizes this “progression thesis”(¶ 1) in an
article published in the journal Society & Animals. He argues that it “is supported not by
a coherent research program but by disparate studies often lacking methodological and
conceptual clarity”(¶ 1). He therefore points out the necessity of long-term studies.

It needs to be stressed at this point however, that even if animal abuse does not lead
to interpersonal violence in all cases, it is an act of violence that harms or takes the life of
a sentient being. This life has an inherent value independent of the human species.
Animal abuse therefore needs to have serious consequences for the sake of both the
perpetrators and the victims.

The Potential of Humane Education to Break the Cycle of Violence

Weil (2004), cofounder of the International Institute for Humane Education, often
starts off a talk about humane education by quoting the Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary
definition for the word humane. According to this dictionary (as cited in Weil, 2004, p.5),
humane means, “having what are considered the best qualities of human beings.” While
each individual will probably come up with a slightly different list for these qualities,
very often people agree that the list of best qualities should include kindness,
compassion, empathy, courage, patience, and honesty (Weil, 2004). Any humane
education program is invariably a violence prevention program, since humane education
encourages young people to integrate these qualities into their lives. Humane education cultivates empathy and compassion and it empowers young people to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference, thereby strengthening their self-esteem. Weil puts it this way: “Children who learn to live with genuine kindness toward others, to think critically about their choices and their lives, and to make wise decisions, help prevent future suffering and disaster” (Weil, 2004, p.7).

George (1999) points out that childhood can be a highly stressful time in our lives because of the numerous changes we are subjected to during this period. Garbarino (1995) goes one step further when he argues that childhood is much more challenging today then it was fifty years ago because of what he calls the “deterioration of the quality of social life” (p. ix). Parents who often have to work numerous jobs spend less time with their children, public schools are under-funded and over-crowded, children are regularly exposed to violent images on TV and in video games, and often children have to spend a large part of their day without any supervision. However, both authors agree that caring relationships and positive role models can strengthen the children’s resilience to these negative influences. George states:

When children are taught empathy from the beginning by watching the adults around them and from interaction with their peers, they learn the proper way to behave around animals. It all has to do with supervision and good education, which involves more than demonstrations. By teaching children to care we can change their attitudes about violence. We do this by healing them and healing the wounds within, whether emotional, physical or spiritual. Then we change children’s vision for the future by helping them to recognize negative behavior and its consequences. (p. 391)

Humane education alone cannot be the solution for what Garbarino (1995) calls a “socially toxic environment” (p. 4), but as Duel (1999) points out, “it can and does make
a difference” (p. 343). However, this raises the question as to how we can measure the impact of humane education programs.

**Evaluating Humane Education Programs**

Formalized humane education programs were first implemented in the U.S. about 100 years ago (Ascione, 1997). However, research on program evaluation is fairly new, so there are still only a limited number of studies available. Evaluation usually distinguishes between knowledge, attitude, and behavioral changes (Ascione, 1997). While it is relatively easy to document knowledge and attitude changes, because they can be self-reported, it is more difficult to document behavioral changes due to a lack of scientific data. Researchers often have to rely on anecdotal reports from parents, teachers, counselors, or social workers who spend a significant amount of time with the children during and after the program (Ascione, 1997). Most studies therefore focus on measuring knowledge assessment and attitude changes.

Studies that evaluate different humane education programs (e.g., Ascione, 1992; Fleming, 1985 as cited in Ascione, 1997; Hein, 1987 as cited in Ascione, 1997; Malcarne, 1981 as cited in Ascione, 1997; Vockell & Hodal, 1980) are often hard to compare because the programs that are evaluated differ immensely in many areas such as age group, program length, contents of the program, presenter of the program, and time and methods of evaluation. Also, all of the above-mentioned studies focused on school-based programs and unfortunately there are almost no studies available that evaluate humane education programs that are taught at sanctuaries or similar locations.
As for school-based humane education programs, the intensity of a program seems to be an important factor for success. A study conducted by Vockell and Hodal (1980) reported that one-time humane education presentations in third- to sixth-grade classes did not seem to make any significant difference. Hein (as cited in Ascione, 1997), however, studied school-based evaluation efforts that varied from a one-time presentation to second graders to a series of three presentations to third, fourth, and fifth graders. The surprising result was that no significant changes could be reported for the fifth graders, while the humane attitudes of the second, third, and fourth graders seemed to have increased. Hein suggests that the results of this study have to be regarded with caution as the results might have been influenced by unreliable factors such as “teaching to the test” (Hein as cited in Ascione, 1997). “Teaching to the test” means that an educator spends most of his or her time in class preparing the students for the test instead of covering the curriculum. Test results therefore might be distorted. Hein suggests that to achieve significant attitude changes more intensive instruction is needed (Ascione, 1997).

Malcarne (1981) studied the effects of humane education drama and role-playing activities on a small group of third and fourth graders (n = 33). The study tried to find out if drama and role-playing would impact the children’s ability to empathize with animals and humans and if it would influence their social behavior towards both groups. The children were divided into three groups. The first group was trained to role-play a human in distress, the second group played an animal in distress, and the third group did not take part in any role-playing activities but the instructor read a story to the children called *The Gift of the Sacred Dogs*. It is a story about a Native American boy whose family is starving. His prayers for help are answered by the Great Spirit who sends the sacred dogs
and horses to help. The results confirmed that the first two treatment groups showed more empathy than the third group and were more willing to participate in volunteer activities at a children’s hospital. However, only the treatment group that was trained to play an animal in distress showed a high willingness to participate in volunteer activities at a shelter (Malcarne as cited in Ascione, 1997). This study shows that the greatest gains in children’s empathy and prosocial behavior came from playing an animal in distress.

A more recent study by Ascione (1992) is very important with respect to program intensity and length because it evaluated a yearlong humane education program that was taught in thirty-two classrooms to first through fifth graders. The program used the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education’s curriculum in addition to a weekly humane education newsletter called KIND News. Like the studies described before, Ascione assessed the effects of the program on the children’s attitudes and their ability to empathize with animals and humans. While it turned out that no significant attitude changes could be reported for the first and second graders, significant changes were found in the fourth and fifth graders. However, this result also needs to be interpreted in light of child development theories. According to Erikson (as cited in George, 1999) children between the age of 10 and 12 “develop a sense of the feelings of others, especially those less fortunate than themselves” (p. 383). Since fourth and fifth graders are in this age group, they might have been more receptive to the message of the humane education program than the younger children were.

A study by Shore (1986) evaluated children’s attitudes towards farm animals. The study focused on 31 children who, as part of their summer camp activities, were taken on a visit to a farm. For the purpose of this study the children were divided into three groups.
The first group received only a half-hour guided tour of the farm, the second group received a half-hour tour but afterwards was allowed to interact with the animals, and the third group served as a control group and did not participate in any of these activities. It is important to note at this point that the farm the children visited was a small family owned farm. I suspect that the outcome of the study would be totally different if it had involved a factory farm. A pre-test that was given to the children prior to their visit showed that the children already had very positive attitudes toward farm animals. The post-test did not find any significant attitude or knowledge changes between the three groups. DeRosa (1987) argued though that the outcome of the study might be due to the fact that the children already had very positive attitudes toward the farm animals before their visit. This study suggests that there are no gains from hands-on experiences with farmed animals. However, it could be argued that the study only confirmed Vockell and Hodal’s (1980) findings that one-time humane education presentations don’t make a significant difference even if they include hands-on activities. The positive attitudes the children demonstrated towards the farmed animals will be beneficial in long-term programs because it will enable children to bond and empathize with the animals.

Considering the results of the aforementioned studies, I draw the following conclusions for my program: An intensive program seems to be more effective than a short one. If the children come out to the farm once a week they need to get a fair amount of instructional time as well as time to interact with the animals. The program should ideally last a few weeks or, even better, months. It may be best to start with an eight-week program with the option to extend it later. A program for children starting at the age of nine or ten might be more effective than a program for very young children. Since all
of the animals are rescued and have their own sad stories, I hope that the children will empathize with them.

**Why it is Beneficial to Integrate Animals into Humane Education Programs**

The relationship between human and nonhuman animals has a long history. In early gatherer and hunter societies animals were hunted for food. The end of the Ice Age, however, made it possible for people to settle down and live together in small villages (Serpell, 1996). The domestication of animals was part of the transition into the new agrarian society. By about 4000 years ago, animal husbandry had become an important part of every day life for most people in this society (Serpell, 1996). However, some species were raised for food while others were regarded as companions and friends.

According to Beck (2000), the use of animals in a therapeutic setting dates back to 1792, when a Quaker group used farmed animals for therapy in an asylum in York. Animals were also part of the therapy program provided to epileptics at Bethel, an institution in Bielefeld, Germany that was founded in the second half of the 19th century (Beck, 2000). American child psychiatrist Boris Levinson, however, coined the expression ‘pet therapy’ in 1964. According to Serpell (1996), Levinson used animals as an “ice-breaker” (p. 89) in his therapy sessions with children. He had realized that some of his clients who had a hard time communicating with people easily bonded with the animals.

Raphael, Colman, and Loar (1999) speak of the “unique way in which animals communicate with people” (p. 6). They stated:

> Through body language and facial expression, an animal’s feelings are always genuine and clear. Animals never lecture or explain. No wonder we are intrigued
by them, and no wonder children, who are still trying to figure out what is appropriate to say and what isn’t, feel safe with them. (p. 6)

Ross (1999), founder of Green Chimneys School and Green Chimneys Children’s Services in Brewster, New York, explains that at Green Chimneys many children have a history of abuse and neglect. Many of these children perform poorly at school and are therefore often discouraged by their failures. However, the animals at Green Chimneys don’t care about that. Ross states that the children “come defeated because they have failed in those things by which children get judged, but we have never had an animal ask a child his achievement test scores” (p. 369). Acknowledging the benefits described in this section, more and more humane educators and therapists are trying to integrate animals into their programs (e.g., Rathmann, 1999; De Grave, 1999; Dillman, 1999).

The Difference between Animal-Assisted Activities and Animal-Assisted Therapy

Since the humane education program that I am developing for this ILP will be based on interaction with farmed animals, it is necessary to clarify the difference between ‘animal-assisted activities’ (AAA) and ‘animal-assisted therapy’ (AAT). AAA are any activities in which animals are used to “provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational, benefits to enhance quality of life. AAA are delivered in a variety of environments by a specially trained professional, and/or volunteer in association with animals that meet specific criteria (Delta Society, 1996, p. 49). Activities are not tailored to the needs of each individual person who is participating in the program and there are no specific goals set for each session (Delta Society, About Animal-Assisted Activities & Animal-Assisted Therapy section, n.d. ¶ 3).
Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) incorporates animal-assisted activities but is more goal-oriented (Delta Society, About Animal-Assisted Activities & Animal-Assisted Therapy section, n.d. ¶ 5). Like AAA, AAT must be directed by a professional, such as a therapist, teacher, social worker, or doctor, and/or by a supervised volunteer. Progress has to be documented and measured. Delta Society (1996) stated:

AAT is designed to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning [cognitive functioning refers to thinking and intellectual skills]. AAT is provided in a variety of settings and may be group or individual in nature. This process is documented and evaluated. (p. 49)

The animal-assisted humane education program that I am planning will be a form of animal-assisted therapy. Each lesson plan will clearly outline specific goals for the children. A goal could be, for example, to learn to control impulsive behavior while in the presence of an animal, or learning to recognize the feelings of other participants including the animals, or learning how to interact safely with an animal. A knowledgeable humane educator who works closely with staff members of the client agency will run the program. Goals for individual participants could be worked out if necessary. Volunteers will be specifically trained and supervised. A reliable evaluation tool will be implemented to measure individual progress as well as the effectiveness of the program.
Farmed Animals as Part of a Humane Education Program

While many humane education or animal-assisted therapy programs incorporate companion animals into their programs, the number of educational programs that focus on farmed animals is very small and the programs that do have a focus on farmed animals often do so to teach children about agricultural practices. Examples for such programs are the Bovine Program at Colorado Boys Ranch (UCDavis, n.d., Animals Teaching Adolescents Program Listing section, ¶ 7), or the programs offered at Cal Farley Boys Ranch, where children operate a dairy and an egg production facility, a hog farm, a slaughter facility and cow/calf operation under the supervision of adults (UCDavis, n.d., Animals Teaching Adolescents Program Listing section, ¶ 5). Children learn how to milk cows, how to raise pigs for meat, and how to raise chickens in order to get eggs. Other examples are 4H programs, which are programs designed to teach young people life skills (4HUSA.org, 2005, Welcome to 4HUSA.org section, ¶ 1), as well as leadership and citizenship. The programs are administered in a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state land-grant universities, and county governments. In their farmed animal related programs children raise and care for an animal from his or her birth until the day the animal is sent to slaughter. For the children this means that eventually they will have to betray the trust of the animal they have raised, which is often a heartbreaking experience for them as reported by a newspaper article about country fairs (King, 2004).

Green Chimneys, an organization that has extensive experience in animal-assisted therapy programs, has published an animal-assisted activities manual that has suggestions for educators who are interested in starting new programs. The manual reviews how “cows, goats, sheep, and pigs” (Green Chimneys, n.d.) can be incorporated into programs.
The benefits of cows in educational programs are described as follows: “Cows fit easily into educational programs, providing demonstrations of milking, plowing, and driving. They have historical significance. Agricultural literacy programs incorporate cows to help illustrate beef and dairy production” (p. 38).

What is it, though, that such programs teach? Programs like that are based on an idea that the animal rights community calls “speciesism” (Singer, 1975, p.7). Speciesism is based on the assumption that, because we belong to the human species, which we consider superior to all others, we are entitled to use animals for human ends. While children participating in 4H or similar programs often develop a loving bond with the animals they raise, these programs teach them that the violent death of the animal is inevitable. We pretend that there is no choice but to slaughter and eat animals because this has been part of our society for thousands of years. We also don’t tell these children the truth about modern agricultural practices. We do not show them what intensive confinement in a factory farm looks like, and we don’t give them the opportunity to look into the eyes of a pig who has just been loaded on a truck to be shipped to slaughter. If I want to teach children empathy, compassion, and kindness, doesn’t that mean that I need to be consistent and include all living species? Joy (2003) pointed out “Humans at once love and destroy – adopt and consume – those who are not members of their own species” (p. 19). How are children supposed to understand and act upon such ambivalence in our relationship to nonhuman animals? Humane education needs to question this ambivalence. Humane education programs that allow children to perceive farmed animals in a non-speciest, nonviolent, and truly compassionate way will be promising tools to break the cycle of violence.
**Nature as Part of a Humane Education Program**

Nebbe (1995) argues, “Contact with nature in some form seems to be necessary for strong mental health” (p. 22). She further explains that simple activities such as a walk in the park or an afternoon working in the yard are considered as “nature-assisted activities” (p. 23), and could have a therapeutic effect on us.

Nature therapy incorporates nature-assisted activities into a person’s “treatment process” (p. 23). It is a form of therapy that is goal directed, and needs to be evaluated. Nature therapy is broadly defined and combines three different therapeutic approaches, according to Nebbe (1995). Animal-assisted therapy can be considered the first therapeutic approach; horticulture therapy and natural environment therapy are the two other possible approaches (Nebbe, 1995). Horticulture therapy can be defined as “A process in which plants and gardening activities are used to improve the body, mind, and spirits of people” (American Horticulture Therapy Association, n.d., FAQ section, ¶ 1). Natural environment therapy is based on the concept that spending a significant amount of time in the outdoors will help people to reach their potential by educating them about nature, themselves and others. Programs such as Outward Bound or Project Adventure are examples for natural environment therapy programs (Nebbe, 1995).

Some organizations combine various elements of these different approaches. Forget Me Not Farm in Santa Rosa, California, for example, has created a program for at-risk children that combines animal-assisted therapy and horticulture therapy. Children spend some time at the farm interacting with the animals and some time working in the farm garden planting flowers or vegetables and caring for them (Rathmann, 1999).
In the program that I am developing for this ILP, I will combine elements of animal-assisted therapy with nature therapy because I agree with Sutton Chard (1994) that we are “estranged from our natural environment” (p. 13). Most children have to spend the majority of their day sitting in overcrowded classrooms that often don’t even have windows. When they come home from school many of them turn on the TV or sit down to play video games. Nature does not play a role in any of their activities. For adults the situation is not much better. Many of us spend our days indoors in office buildings where we interact mostly with electronic devices instead of other living beings. Fully air-conditioned rooms even deprive us of the ability to experience differences in temperature from one season to the next. We have lost the sense of wonder that the beauty of a flower petal or perfection of a spider web could awake in us. We therefore need to create a space where our sense of wonder can be reawakened. Activities such as “dream starters” as suggested by Sheehan and Waidner (1994) will help children to reconnect with nature thereby reconnecting with themselves. A dream starter is a story that encourages children to “slip into the paws” or “roots” of an animal or plant. The humane educator uses “guided imagery” and “verbal cues” (p. 12) to have the child experience a morning in the life of a squirrel or the awakening of a sunflower in summer, for example. Seeing things from a plant’s or animal’s perspective can awaken empathy toward and understanding of other living beings. Since the program will be implemented at the sanctuary, it will be easy to take advantage of the beautiful natural setting of the farm.
Elements of a Successful Animal-Assisted Humane Education Program

Loar and Colman (2004) describe the goal of animal-assisted therapy programs in the following way:

Animal-assisted therapy programs that focus on the tenets of emotional intelligence offer opportunities for long-term success to children otherwise at risk of academic and interpersonal failure by creating repeated and consistent opportunities for them to acquire pro-social behaviors and attitudes in an enjoyable and non-didactic activity. (p. 66)

They suggest that to achieve this goal a program should concentrate on “mastery, empathy, future orientation, literacy, and balanced and restorative justice” (p. 66) as “the five core skills” (p. 66). In the following sections I will explain what each of these will mean in the context of my program:

**Mastery:** Mastery is defined as “feeling and behaving competently” (Loar and Colman, 2004, p. 67). For the children in my program this means that they will learn how to approach an animal in a respectful, caring manner. The children will learn about the history and needs of this particular animal and her or his species. They will be taught how to properly care for this animal and they will develop their own care plan for the length of time that they are in the program. They will be involved in hands-on activities, such as grooming or walking or feeding the animals. They will also be encouraged to develop ideas on how to find an appropriate home for some of these animals; for example, they could develop questionnaires for prospective adopters or they could come up with ideas on how to educate people about the fate of farmed animals and old cats and dogs who are left at the shelters. They could also write a profile of each animal for the sanctuary’s
website or draw a picture that could be included with gift sponsorships for the animals. All these activities will help to create a positive self-image for the participating children.

Achieving “mastery” through learning how to care for an animal is a component of many programs that I have reviewed. At Green Chimneys, for example, animal care is part of the children’s daily chores since they have animals in their living units and in the classrooms. Ross (1999) explains that the goal is to teach children to act responsibly and to teach them how to competently care for an animal on an ongoing basis. Rathmann (1999) describes that at Forget Me Not Farm a great opportunity for learning how “to behave competently” arose when a seven-day-old injured calf was rescued and needed to get special care for her wounds. The children learned how to treat the wounds and how to properly bottle-feed the calf. Dillman (1999) stresses that achieving mastery is especially valuable if the children can experience their accomplishments themselves:

When a youngster learns to ride a bicycle or swim, it is not necessary to tell the child that he or she did well. The accomplishment is obvious when the child reaches the goal. Using animals to help children set realistic goals is a pleasant and effective way to bolster their ability to feel good about their achievements. The child who learns to love a pet, train a dog, ride a horse, or even overcome fear of an animal will experience a personal real accomplishment. (p.427)

*Empathy:* One of the things that has always struck me about animals is their ability to forgive former abuse, neglect, and suffering. It is often hard to believe how fast some of these animals regain trust in human beings once they are at the sanctuary. The children will learn how to understand the needs of the animals and how to behave around animals in a way that is non-frightening, and stress-free for both the animals and children. George (1999) stresses the importance of teaching empathy by giving the example of a ten-year-
old boy who lived at the residential farm-school at Green Chimneys because of emotional
problems. George states:

He often said that when he grew up he wanted to be an architect so he could design
cities that people would like to live in and take care of. His daily contact with and
care of the farm animals had helped develop an empathy that enabled him to care
about others in the environment. (p.384)

Children will also benefit from watching the animals. Most animals at the sanctuary
clearly express their feelings through their behavior or their body language. For instance,
Louise, a pig rescued from slaughter, gets very excited when people have treats for her
and she comes running to the fence and sticks out her nose when people call her name. In
summer she loves to take showers from the garden hose, and she often has an almost
ecstatic look on her face when the water cools her hot skin. The geese and chickens
excitedly greet each new visitor hoping for some fruit or other delicious gifts. Most of the
dogs love to give kisses and gratefully wag their tails each time they get an unexpected
treat. The children in the program will learn how to read these emotions and how to
develop patience with the animals they meet at the sanctuary. Increasing the children’s
ability to identify certain emotions in animals will help them to read human beings and
their feelings and will make it easier for them to act appropriately.

*Future Orientation:* Future orientation is the belief that we can create a better future
for other living beings, this planet, and ourselves. As Loar and Colman (2004) point out:

People demand more of themselves, conquer problems, defer gratification, and put
the needs of others ahead of their own only when they believe that the effort they
make today will contribute to a better tomorrow. This optimistic world view is
referred to as future orientation. Absent this view – the belief in a better future – there
is no compelling reason to exercise self-control. (Loar, L. & Colman, L., 2004, p.73)
Future orientation will be addressed in the program in the following way: For one thing the children will be involved in creating a better future for the animals. By helping to find loving homes for the animals, developing materials to educate the public, or exercising the animals, the children play a positive role in the life of another living being. They understand that what they do for this animal matters and makes a difference. This will at the same time help them to find hope for a brighter future in their own lives. Activities could be provided that nurture the children’s vision of a better future for themselves, such as short meditations or story writing.

_Literacy:_ Loar and Colman (2004) describe literacy, which is the ability to read and write, as “a powerful tool that can be used in humane education, animal-assisted and other therapy programs to promote and reinforce gains” (p. 74). They point out that due to growing up in a stressful environment, children with a history of abuse and neglect often have trouble concentrating at school. This may impact their ability to read and write. Writing, however, can help them to cope with their stressful experiences. It is therefore beneficial if a humane education program encourages the children to express some of their thoughts and feelings in writing. My program will encourage the children to keep a diary over the whole length of the program where they can write down everything that comes to mind about themselves and the animals. Very young children could use these diaries to draw pictures instead.

_Balanced and Restorative Justice:_ The term balanced and restorative justice refers to a theory of criminal justice that “focuses on crime as an act against another individual or
community rather than the state. The victim plays a major role in the process and receives some type of restitution from the offender” (Wikipedia, 2005, Restorative justice section, ¶ 1). According to Loar & Colman (2004), both people who have been victimized in childhood, as well as people who have been offenders, often feel the urge to reach out to their community and help others. When they learn that they can make a difference in their community and understand that they have something valuable to give, they regain a sense of power and control in their own lives (Herman, 1997; Loar & Colman, 2004).

In the program the children will learn that they have a lot to give to the animals. Their affection and care will make the animals thrive and develop trust in them. Learning how to educate others will empower the children. By stepping up and helping the rescued animals the children will learn that each and every one of them can make a difference. The children will be rewarded for their efforts by the kindness and affection that the animals will show to them.

Summary

Humane education can provide an antidote to a “socially toxic environment” (Garbarino, 1995) as shown by other successful programs (e.g., George, 1999; Rathmann, 1999; Ross, 1999). Since the goal of humane education is to nurture “the best qualities of human beings” (Weil, 2004), it can strengthen children’s resilience against negativity, and violence.

Reinforcing the bond with animals that many people feel can help us to achieve this goal. By using farmed animals for this program, children will learn to feel respect and compassion for animals that we as a society typically consider as food, and thereby the
program will teach nonviolence. The children can bond with rescued farmed animals knowing that they are safe. It is my hope that this program will change the children’s perception of animals and that it will teach them to treat other living beings with love and respect. Promoting nonviolence as well as teaching compassion and empathy will be the foundation of this program.
Chapter 3

The Program

I have developed a complete animal-assisted humane education program that is targeted at children who have a history of neglect and/or abuse and are in need of support outside their families. The program is a tool to break the cycle of violence by teaching these children empathy, self-esteem, self-control, responsibility, and compassion. I hope that I can implement this program at a sanctuary for farmed animals in the state of Washington, however I have designed the program in such a way that it can serve as a model for other sanctuaries in the country that are interested in setting up programs for at-risk children. The program mostly focuses on interaction with the animals, but it also incorporates activities used in nature therapy (Nebbe, 1995) as explained in earlier chapters of this ILP. I hope that the program will draw positive attention to farmed animals, thereby encouraging people to rethink their attitudes towards these animals.

The first part of this ILP addresses the structure of the program. I explain issues such as risk assessment and safety, liability insurance, cost evaluation, volunteer recruitment and training, and finally individual progress assessment and overall program evaluation. In the second part of the project I describe the curriculum of the program, which consists of eight three-hour lesson plans that focus on farmed animals.
Part One

The Structure of the Program

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY

Safety needs to be the highest priority in this program to ensure its success. I have therefore decided to address safety as it relates to all the various parts of the program.

Safety at the Sanctuary:

Before the children’s first visit to the sanctuary, all the buildings, fences, and gates need to undergo safety inspections. When the children visit the sanctuary for the first time I will take them on a tour of the sanctuary where I will explain the following safety issues:

- How to safely open and close gates.
- Farm equipment – dos and don’ts.
- Emergency procedures.
- Approaching animals – dos and don’ts.
- Sanctuary rules.
- Working safely with cleaning tools such as rakes and shovels.

Safety issues will also be addressed during volunteer training sessions.

Safety of the Children:

The children will be under supervision of volunteers or staff members at all times while they are interacting with the animals. At the beginning of the program an easy
understandable set of safety rules will be explained to the children. Only calm and friendly animals will be chosen for direct contact with the children. If interacting with the children would be too stressful for an animal the animal will not be included in any activities that require direct contact. However, such animals could safely be observed by the children from a distance or from the outside of a fenced pasture.

All animals need to have updated vaccinations, and health checks by a veterinarian need to be performed on a regular basis. Sick or injured animals should not be part of the program. Volunteer and staff training also needs to include such topics as knowledge of signs of animal stress or sickness.

*Other Health Concerns:*

It is necessary that the program director and staff of the sanctuary are informed about any medical concerns regarding the children. I have therefore designed a questionnaire and permission form that the parents or guardians of each child need to fill out and sign before the start of the program (see Appendix A). The permission form asks the guardians to list any medical concerns and any medications that their child is currently on. The form notes that staff members of the sanctuary are not allowed to give the children any medications unless they have written permission from their guardians. If children need to take medications during their visit to the sanctuary the parents or guardians should therefore arrange this with the staff members of the schools or agencies. Also, at least one staff member needs to be trained in giving CPR.
Safety of the Animals:

To ensure the safety of the animals it is necessary to assess the children’s attitudes toward animals and to find out if a child has a history of animal abuse. Loar and Colman (2004) therefore suggest using Boat’s Inventory on Animal-Related Experiences. The questionnaires can also be viewed at [http://www.pryorfoundation.org/ARelExp.pdf](http://www.pryorfoundation.org/ARelExp.pdf). For my program I have slightly modified the short version of the questionnaire (Loar & Colman, 2004, pp.125-126) (see Appendix B). The questionnaire should be filled out before the start of the program.

If it turns out that a child has committed acts of animal cruelty, the child should be referred to a counselor or psychologist who has experience in the AniCare Child Program. As mentioned in earlier chapters of this ILP, AniCare Child is a treatment and assessment plan for children who have abused animals. It is designed for mental health personnel as well as other professionals working with children. The Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals developed AniCare Child. The organization was recently renamed Society & Animals Forum (Society & Animals Forum, n.d.). In 2004 a workshop was held in Tacoma, Washington to train counselors and other professionals in this approach. The Humane Society in Tacoma, Washington can give further information about AniCare Child and trained counselors. A child with a history of animal abuse can be part of the program if he or she is getting such treatment at the same time or has completed such treatment, however it is necessary that the child is under close supervision at all times while interacting with animals.
Safety of Volunteers and Staff Members:

Volunteers and staff members will be trained how to safely handle the animals. They will also be trained in recognizing signs of stress or sickness in animals. At least one staff member needs to be able to administer CPR. I will also organize regular training sessions for the volunteers that address issues such as child abuse and neglect, and the effect that traumatic experiences have on children. Staff members from the participating child abuse or domestic violence agencies should teach these training sessions.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Liability insurance for the program needs to cover all participants: the children and animals, staff members, volunteers, and visitors. Most nonprofit organizations also have Directors’ and Officers’ Liability Insurance. By talking to a number of organizations that run humane education programs that involve interaction with animals, I learned that getting liability insurance for programs that involve kids and animals is difficult because of the risk involved. The liability insurance premiums ranged between $3000,00 and $6000,00 depending on the details of the insurance plan. I would therefore recommend to farmed animal sanctuaries interested in running humane education programs like the one I have developed to meet with an insurance agent in their area specializing in nonprofit organizations to get the best information on this issue.

COST EVALUATION

To calculate the costs of the program it is necessary to differentiate between the running costs of the sanctuary, and the particular costs for this program. The running
costs for the sanctuary are naturally much higher than the actual costs for this program. The running costs for the sanctuary include expenses for animal upkeep, maintenance (buildings, vehicles, fences), tools and farming equipment, staff salaries, advertising, mailing costs for fundraising purposes, office supplies, liability insurance, etc.

The costs for this particular program will depend on the size of the program: How many children participate in the program? How many staff members are involved in it? How many different groups of children come out to the sanctuary?

It will be best to start out small and to gradually expand the program. This way the program can be started with one staff member and a number of volunteers, which means that the budget has to include the salary for only one staff member.

Other items are the expenses for the diaries for the children, as well as the costs for paper, nametags, colored pencils, crayons, and other art supplies (e.g. materials for the masks in lesson plan eight). Furthermore, the costs for printed materials such as brochures and flyers, etc. need to be included in the budget as well as the expenses for advertising the program. Also, some books and videos need to be bought for the sanctuary library (see appendix C).

Since the children spend three hours at the sanctuary it is necessary to serve a snack for the kids during their visits. The costs for food and beverages therefore need to be added to the budget list.

Although most sanctuaries have some type of liability insurance as described earlier, it is likely that additional coverage will have to be added. This will increase the annual premium and thereby raise the costs for the program.
Finally from conversations with other program directors I learned that transportation costs to and from the sanctuary are usually covered by the schools and agencies, and can therefore be omitted from the budget list.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

As for volunteer recruitment and training I am following the example of Forget Me Not Farm in Santa Rosa, California (Rathmann, 1999). Except for the program director, who will be a paid staff member, the program will be initially started with the help of volunteers to reduce the costs of the program.

However, to ensure high standards and the success of the program, the following guidelines need to be followed.

Volunteer Recruitment:

For security reasons it is not advisable to advertise volunteer positions for this program. An internship program for students who are studying to become psychologists, counselors, humane educators, or social workers therefore seems to be the most promising form of volunteer recruitment. When the program is implemented it will be advertised to colleges and universities in the Puget Sound area.

Retired public school teachers, physicians, veterinarians, or therapists would also be excellent volunteers for the program. To recruit these professionals I would recommend contacting professional associations in the state of Washington such as the Washington Educational Association.
Background Checks:

Any volunteers and staff members who will be working with the children need to be thoroughly screened. Screening can be done through the Washington Access to Criminal History (WATCH) background check system through the Washington State Patrol. Similar background check systems are offered in other U.S. states. WATCH checks can be done online. The system checks if the person has committed any crimes in the state of Washington. More information can be found at https://watch.wsp.wa.gov/.

Loar and Colman (2004) also recommend fingerprinting staff members and volunteers, however fingerprinting is more expensive and could therefore be limited to paid staff only. In addition to the criminal background check the volunteers should provide three references that will be checked by the program director before accepting them into the program.

Interviewing the Candidates:

A personal interview will provide the best opportunity to learn about a candidate’s motivation to join the program as well as his or her experience with and attitude towards children and animals. Rathmann (1999) points out that victims of child abuse or neglect may not be ideal volunteers for the program since they may still be preoccupied with their own personal traumatic experience. However, generalizations in this context should be avoided and a decision about accepting a particular volunteer should be based on all the information available, the background check, the references, and the interview.
Volunteer and Staff Training:

Volunteers and staff members need to complete a comprehensive training session before the start of the program. The training session will have to address the following issues:

- Handling the animals in the program
- Working with the Children
- Mandatory Reporting
- Safety rules and emergency procedures
- Confidentiality Agreement

Handling the animals in the program:

Volunteers who handle animals in the program need to be instructed how to safely approach them, how to put on halters and other harnesses, how to lead animals such as horses or goats on a lead-rope, how to groom the animals, how to recognize signs of animal distress, and how to ensure the safety of the animals. The volunteers should also learn how to recognize signs of sickness in an animal, and what to do if they notice a sick or distressed animal. Volunteers also should be provided with information about the history of each animal as well care and feeding instructions for the different animals so that they can answer questions the children might ask them over the course of the program.

A staff member in charge of animal care at the sanctuary can teach this part of the training. The volunteers also need to know who to talk to at the sanctuary if they have any questions about the animals.
Working with the children in the program:

Volunteers need to understand the impact that abuse and neglect has on children. They need to learn that children with such a history are often highly traumatized, and may therefore react unexpectedly. According to Loar and Colman (2004), it’s likely that boundary issues between the children and volunteers or staff members, in other words too much personal involvement, will be a source of problems. Loar and Colman (2004) state that the role of volunteers and staff members needs to be “providing support as the clients learn” (p. 41). However, volunteers and staff members are not in a position to be the children’s psychotherapists or best friends. While they should develop a respectful, open, and kind relationship, it is necessary to set limits for the sake of the children.

Physical contact with the children also needs to be addressed since any form of physical contact such as putting a hand on a child’s shoulder may lead to unexpected reactions from the child (Loar & Colman, 2004). Since these are very delicate issues I will ask a staff member of one of the child abuse agencies or a psychologist to address these topics in the training sessions.

Mandated Reporting:

As mentioned in chapter two of this ILP, humane educators, staff members, and volunteers involved in humane education programs need to know that workers who come in contact with children are required by Washington state law (RCW 26.44.030) to report any indication of child abuse or neglect that they come across when dealing with children. This law therefore needs to be discussed in the volunteer training session. Since this program is actually targeted at children with a history of abuse and neglect, the
participating agencies need to provide guidelines about mandatory reporting for the director and other staff members of this program. If volunteers are confronted with any information about abuse and neglect, they should be required to fill out an incident report that they can hand in to the program director. He or she will then promptly follow the mandated reporting procedures described earlier.

Safety Rules and Procedures:

Discussing important safety rules and procedures will be another important part of volunteer training. The volunteers need to know what to do to ensure the safety of all participants. No child should be around the animals without supervision. Volunteers need to accompany the children if they change locations during the activities. Some activities require the children to be outside on the pastures, other activities take place in the barns, and sometimes we go inside to the sanctuary classroom to watch a video.

Make sure that the volunteers know that the parents or caregivers are required to give information about existing medical conditions of their children (see appendix A). Staff members need to inform the volunteers if the children have allergies or other medical conditions that they need to know about. Point out that no volunteer or staff member is allowed to dispense medication to the children and that all client information is strictly confidential.

Discuss any other important safety rules that apply to the sanctuary, the animals or the children such as making sure to close gates, which areas of the sanctuary should not be entered, etc. Discuss with the volunteers what to do in case of an emergency, e.g. if a child gets hurt. Who do they need to notify at the sanctuary? Who will be in charge at the
sanctuary to handle this situation? How can they quickly contact this person, etc? Also, provide an emergency contact list at an easily accessible location at the sanctuary.

**Confidentiality Agreement:**

Volunteers and staff members should sign a confidentiality agreement that ensures that all client information will be kept private. The volunteers should not have access to client records or other confidential information. Loar and Colman (2004) have included a sample confidentiality agreement in their book *Teaching empathy: Animal-assisted therapy programs for children and families exposed to violence.*

**PROGRAM EVALUATION**

**Assessing Individual Progress**

The goals and objectives that need to be set for each child will vary. I therefore find Stone’s template for designers of humane education programs most helpful (Stone, 2002) to assess the individual progress of each child. According to Loar and Colman (2004) Stone suggests asking a set of core questions for each child that help to identify specific problematic behaviors. The questions are designed to define a detailed set of goals and objectives for each child, and will therefore simplify measuring individual progress since each of these goals and objectives can be checked. The pre- and post questionnaire that I will hand out to the counselors or teachers of the children (see appendix D) is therefore based on this template.
Overall program evaluation

After discussing program evaluation with other program directors I have come to the conclusion that evaluating the children’s attitudes towards farmed animals at the beginning and at the end of the program should be one component of measuring the overall success of the program. I have therefore designed a pretest that should be given to the children on the first day of the program (see appendix E) and a posttest (see appendix F) that should be filled out by the children on the last day of the program.

The second component of the program evaluation is a staff evaluation form (see appendix G) that should be filled out at the end of the program by the counselors, teachers, or social workers. The same questionnaire can also be given to the volunteers and sanctuary staff members.
Part Two

Curriculum

General Curriculum Description

I have developed eight lesson plans, one for each week of the program. The lesson
plans are suitable for ages 8 to 12, or grades 4 to 6 and are developed in such a way that
they can easily be adapted to other farm animal sanctuaries. Most segments of the lessons
will be taught outside, however I have included some short video sequences in a number
of lesson plans so it will be necessary to provide a room with a VCR and monitor.

Each lesson plan consists of five different segments. The first segment is the
introduction to the animals or the topic we are going to learn about that week. It should
awaken the children’s curiosity as well as encourage the students to think critically about
the way we treat animals in our society. The introduction part always includes a story
because I think that it is much easier for children and adults to empathize with other
living beings if they can make a personal connection. For example we will talk about the
individual stories of the animals at the sanctuary such as Louise, the pig who fell off a
truck on the way to slaughter, or Lilly and Nelly, two chickens who came from a factory
farm. I have also included stories about the emotional and social life of farmed animals
and about animal communication because this will nurture reverence. As Weil (2004)
stated, “What we revere, we honor deeply and are likely to protect and cherish” (p. 26).

The students are encouraged to keep a diary over the length of the program where
they can write down everything that comes into their mind about their time at the
sanctuary. During the introduction segment I also provide some time for the children to
share their thoughts and comments from their diaries if they choose to do so.
The second segment of the lesson plan is the instruction segment. In this part of the lesson the children learn about the different species of animals at the sanctuary as well as individual animals. They are taught how to care for these animals and how to safely interact with them and handle them. It also includes activities that encourage the children to think critically about the way we perceive different species of animals and how we treat other human and nonhuman beings.

The third segment of each lesson plan is devoted to interaction with the animals. The children have time to observe the animals, to feed and water them, to take them for walks, to brush or bath them, and to pet them. Students can choose a special sanctuary buddy with whom they will spend extra time, and for whom they will design a special adoption profile that can be published on the sanctuary’s web site.

During the fourth segment of the lesson plan all children come together again in one group and are given feedback time to ask questions, to share stories, and to express concerns or discuss ideas. We also brainstorm ways how to help animals and what we can do to educate other children and adults about them.

The last segment of the lesson plan is dedicated to nurturing reverence for the natural world. For this I draw inspiration from van Matre’s (1990) *Earth Education* curriculum, as well as Nebbe’s (1995), Sutton Chard’s (1994), and Sheehan & Waidner’s (1994) suggested nature activities. The activities support the children’s “sense of wonder in the natural world” (Sheehan & Waidner, 1994) and encourage them to cherish the beauty of the natural world around them, and to develop love and respect for it. I believe that such activities will be an ideal closing to a day at the sanctuary.
Lesson Plans

LESSON PLAN ONE

THE SANCTUARY, A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL LIVING BEINGS

Purpose:
The purpose for this lesson plan is as follows:

- The children will learn that the sanctuary is a safe place for everybody and where every living creature is treated with respect.
- The children will learn that farmed animals need our help.
- By listening to the rescue story of a pig and by observing and interacting with this animal at the sanctuary the children will be taught that we can make a difference in the life of a living being if we decide to get involved.
- By interacting with the animals at the sanctuary the children will get to know farmed animals as friends instead of food.
- During the tour of the sanctuary the children will get to know all of the residents, they will get to know the facilities, and they will learn about safety rules.
- Volunteers and staff members will demonstrate respectful and kind behavior for the children.
- By handing out diaries the children will be encouraged to document their experiences at the sanctuary. This will enhance their writing skills as well as encourage creativity.
- The children will learn how to safely approach and feed treats to an animal. They will learn which treats are healthy for the animal and what kind of food should be avoided.
• The nature activity will encourage the children to see the beauty in nature. It will teach them that they all have the “true gift of seeing” (Sheehan & Waidner, 1994), thereby boosting their self-esteem.

• The nature activity will also encourage the children to look for little things in their own lives that are beautiful.

**Materials needed:**

- Nametags
- A diary for each child with a photograph of some of the rescued animals on the cover
- Treats such as carrots, apples, and grapes for the animals
- Eyeglass frames which could either be made from cardboard or bought at a thrift store
- Colored pencils
- Lengths of rope or string

**Segment A – Introduction (20 min):**

Since this is the children’s first visit to the sanctuary it is very important to create an atmosphere of kindness and respect. Make the children feel welcome and introduce yourself and all the volunteers and staff members. Ask the students to introduce themselves and hand out nametags for them to wear. Volunteers and staff members should wear nametags too. Put down some blankets in one of the pastures for the students
to sit on and ask them to sit down in a half-circle. Tell the students that this is a special program and that you hope that everybody has a wonderful time at the sanctuary.

Tell them that some children have found it is fun to keep a diary over the length of the program. In the diary they write down or draw all the things they would love to remember about their visits such as new things they have learned, feelings they experienced when spending time with the animals, or funny little incidents that happened while they were there, etc. Some children even add photographs and other pictures. Tell them that you have a diary as a present for each of them that they can use for their memories of the program. Tell them that you will hand out the diaries later.

Ask the students if they would like to meet one of the animals living at the sanctuary. Ask one of the volunteers to bring out one of the animals. In my case I would ask for Louise, a pig who fell off a truck on her way to slaughter. Since Louise is a very lively little pig she needs to be in an enclosure though to ensure safety for the children. Introduce the animal by name and let them know that they will learn more about this animal in a few moments. Then ask the children the following questions:

- How many of you like animals?
- What are your favorite animals?
- How many of you live with an animal? What kind?

   Explain the term sanctuary: a safe place where everybody is protected from harm or pain. Continue, asking the following questions:

- Who needs a sanctuary? (Wait until you get a number of answers.)
- Why do animals need sanctuaries? (e.g. Some of them are mistreated, neglected, or abandoned)
- What about people? (e.g. Sometimes people get hurt, too)
- What does it feel like to get hurt?
- What does it feel like to be at a safe place where nobody can harm you?

Explain that most of the animals who live at the sanctuary are rescued farm animals and that the sanctuary provides a home for them for the rest of their lives or until they can be adopted out to a loving new family. Ask what kind of animals we usually think of when we talk about farmed animals. The children will likely mention cows, sheep, pigs, chicken, donkeys, goats, geese, ducks, turkeys, and rabbits. Ask each child to choose one of these animals and ask them what a typical day would look like for this animal if the animal was living on a farm instead of a sanctuary. It is very likely that the children will tell stories such as cows being out at pasture all day, or pigs rolling in mud, or chickens walking around the barnyard looking for bugs. Thank the children for their stories and tell them that unfortunately life on modern farms has changed very much in the past few decades and that there are very few farms left where animals can live such a happy life, and that is the reason why some people have started sanctuaries like this one to help animals and to educate people about them. Then tell the story of the animal who was brought out earlier. Here is Louise’s story:

Louise was cramped with numerous other pigs onto a truck, headed to slaughter. When the truck was on a busy highway during morning rush hour, she suddenly fell off (although some think that she might have jumped). The drivers in the cars following the truck tried to brake hard to avoid hitting Louise and some of them even crashed into each other. Louise suffered some cuts and scrapes from the fall, but otherwise she was okay. One observer quickly called the sanctuary, and Louise enjoyed a speedy recovery there.
She now enjoys rolling in the mud and greeting visitors enthusiastically hoping to get some treats or a little backrub.

Give the children time to ask questions and to make comments about the story. Tell them that they’ll learn more about pigs and other farm animals in the weeks to come. Explain to the children that you would like to find out more about the children’s thoughts and opinions about animals and that you would therefore like to ask them to fill out a questionnaire for you. Make sure that they understand that this is not a test. Hand out the copies of the questionnaire (see appendix E) and give detailed instructions what they need to do. Collect the copies when all children are done. Tell the children that now you will show them the rest of the sanctuary.

*Segment B – Instruction (45 - 60 min):*

Before the children are taken on a tour of the sanctuary to meet all the animals it is necessary to explain some rules they will need to follow. Following the example of other programs (Rathmann, 1999), the following rules will be explained:

- All living beings at the sanctuary - human, animals, and plants - need to be treated with respect and kindness.
- Everybody at the farm has to make sure that the sanctuary stays a safe place for everyone else.
- For safety reasons it is very important to follow instructions of staff members and volunteers immediately.
- It is perfectly okay to be afraid of an animal, and nobody has to approach an animal until he or she wants to and feels ready for it.
Then the children are taken on a tour of the sanctuary where they will meet all the animals, and where they can see the different buildings, and find out about amenities such as bathrooms, etc. The tour provides the opportunity to tell the children about each of the rescued animals and will give them a chance to ask questions about them. They should learn where the animal came from, why the animal is at the sanctuary, who the animal is friends with, and other basic information. Depending on the number of questions, the tour will probably last between 45 to 60 minutes.

Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (25 min)

Explain to the children that they can choose a sanctuary buddy next time with whom they can spend extra time over the course of the program, and about whom they should try to learn as much as possible. Tell them that in the last week they will write adoption profiles for their buddies that could be put up on the sanctuary’s web site to attract potential adopters.

Depending on the size of the group, the children should now be divided into small groups of two to three students plus a volunteer or staff member. The children will be given treats such as carrots, apples, bread, and grapes that they can feed to the animals under the supervision of the volunteer or staff member. The volunteers or staff members will instruct the children how to safely approach and offer the treats to the animals. Give the children about 20 minutes for this activity. Set up a certain time when everybody has to meet again at the same place.
Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (15 min)

When the children are back, ask them about their experiences, and give them time to share with the other children how their time with the animals went. Answer any questions that might come up. Tell them that they should decide over the week who they would like to choose as their farm animal buddy next time.

Snack Time (15 min)

Since the program takes almost half a day, the children need to be served a snack at this point. This little “lunch break” will also give them time to chat some more with each other and with the volunteers who are part of the program.

Segment E – Nature Activity (45 min)

Tell the children that you have a special surprise for them to wrap up the day, and that the surprise is something that they have to do. Explain that they have been signed up for a job that involves the “true gift of seeing” (Sheehan & Waidner, 1994), but that only few people in this world possess this gift. Tell them that after watching them all morning you came to the conclusion that they might possess this gift.

Explain to them that in order to understand their job they need to listen to the following story very carefully. Tell them that they can sit down comfortably but that it is very important that they don’t talk or make any noises during the reading of the story to make sure that they don’t miss any information about the “true gift of seeing”. Once everybody has settled down and sits quietly read the dream starter story about seeing beauty in small things (Sheehan, K., & Waidner, M., 1994, p.212-214).
After finishing the story ask the students if they would like to find out whether they possess the “true gift of seeing”. Hand out a pair of glasses for each child, and ask them to put them on. Tell them that these glasses will enable them to use the “true gift of seeing”. Tell them that you will now send them on a mission to find out if there are any other beautiful and special beings living at the farm that call the sanctuary their home. Tell them that each one of them will be led to a certain place at the sanctuary, and that they have to sit down quietly once they have reached this place. Tell them that the person who has led them to the place will lay down a piece of rope in a circle around them. Tell them that they will be sitting in this circle for ten minutes, and that they should watch everything that is going on within that circle. Tell them that they will be given their diaries now and some colored pencils. Ask them to either draw a picture of the special living beings they observe in their circle, or to write about them. Let them know that a volunteer will get them once the ten minutes are over.

Ask the volunteers to lead the children to different places on one of the pastures for example, to ask the children to sit down, and to place the rope in a circle on the ground with each child sitting within the circle. The volunteers should then leave the children alone but remain in sight of the children.

When the time is over, ask the volunteers to collect all the children and to bring them back to the meeting place. Ask them if anyone could see some special living beings in their circle, and ask the children if anyone would like to share what they found. Some children might have seen little insects such as beetles or ants, others might have drawn pictures of certain flowers or other plants. Ask the children why they felt that these living
beings are special. Ask the children if these beings should be protected and safe also. Ask them what they can do to ensure that.

Suggest to the children that after having found out that they have the “true gift of seeing” they could experiment with it over the week. Tell them that they could look for one beautiful thing every day for the next few days, and that they could include it in their diaries. Ask them to bring their diaries along next time so that they could share some of the things if they want to. Make sure that they understand that this is completely voluntary and that nobody has to share anything from the diary if he or she doesn’t want to.

Have the children prepare to leave and say good-bye to each child. Remind them that they will need to choose their farm animal buddy next time they come out to the sanctuary. Collect the nametags so that they can be reused in the following week.

References:


LESSON PLAN TWO

THE PIG WHO SANG TO THE MOON

Purpose:

• By asking the children to choose a “sanctuary buddy” and to educate themselves about this animal by observing him or her and by doing their own research, the children will learn that education helps us to act responsibly.

• Writing the adoption profile for their buddy at the end of the program will strengthen their self-esteem and teach them that they can make a difference. It also teaches them that their observations are important.

• By learning about “The Pig Who Sang to the Moon” (Masson, 2003) and other stories the children will learn about the emotional lives of pigs. They will learn that they are individuals with likes, dislikes, needs, and preferences.

• The video sequence will teach the children that pigs are very intelligent, social animals who constantly communicate with each other and who love their families.

• The children will learn that pigs cannot live a happy, well cared for life in modern factory farms.

• The children will brainstorm ideas how to help these animals. They will be introduced to vegetarianism or veganism as a cruelty-free alternative.

• The children will learn how to responsibly care for pigs.

• The children will learn how to develop guidelines for potential pig adopters.

• Observing their animal buddy quietly will strengthen the children’s ability to control their impulses.
The nature activity emphasizes the uniqueness of everything in this world. It will teach the children not only that plants, animals, and other human beings are unique but also that each child is unique and special and therefore deserves to be treated with love and respect.

**Materials needed:**

- Video: *My Friends at the farm.* Can be ordered at: [www.farmsanctuary.org](http://www.farmsanctuary.org).
- Cardboard box or basket

**Segment A – Introduction (20 min)**

Welcome the children back to the farm. Hand out the name tags. Ask the children to sit down in a circle. Tell them how delighted you are to see them. Ask them if they had a good week, and if they had the opportunity to use the “true gift of seeing” over the week. If yes, ask them if anyone would like to share some of the special and beautiful things he or she found. Give all children a chance to share their stories. If some children would like to share pictures or other things from their diaries, allow enough time for them to do so. Ask the children if they have decided which sanctuary buddy they would like to choose as discussed last week. It would be best if the children chose different animals, however, if a couple of them choose the same animal that’s fine. The choice should not turn into
fights or arguments between the children. After every child has chosen a buddy remind the children that their job is to learn as much as possible about this animal and the species. Ask the children what is the best way to learn about an individual animal. How can they find out what an animal likes or dislikes? Answers will vary (e.g. by watching the animal quietly, by taking care of the animal on a regular basis, or by talking to the caretakers of the animal, etc.). Ask them how they can learn more about the species. Answers could be, for example, by reading books, by looking for information on the Internet, by watching videos, by asking adults, etc. Tell the kids that it is their job over the next few weeks to do that, so that they can become ambassadors for their animals. Explain the word “ambassador”. In this context it means a person who is chosen to represent this animal to other people.

After answering all the questions the children might have, ask them if they remember Louise, the pig from last week. Ask the children what pigs are like. Answers might include things like pigs are dirty, or lazy, or stupid. Tell them that many people share their beliefs but that most of it is actually not true, and that they are now going to learn some most amazing things about pigs and their babies, who are called piglets. Tell them that they will hear the story of “The Pig Who Sang to the Moon” (Masson, 2003, p.ix-x). Read the story to the children. The story is about a pig who is living with her guardians near a beach in Auckland, New Zealand. The pig is loved by the whole community because Piglet, as the pig is called, loves to spend time on the beach going for a swim or playing with the children. However her favorite pastime is listening to music and singing to the moon at night. The story is a wonderful example of the emotional life of farm animals that, unfortunately, so many of us refuse to acknowledge.
After finishing the story ask the children how they feel about the story. Ask them if there are any other amazing stories that they have heard about pigs. Some children might have heard of stories where pigs rescued people from a dangerous situation. Tell the children the story of Snort, a little piglet who rescued her family from being poisoned by carbon monoxide (von Kreisler, 1997, p.1-7), or tell them any other rescue story you might know.

Segment B – Instruction (45 min)

Take the children to the sanctuary classroom for the instruction segment because you will have to show a short sequence of a video later. Explain to the children that pigs are very social animals, which means that they are happiest when they can live together in small groups with other pigs, and that pig moms, who are called sows, are very good mothers. Tell them that you are going to show them a short sequence from a video that was made at a sanctuary in New York, called Farm Sanctuary. Show the sequence about pigs from the video ‘My Friends at the Farm’ produced by Farm Sanctuary. Ask the children what they have learned about Winnie and her friends. The children will likely mention the following points:

- Pigs love their families.
- They look after each other and defend each other.
- Many pigs are friendly to people, too.
- They communicate with each other and constantly make sounds.
- They even sing to their newborn piglets.
- They love to play around.
o Unlike what people think they are very clean animals and they like to swim and roll in the mud because they can’t sweat. They bathe in mud to stay cool and to protect their skin from insect bites.

o They will never soil their sleeping areas if they can avoid it.

o Some people say that pigs are as smart as dogs.

o On factory farms pigs have to spend their whole lives in narrow crates, and piglets are taken away from their mothers when they are only a few weeks old.

Ask the children if they have ever heard about modern factory farms before as was shown in the video. Tell them that most farmed animals today unfortunately have to live like that, and that we will talk about ideas how we can help them a little later.

Tell the children that the sanctuary tries to find the best homes possible for all the animals, which means that there need to be guidelines how to choose a responsible new home. Ask the children to work together with a partner and to write down some guidelines for potential adopters into their diaries. Give the children 10 to 15 minutes for this activity. Ask the children to present their results to the rest of the group. The guidelines could look like this:

o Only adopt a pig if you are sure that you can care for her for her whole life.

o Pigs need a secure outside pasture or wooded area where they can dig up soil.

o They need shelter from wind and rain and need a barn where they have a clean place to sleep and where they can stay in cold weather.

o They should have enough shade in summer.

o They should have access to a pond where they can cool off in summer.
- They need enough room so that they can roll around in the mud.
- Since pigs are social animals they should be adopted in pairs.
- Pigs need to be fed regularly and need to have access to water at all times.
- Pigs should be fed special pig food such as grain. Vegetables and fruits can be fed as additional treats for them.
- Pigs need yearly vaccinations as well as hoof trimming and worming.
- A good veterinarian should be provided and occasional health exams should be given.
- Pigs love to get belly rubs or to be scratched behind their ears. They need people to spend lots of time with them and give them lots of love.

Write down the list on a flip chart or a big poster while the children are presenting their results. Suggest points that they might not have mentioned.

Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (35 min)

Tell the children that they can spend the next 20 minutes with the pigs, and that afterwards they can spend fifteen minutes with their sanctuary buddy. Tell them that the volunteers will take them over to see the pigs. If the animals are calm and friendly the children can go in with them and give them belly rubs and pet them. If a pig bites, the children should not approach the pig. If a pig is friendly but has lots of energy, the animal might be unpredictable and could be a safety risk. In this case, the children should only be allowed to approach the outside of the fence. Tell the children to observe the animal and to check if the things that they learned today are true.
Afterwards the volunteers should take each child to his or her chosen farm animal buddy. Give the children the following observation task: Watch your buddy closely and try to find out who he or she is friends with. Write your observations into your diary or draw a picture. Have the volunteers stay with the children at all times for safety purposes. Instruct the volunteers to bring the children back to the meeting point after the time is over.

Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (15 min)

Have the children sit in a circle and encourage them to tell their stories about the pigs. Ask them if they could verify the things that they learned about pigs earlier in the day: Is it true that pigs love belly rubs? Do they like to be scratched behind their ears? What did the pigs do when the children got there? Are they friends with each other? Ask them if anything has changed in their opinion about pigs.

Remind them of the pictures of the sad pigs that they saw in the factory farms in the video. Ask them to discuss with each other if there is anything we can do to help them. Give the children a few minutes to brainstorm ideas with each other. Have them present their ideas and discuss the ideas with them. Point out that some people try to help farm animals by changing to a vegetarian or vegan diet. Explain what that means. Tell them that there are lots of great foods out there that taste yummy, and that have no animal products in them at all. Tell the students that they can try one of your favorite recipes now.
Snack Time (15 min)

Serve one of your favorite, easy to make snacks.

Segment E – Nature Activity (45 min)

The following activity is an adaptation of an activity called “Uniqueness” (Nebbe, 1995, p. 141 – 143). Depending on the available flora, have each child collect two leaves or two pinecones from the same tree. (In big groups one leaf will do). Tell them not to tear any leaves off the tree but to collect them from the ground. Ask the children to put all the leaves in a cardboard box or a basket that you provide. Mix up the leaves. Ask the children to sit in a circle on blankets on the ground. Stand in the middle of the circle and ask each child to come up to you and pick one leaf (or pinecone) from the basket. Ask them to use their “true gift of seeing” and to examine their leaves closely. Tell them to look at its shape and size, as well as its color and markings. Tell the children to close their eyes and feel and smell their leaves. Do the activity yourself, and then introduce your leaf by telling the children what is special about it, for example: “I gave my leaf the name Velvet because it feels very soft. Its color reminds me of moss and it is very tiny.” Ask the children to introduce their leaves to the rest of the group in a similar way.

When all children have introduced their leaves ask them to look at their leaves one more time and then ask them to put the leaves into the middle of the circle and to close their eyes. Mix up the leaves. Instruct them that they now have to find the same leaf that they introduced to the group earlier. Ask two children at a time to come into the center of the circle, and to look for their leaves. Wait until all children have found their leaves. If
somebody does not find the correct leaf reassure the child that he or she recognized that
the leaves left over are not the right ones, which is also great.

Explain to the children that this activity showed how each leaf of a tree is unique
and different. Having so many different and unique leaves makes the tree beautiful and
very special. Ask them if there is a connection between animals and the leaves of the
tree. The children should realize that each animal is a unique individual too.

Ask the children to close their eyes again and to think about something that is
special about them. Ask them to think about why they are important and how they would
like to be important. Ask them to open their eyes again and to take home their leaves and
to put them into a book for the next few days to dry them. Tell them that in the future
any time they will take out their leaf they will be reminded of the things that are special
about them. Ask them to think about what’s special about their sanctuary buddy and to
find a leaf for him or her too that will remind them of their friend. Suggest that they
could keep their leaves in their diaries once they are dry. If they have collected
pinecones suggest that they could keep their pinecones in a little treasure-box instead.
Have the children get ready for their trip home and say goodbye to each child.

References

Farm Sanctuary (Producer). (2004). My Friends at the farm [Motion Picture]. United
States: Farm Sanctuary.


LESSON PLAN THREE

CALL ME CHICKEN

Purpose:

• The children will practice observing an animal quietly.

• The children will learn to describe what they have observed.

• They will be able to view each animal as an individual living being with feelings and likes and dislikes by empathizing with the animals at the sanctuary as well as the animals in the stories.

• The children will learn how chickens communicate with each other. They will be able to identify different clucks and calls.

• The children will understand the close relationship between a hen and her chicks, which starts even before the chicks have hatched.

• By learning about the story of two chickens living at the sanctuary, the children will become aware of the conditions in modern factory farms.

• They will be encouraged to think critically about the way we treat animals in modern agriculture.

• The children will learn that their choices matter and they will brainstorm ways how to make positive choices as well as how to educate others about these issues.

• The children will spend time with their sanctuary buddy, which will enable them to develop a bond with this animal.

• The children will practice how to put observations into writing.
• By building nest boxes for the chickens, the children will learn that they can make a difference for an animal by becoming active. The activity will strengthen the children’s self-esteem.

Materials needed:

• Story “Recalling Rosetta”. The story can be retrieved from www.sentientbeings.org/morestories.htm.

• Chicken language cards and cardboard poster. The cards are based on an article by Karen Davis, founder of United Poultry Concerns. The article can be retrieved from: www.upc-online.org/stories/chicken_talk.html.

• PBS video The Natural History of the Chicken.” The video can be ordered at: www.pbs.org.

• Photographs of chicken in battery cages.

• Wood scraps for building nest boxes

• Bedding material for the nest boxes such as straw or wood chips

Segment A – Introduction (15 min)

Welcome the children to the farm and have them sit in a circle on one of the pastures if the weather permits. Ask them how their week went. Give them a little time to settle down and to share their stories. Ask them if they dried their leaves and if they found a leaf for their animal buddy (see last week’s nature activity).

Have a volunteer bring out two chickens. Choose two chickens that were rescued from a factory farm if possible. Release the chickens if it is safe let them run freely on
the pasture. If not, set up a little enclosure with the help of a portable fence and let the chickens go about their business in this enclosure. Introduce the chickens by their names and tell the children that they will learn a little later why these two chickens are at the sanctuary. Then ask the children to watch the chickens for a few minutes to find out about their favorite pastime. Also suggest that the children should try to come up with two words for each chicken that describe the chicken’s personality such as curious and inquisitive, or cautious and shy. The chickens will probably look for bugs and tasty plants and weeds to eat while the children are watching. Have the children share their observations and suggestions with the rest of the group.

Ask the children if they ever had any contact with a chicken before. Some children might have had chickens in their neighborhood or at home, others might never have seen a live chicken before, and others might mention that their only contact with chickens was eating them. Ask the children what they know about chickens. Since I have three little chickens myself I would tell them about my girls and how my husband and I share our lives with them. Tell the children that you have found a beautiful story about a chicken named Rosetta. The story is called “Recalling Rosetta.” Read the story to the children. After finishing the story ask them how they feel about the story. Ask them if any parts of the story surprised them. Some children might be surprised that the chicken lived in the house with the family, that she became friends with the cats, and that she survived numerous strokes. Answer any questions that the children might have.
Segment B – Instruction (60 min)

Take the children to the sanctuary classroom. Explain to the children that while most chickens don’t speak on radio call-in shows like Rosetta did, chickens are very talkative birds nonetheless and have a language of their own. Ask the children if they would like to learn how to understand the chicken language. Hand out the twelve chicken language cards to the children. The chicken language cards are based on an article written by Karen Davis, PhD, founder of United Poultry Concerns. Depending on the group size each child will get one or two cards. Show a big cardboard poster that is divided into the following sections:

- Communication between the chicken moms and their babies.
- Communication between hens and their roosters.
- How roosters protect their flock.
- An invitation for a meal.
- Everything is fine in chicken land.
- This is sooooooooo boring!

Have each child read the information on their card out loud to the rest of the group and have them decide which section on the cardboard the card belongs to. Ask them to tape the card into the correct section on the board.

Explain to the children that our domestic chickens, whose scientific name is Gallus domesticus, all have the same ancestors. Their ancestors were wild birds who lived in Southeast Asia and were called Red Jungle Fowl (Grimes, 2002). Chickens live together in flocks where they form social hierarchies called pecking orders. Each bird has a certain
rank in this order, which determines which birds they dominate and which members of the flock dominate them. They also form friendships with other birds. Hens are very protective of their babies and some mothers won’t hesitate to give their own lives to rescue their children. Point out that this is contrary to our use of the word chicken as a synonym for coward. Take the children to the sanctuary classroom, and show the sequence called “Call me Chicken” of the PBS video The Natural History of the Chicken. The sequence shows a little silky hen rescuing her babies from a hawk attack. Discuss the sequence with the children. Have the children go back outside and sit down in a half circle close to the two chickens.

Explain to the children that there are unfortunately also some sad things that they should know about chickens. Have the children look at Lilly and Nelly again, the two chickens that were brought out earlier. Ask them if they notice anything weird about the way these chicken look. Draw the children’s attention to the chickens’ beaks. Explain to the children that Lilly and Nelly’s beaks were cut off when they were little babies. Wait for the children’s reaction to this statement. Explain that Lilly and Nelly lived in a so-called factory farm before they came to the sanctuary. They were kept in a very small cage together with four other birds and they couldn’t even stretch their wings or build a nest to lay their eggs. They were so stressed that they would pull out their feathers and try to peck at the other chickens in the cage, which is why they had their beaks cut off.

80,000 other chickens lived in the same building with them, and it was so smelly and dirty that they could hardly breathe. Eight rows of cages were stacked on top of each other and Lilly and Nelly’s cage was in the bottom row, which was really awkward for them because the poop from the birds that were stacked on top of them would fall into
their cage all the time. (Show the children a photograph of chickens in battery cages in a factory farm.) The only thing they were able to do was eat and drink and lay their eggs. Sometimes they were so weak and depressed that they thought they would die. It was a very sad life. They never knew what it was like to eat fresh grass, to run around a yard and look for bugs, or to take a dust bath and feel the sunshine on their feathers.

Then there were days when suddenly most of the birds in their neighboring cages were taken away and put into cages on a huge truck, and then the truck would leave and they were gone. Nobody knew what happened to them but everybody was scared. (Ask the children what they think might have happened to the chickens that were loaded on the truck. Explain to them that these chickens were taken to the slaughterhouse because they didn’t lay enough eggs anymore. Continue the story.) When Lilly and Nelly had already given up any hope for a better life, a very kind and loving person walked into the barn one day and rescued them. The person brought them to the sanctuary, and the story goes that nobody at the sanctuary will ever forget the first cautious steps that Lilly and Nelly took in the fresh green grass in their new homes. Some people say that at first they were so confused they didn’t even know what to do. They lay down in the grass and just looked at their new home and all the other chickens who were going about their business, scratching the dirt and digging for worms. Soon enough though Lilly and Nelly got up and happily joined the flock. Although their clipped beaks make it hard for them to catch a bug or to preen their feathers, they enjoy running around with everyone else at the sanctuary. Their story had a happy ending.

Explain to the children that unfortunately most chickens are not that lucky. Billions of chickens are killed every year in the U.S. for people to eat and hundreds of millions
live their short lives in factory farms where they are kept under the same conditions as Lilly and Nelly were. Ask the children how they feel about Lilly and Nelly’s story.

Facilitate a discussion about what we could do to help chickens. Suggestions could be:

○ Avoid buying eggs from chickens raised in factory farms. Instead, try to get them from farms were they don’t have to live in cages, or avoid eating eggs if you want.

○ Try out new vegetarian or vegan recipes with your family. Most of them are delicious.

○ Learn as much as possible about the way we treat animals. Share this information with friends and family members.

○ Organize a farm animal awareness week at your school and ask your principal to support meat free lunch options in the cafeteria.

○ Write an article for your student magazine about chickens.

○ Contact a chicken farm and ask for a tour.

Encourage the children to document any activities in their diaries.

**Snack Time (15 min)**

Since the instructional part took up a lot of time, it would be good to have a 15-minute snack break at this point so that the children have time to relax and to socialize with the other children and the volunteers.
Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (40 min)

Tell the children that now would be a good time to see if they can really understand the chicken language after all that they learned this morning. Tell them that the volunteers will take them over to the chicken barn where they will have the opportunity to watch the chickens for 15 minutes. Suggest that each one of them should focus on watching two or three chickens and that they should describe in their diaries any examples of communication between the chickens they were able to observe.

Following this activity, have the children fill up the feeders and the water containers for the chickens. Explain to the children that it is very important that chickens never run out of water. Special chicken feed needs to be bought at feed stores and they also need grit as a supplement because chickens don’t have teeth. Grit consists of small stones. The grit helps them to grind their food in the gizzard, which is like an additional stomach. Chickens also like fresh fruit and vegetables and many of them love to eat bread and pasta. Have the children feed some grapes or corn or other goodies to the chicken.

When the children are done feeding the chickens give them fifteen minutes with their chosen sanctuary buddy. A volunteer should take each child to his or her buddy. Depending on the chosen animal the children can groom, feed, or pet the animal. Have the volunteers bring the children back to the meeting point when the time is over.

Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (20 min)

Ask the children to take their diaries and to write down three sentences about their farmed animal buddies. What would they like people to know about him or her? Have the children read their answers to a partner. Invite the children to share their observations
on chicken communication with the rest of the group. Answer any questions that might come up.

**Segment E – Nature Activity (30 min)**

Explain to the children that chickens like privacy when they lay their eggs and that it is therefore a special gift for them if we provide them with comfortable nest boxes. Provide appropriate pieces of scrap wood and have the children build simple nest boxes for the chickens. The pieces of wood can easily be nailed together. Make sure that the boxes are big enough so that the hens have enough room to lie down comfortably. Have the children fill up the nest boxes with nesting materials such as straw or wood chips, and ask them to look for a good place for their boxes in the chicken barn or barnyard. Have the children retreat quietly and watch how the chickens inspect their new nest boxes.

Ask the children how they felt while they were working on their gift for the chickens. How do they feel now? How do the chickens feel about their new nest boxes? Encourage the children to think about a person in their life they would like to give a gift to. Ask them to wander around the sanctuary for a few minutes to find a special gift for this person by using their “true gift of seeing.” The gift could be a beautiful stone or leaf or a special pinecone or a feather, etc. Make sure to emphasize that the children should not destroy anything in the environment.

Let the children know that it is time to get ready for their trip home. Ask them to do one thing over the week that will help chickens, and to write about it in their diaries.
References:


CHICKEN TALK

Cut out the following cards for the children:

PEEP!

About 24 hours before a chick is ready to hatch, it starts peeping to notify its mother and siblings that it is ready to emerge from the shell. This activity, which biologists call “clicking”, helps to synchronize the hatching of the baby chicks. A communication network is established among the chicks, and between the chicks and their mother, who must stay calm and unruffled for as long as two days while all the peeping, sawing, and breaking of eggs goes on underneath her.

PEEPS AND CLUCKS

As soon as all the eggs are hatched, the hungry mother and her brood go forth eagerly to eat, drink, scratch and explore. The chicks venture away from their mother, communicating back and forth all the while by peeps and clucks. The hen keeps track of the little ones by counting the peeps of each chick and noting the emotional tones in their voices. When a chick becomes separated from its mother, it gives a distress call, and the mother hen dashes out to find it and, if the chick is in danger, to deliver it-hopefully-from the hole in the ground, tangled foliage, or threatening predator.

NESTING CALLS

When a hen is ready to lay an egg, she gives a pre-laying, or nesting, call, inviting her mate to join her in finding a nest site. Together, the hen and rooster find and create a nest by pulling and flinging around themselves twigs, feathers, hay, leaves and loose dirt, after they have scraped a depression with their beaks and feet. But first comes the search.
**PRIMEVAL GRUMBLING GROWLS AND GENTLE SQUAKS**

When the rooster finds a place he likes (under a log, perhaps), he settles into it and rocks from side to side, while turning in a slow circle and uttering primeval grumbling growls which may or may not convince the hen that this is the place. She may accept it, or they may look for another site. Throughout the search, the hen squawks gently with her beak open, followed by a series of short squawks of diminishing intensity, to keep the rooster coming back to her while she is away from the protection of the flock.

**THE “COME OVER HERE” SQUAK**

Often I have heard one of our hens call out to her rooster partner: "I'm all alone. Get over here!" Our normally quiet hen, Petal, raises a ruckus if her adored Jules is out of her sight for long, even if she has not just laid an egg. Her otherwise demure little voice becomes *SQUAWK, SQUAWK, SQUAWK*. Jules lifts his head up, straightens up, mutters to himself in what can only be described as Chicken Talk, and does an about-face. Off he goes to comfort Petal. Silence.

**COCK-DOODLE-DOO**

Why do roosters crow? Remember that chickens are originally from the jungle. Their wild relatives have lived in tropical forests for tens of thousands of years. Perched in the trees, and sensitive to infrared light, roosters see morning light at least forty-five minutes before we do. They also have very keen ears, a distinct advantage when living amid dense foliage. It can be difficult to see a predator and keep track of one's flock when the sub-flocks are constantly moving from place to place while feeding. Through their crowing, every rooster can recognize the crow of at least thirty other roosters, probably more. As the protectors of the flock, roosters are always on the lookout.
A SHRILL CRY

If a rooster spots danger, he sends up a shrill cry. The other roosters echo the cry. Thereupon, the whole flock will often start up a loud, incessant, drumbeating chorus with all members facing the direction of the first alarm, or scattering for cover in the opposite direction.

ALL CLEAR? ALL CLEAR!

When it looks safe again, an "all clear?" query goes out from the rooster, first one, followed by the others, in their various new places. Eventually, the 'all clear' crow is sent up by the bird who first raised the alarm, and a series of locator crows confirms where every other rooster and his sub-flock are at this point.

THE “HERE’S FOOD” SONG!

The finding of food elicits another kind of vocal communication within the flock. Roosters love to find food and call their hens to the feast while they play deferential host at the banquet. The speed and intensity of the "here's food" song varies according to the type of delicacy and the amount. According to a biologist, "Two or three kernels of corn elicit about half the intensity and speed between song peaks that several bugs will be granted. When the hens hear this song they and the chicks come running to check out what the rooster has found to eat." Soon the good news is excitedly clucked to everybody to come join the party. Hens call their chicks to food in a similar clucking voice.
## SOFT DRILLS AND PEEPS

My first chicken was a crippled hen named Viva. She touched me deeply with her soft trills and peeps that seemed to come from somewhere in the center of her body, as her tail pulsed at precisely the same time.

## THE PIPING VOICE OF WOE

In addition to their other vocal language, chickens have a piping voice of woe and dreariness whenever they are bored or at a loose end. Occasionally, one of our hens has to be kept indoors for a while, perhaps because she is recovering from an illness or because she is a newly rescued hen who has not yet joined the flock outside. Wearily, she will wander about the rooms, fretting, or tag disconsolately and beseechingly behind me, yawning and moaning like a soul in the last stages of ennui.

## EGG CACKLES

Upon laying her egg, the hen gives out an egg cackle to announce her happy accomplishment. This brings the rooster quickly to her side, and together they rejoin the flock. To human ears, the egg cackle resembles the chicken's cry of alarm, but to the birds there is a clear difference. A hen with chicks will continue feeding during the egg call, but will dart for cover when the alarm call goes out.
LESSON PLAN FOUR

GENTLE COWGIRLS

Purpose:

• Creating an atmosphere of “magic” that invites the children to get more involved with the animals and to develop a stronger bond to them by reading the letter from the animals to the children.

• The children will learn that they are valued and that each one of them is very special and appreciated.

• The article *What Cows Do: Personality Sketches of My Cows* will teach the children how cows live in a natural, caring environment.

• The children will understand that cows are sensitive and social animals.

• The children will learn about the treatment of cows in the dairy industry.

• The children will be encouraged to critically discuss modern agricultural practices.

• The story of the cow calling for help for her sick calf will demonstrate the close bonds between cows and their calves. The story will illustrate that cows are sentient beings who suffer if something happens to their offspring. This also applies when calves are taken away from their mothers when they are only a day old as is common practice in the dairy industry.

• The children will understand that their choices will make a difference in the lives of these animals.

• The children will learn how to properly care for a cow.
• The children will learn how to groom a cow and how to clean the stalls and feeders.
• The children will learn to explore the natural world with different senses to nurture a sense of wonder.

Materials needed:
• Letter for the children
• One pinecone for each child filled with little notes from volunteers and staff members.
• My Friends at the Farm (video). The video can be ordered at http://www.farmanctuary.org.

Segment A – Introduction (15 min)

Welcome the children back to the sanctuary. Have the children sit in a circle. Thank the children for building the nest boxes for the chickens last week. Tell them that you had a big surprise this morning because you found a letter attached to a basket that was sitting under one of the trees in front of your house. Pull out the letter, which is addressed to the children.

The address could read like this: TO OUR FRIENDS FROM ... (Fill in the name of the school etc.) Ask the children if you may open the letter and read it to them. Read the following letter:
Dearest friends:

We, the animals at… (name of the sanctuary) have been deeply moved by your loving kindness and generosity. We have been looking forward to each of your visits. We’ve enjoyed your laughter and your gentle touch, not to mention all the treats you have given us 😊. We have therefore asked a friend to write down a few things that we think are very special about each one of you. This is a very private gift from us to you, and we sincerely hope that it will make you happy the way it makes us happy to be with you.

May your lives be filled with kindness and love.

Your friends at the sanctuary

In preparation for this activity each volunteer and staff member should write a note for each child on behalf of the animals. Fold up each note as small as possible and stick it into a pinecone. Prepare one pinecone with notes from all staff members and volunteers for each child. Attach the name of each child to one of the pinecones. After you are finished reading the letter, hand out the pinecones to the children. Give each child some time to look at his or her pinecone and to read the notes.

Segment B – Instruction (50 min)

Take the children over to the cow pasture or barn. Let them know that today we will talk about cows. Let the children pet the cows and then ask them to sit down in a circle. Ask the children what cows usually do during a day. Most children will probably answer, “they eat all day long” or “they sleep a lot”. Tell the children that a woman named Helga Tacreiter shares her home with a number of cows. She often watches her cows, and she has written an article about her cows’ behavior. Read the article What Cows Do: Personality Sketches of My Cows by Helga Tacreiter to the children. Ask the same question as before: So, what do cows do during their day? Answers might be as follows:
They organize their days into blocks of time roughly three hours long.

They wake up at dawn, and then they have breakfast.

By mid-morning they have eaten enough, and so they try to find something interesting to do.

They like to play or race or chase something on their field.

They take a nap in the afternoon.

They lie down in a way that reinforces their social order.

They ruminate and drift in and out of sleep during their naptime.

After their nap they get up for a late lunch or early dinner.

Dusk is a very active time so they love to dance around, play with each other, explore some roots and trees or “test” the fences.

In summer they like to sleep in the woods. They especially like to sleep under cedar trees. In winter they prefer to sleep in their barns or shelters.

They don’t sleep all through the night, but get up in the middle of the night and have a snack. Then they rest again.

Ask the children if all cows live like that. Tell the children the stories of the cows living at the sanctuary. Why are they here? Where did they live before? How were they treated before they came to the sanctuary? Take the children to the sanctuary classroom, and show the children the sequence about cows from the video My Friends at the Farm produced by Farm Sanctuary. The sequence contains the following information:

Cows are very sensitive and social animals.

They have an excellent sense of smell and hearing.
- Cows are very responsive to the way they are treated, and they remember both good and bad.
- Mothers take extremely well care of their newborn calves, and sometimes they even baby-sit for other cows.
- Cows are mammals, which means that in order to give milk they have to give birth.
- In the dairy industry newborn calves are taken away from their mothers when they are only a day or two old, so that humans can use the milk that the cows produce.
- Modern technology has caused dairy cows to produce up to 100 pounds of milk a day, which is ten times more than they would produce in nature.
- If the calf is female she will be raised to replace her mother as a dairy cow.
- If the calf is male he will likely be immediately taken away for veal production. Many of these calves are chained in a narrow crate, too narrow for him to even turn around, and raised to be killed after four or five months for his white meat.
- The meat stays white because the calf is given a liquid milk substitute, which contains no iron or fiber. This diet causes anemia making the calves very weak and prone to diseases.
- 1,000,000 baby bulls are treated this way each year in the U.S.
- Many people consider these practices cruel, however the veal industry argues that there is a demand for this meat.
Ask the children how they feel about this information. To illustrate how difficult it is for the cows to lose their calves I would tell the following story which I personally witnessed:

I was at a horse stable one day that is adjacent to a little farm with a herd of cows that included about ten calves. Most calves stayed close to their mothers but one calf was lying by the fence facing the adjacent horse pastures. At first I thought that the little calf was just curious and watching the horses but then I noticed that the mother was standing pretty far away and had started to call her calf. The calf however, just stayed were he was and didn’t get up. I decided to walk over and take a closer look to see what was going on. When I reached the calf I realized that he was very sick. His mouth was half open and he was panting hard. His mother’s calls became more and more urgent and I assumed that she was worried that I had approached her baby. She came down the hill, sniffed at her calf, and turned around bellowing constantly. I decided that I needed to look for help. I walked over to the horse stable to ask somebody to call the farmer to tell him that one of his calves was sick. In the distance I heard the mom still calling her calf. When I walked back to look at the calf again, I saw something truly amazing. Obviously the mother had the same idea as I did. She realized that she would need the farmer’s help so she had walked all the way up to the end of the pasture that was closest to the farmhouse, stood there facing the house, and kept calling. I could literally feel her fear and distress and it made me cry. The farmer must have heard her, or maybe it was the phone call from the people at the horse stable that finally alerted him, but suddenly I saw him coming out of the farmhouse walking down to the calf. The mother followed him. The farmer put the calf on a trailer and brought him back to the barn. I never learned what happened to the
calf afterwards, but I will never forget this mother who so desperately tried to get help for her sick calf.

Ask the children how the cows might feel when their babies are taken away from them after only one day. Tell the children to work with a partner and to discuss what we could do to help cows. Have them write their ideas into their diaries. Give them about ten minutes for this activity. When they are done, ask them to present their ideas to the rest of the group.

Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (50 min)

Explain to the children that they will now learn how to responsibly care for the cows at the sanctuary:

- The cows need to be fed hay twice a day.
- They need to have access to fresh water at all times.
- The water buckets or troughs need to be cleaned on a regular basis.
- Their stalls need to be cleaned daily.
- They need grooming and extremely dirty spots on their fur need to be washed off.
- Cows also need annual vaccinations against diseases such as rabies, tuberculosis, and brucellosis.
- Adult cows need to be wormed twice a year while calves need to be wormed every 6 – 8 weeks until their first birthday.
- Their hooves need to be clipped twice a year and this should be done by a veterinarian.
Have the children clean the water buckets, feeders, and stalls. Ask them to fill up the water and feeders. The volunteers can then show them how to groom the cows, however make sure that you only choose very gentle cows for the children to groom. Explain to the children that because of the size and weight of these animals they need to be very cautious when they are approaching the cows. Tell them not to stand behind a cow, as this will prevent them from being kicked by accident.

When the children are done grooming the cows give them ten minutes with their chosen sanctuary buddy. A volunteer should accompany each child. Let them know that today they should write down what people should not do when they adopt your buddy. What does he or she dislike? What could harm him or her?

**Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (20 min)**

Ask the children how they felt being around the cows and grooming them. How did the cows react? How did they feel about cleaning the stalls etc.? Was it hard work? What did they like or dislike?

**Snack Time (15 min)**

This would be a perfect day to serve veggie burgers.
Segment E – Nature Activity (25 min)

Have the children sit comfortably on the ground preferably under some trees. Make sure that the children are far enough apart so that they have enough room to lie down without touching anybody else. Tell the students that this is going to be a time for exploring their surroundings with different senses and that they will start off by using their ears only.

Ask the students to lie down on the ground comfortably and to gently close their eyes. Tell them that this is a quiet time for them, and that it is important that they don’t talk or laugh, but just focus on themselves, and the things they hear. Explain to them that, for the next five minutes, they should concentrate on the voices and sounds from birds, insects, and other animals they hear. Are there any voices or sounds that they recognize? What kind of sounds do they hear? How many different voices and sounds can they differentiate? Tell them to make sure that their eyes stay closed during the whole period of time. When the time is over ask the students to sit up and encourage them to share their experience with the rest of the group:

- How did they feel?
- What kind of voices did they hear? What did it feel like?
- Were there any voices or sounds that they recognized?
- Did they hear any other sounds that might have been distracting? If so what kind of sounds were they?
- Are there any other thoughts or observations that they would like to share with the group?
Tell the students that for the next five minutes they should cover their ears with their hands and just focus on the birds, insects, and other animals they see. What do they look like? How do they differ in size and color? What do they do? Where are they looking for food? What kind of food do they eat? After five minutes, ask them to uncover their ears and to spend the next few minutes watching and listening. Ask them to share their experiences with the rest of the group.

Encourage the students to spend 10 minutes in nature every day for the next week, focusing only on wildlife and insects and to describe some of their observations in their diaries or to draw some pictures about them. Do the same activity yourself over the next week and write down some observations in a diary.

Have the children get ready for their trip home and say goodbye.

References:


LESSON PLAN FIVE

OF SHEEP AND GOATS

Purpose:

- The children will learn to work together as a group.
- Designing an educational poster for younger children will encourage the children’s creativity.
- The children will practice writing down their thoughts and ideas.
- The children will learn how to responsibly care for goats and sheep.
- They will understand which plants are potentially poisonous for the animals.
- Learning about the different personalities of goats and sheep will nurture compassion and empathy for the animals.
- The children will understand how important trees are for all living beings on this planet.
- Exploring a chosen tree closely will encourage the children to get to know something with all their senses.
- The dream starter story will encourage the children to form a stronger bond with nature.

Materials needed:

- Ten notes with information about goats and ten notes with information about sheep for the scavenger hunt.
- Two posters
- Crayons


*Segment A – Introduction (15 min)*

Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle. Give them a few minutes to settle down. Read the description of one of your own nature observations to the children. Encourage the children to share their own notes or drawings.

*Segment B – Instruction (60 min)*

Before the children arrive at the sanctuary, prepare the following scavenger hunt activity: Write a number of facts about sheep and goats on small pieces of paper. Choose different colored paper for the sheep facts and the goat facts. Give hints on each paper where to look for the next one, e.g. “Look under the biggest tree”, or “Turn around big stones”, etc. Hide the sheep fact notes outdoors in an area with clearly defined borders, and hide the goat fact notes in a different area that also has clearly defined borders.

Divide the children into two groups. Explain to the children that each group has the task to find hidden facts about a certain farmed animal species. Tell them that each group has to find ten little notes that are hidden in a certain area. Explain to each group what the borders of their area are. Tell them that each note will give them hints where to search for the next one. Ask them to collect all the notes and to bring them back to a meeting point where they will be given a packet of crayons and a poster.
Ask them to read all the facts about their animal and to decide what kind of animal these facts apply to. They then need to design a poster to educate younger children about this animal. The poster should answer the following questions: What is special about this animal? What does this animal need to lead a happy life? How did this animal use to live in the wild? In what way do humans sometimes mistreat this animal? How can we help this animal? Since you are chosen as a spokesperson for this animal what would you like to say to people?

Have the children work on their posters and ask them to present their posters to the other group when they are done.

Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (50 min)

Take the children over to the sheep and goat barns or pastures and tell them the story of the animals. Why are they at the sanctuary? Where did they come from? How old are they? Etc. Tell them that both sheep and goats need special care and that potential adopters therefore first need to learn the following things about them:

Goats:

- Goats love to climb. They will climb on anything that seems climbable and they therefore need a secure fenced in area. Fences need to be at least five feet tall. If anything climbable is near the fence the fence needs to be even taller.
- While goats do not bite or kick they might butt.
- Goats are plant-eaters. They therefore spend most of their day grazing and eating lots of roughage. They eat leaves, grass, tree bark, and herbs.
• Some plants such as Rhododendron, Potatoes, Azaleas, Oleander, or Wild Cherries are poisonous and can be deadly for the goats.

• The hooves of the goats need to be trimmed regularly.

• Three or four goats can live on one acre of land.

• 20’ x 20’ is an ideal stall space.

• Wood chips or straw are ideal bedding materials.

• Goats need to be fed twice a day. Good quality hay is the best feed available.

• Goats need to have access to clean water at all times.

• Goats need yearly vaccinations and worming.

• They need to have protection from rain, wind, and heat.

• Goats need company since they are very social animals.

• Goats should have a salt lick available to them.

Sheep:

• Sheep like to live together in a flock.

• Sheep need to be sheered once a year in spring.

• Four sheep can live on one acre.

• 25’ x 25’ is an ideal stall space.

• Sheep are plant-eaters who like to eat hay, grass, leaves, herbs and other plants.

• Sheep need to be fed twice a day. Hay is ideal.

• Some plants such as Rhododendron, Potatoes, Azaleas, Oleander, or Wild Cherries are poisonous and can be deadly for sheep.

• Sheep need yearly vaccinations and worming.
• Sheep should have a salt lick available to them.
• Sheep need to have access to fresh water at all times.
• Their hooves need to be trimmed twice a year.
• Stalls need to be cleaned daily.

Have the children clean the stalls of the animals and provide fresh water as well as straw for the bedding. Let them pet some of the animals and feed them some carrots. Afterwards give children 10 minutes with their farm animal buddies. A volunteer should accompany each child.

**Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (20 min)**

This is a good time to answer any questions the children might have, and to brainstorm things that could be improved in the pastures or barns. Do the goats have enough things to climb on? Are the fences and gates secure enough? Do we need to trim any plants alongside the pastures? Etc.

Read p. 124 to 128 of *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* (Masson, 2003) to the children. The passage tells about a former member of Parliament in New Zealand who now lives on a farm with two hundred goats. The story gives great insight into the personalities of goats.

**Snack Time (15 min)**

Declare this lunch break “the Herbivore Snack Time”, and serve salads prepared from a variety of vegetables, leafy greens and herbs.
**Segment E – Nature Activity (25 min)**

Explain to the children that the sanctuary is not only home to human and nonhuman animals, but also to many plants and trees. Ask the children with what things trees provide us. Answers could be: They provide us with oxygen, with shade, with food, or with cover against the rain. They are home to many small animals and insects. They also provide us with wood to build our houses and furniture. I would then tell the children about my favorite tree when I was a child. It was an old oak tree that was easy to climb and together with my best friend I spent hours sitting in that tree sharing little stories as well as our hopes and dreams for the future. The tree was like a good friend to us and we dearly loved it.

Invite the children on a little walk around the sanctuary. Tell the children that they should walk in single file, and that they should not talk during the walk but just look at the different trees and choose one tree that they would like to get to know better. Ask them to leave the group as soon as they have found the tree and to spend the next ten minutes with their tree seeing, feeling, and listening to their tree. What sounds does the tree make? What does the tree look like? What color and shape are the leaves? How does the bark feel? Etc. Ask the children to write or draw their observations in their diary. This activity is an adaptation of the activity *Getting to Know a Tree, Personally* by Sheehan and Waidner (1994, p. 142). After ten minutes meet with the children at a predetermined meeting point and discuss their experiences with them. Ask the children what it feels like to be a tree.

Ask the children to spread apart so that they won’t touch each other and ask them to close their eyes and to listen to the following story. Tell them that they can act out the
story while they are listening. Read the dream starter story *To Be a Tree* by Sheehan and Waidner (1994, p. 145) to the children.

Ask the children how it felt to be a tree. Encourage the children to adopt a tree in the neighborhood where they live if that is possible, and to regularly visit the tree to find out what role the tree plays for the neighborhood. Do squirrels live or play in the tree? Do people or animals spend time under the tree looking for shade? What birds visit the tree? Does the tree look healthy? Etc.

Thank the children for their visit to the sanctuary today and ask them to get ready for their trip home.

References:


### Scavenger Hunt Information

#### SHEEP

- These animals live together in a flock. An older female is usually the leader of the flock.

- Their babies tend to be born at night, which allows them to gain strength before daylight.

- The babies love to play. They leap up, do little dances, and group chase.

- These animals can recognize different faces. Scientists estimate that they can recognize at least 50 different individuals, although in reality the actual figure is probably much higher.

- These animals remember associations with different faces for several years.

- These animals are plant-eaters (herbivores).

- Females are called *ewes*, males are called *rams*.

- They were first domesticated in western Asia during the eight and seventh millennia B.C.

- All mountain breeds tend to stay in one place, a trait that is called *hefting*. They will graze within a few hundred yards of their birthplace all their life.

- These animals have excellent vision.
GOATS:

The female is called a **nanny** or a **doe**; the male is called a **buck** or a **billy**.

They were domesticated (tamed) at least 10,000 years ago in Iran.

They are hoofed mammals who live in mountainous regions of southwestern Asia, northwestern North America, and Europe.

They have a long, thick, furry coat that protects them from the cold.

They swallow their food (plants) without chewing it much. Later they regurgitate the food and chew it thoroughly before swallowing it for the last time.

The babies love to play. They jump, slide, and leap onto their mothers’ backs. They toss their heads, whirl around, and bounce straight up into the air.

Some people who live with these animals and observe them a lot say that they have a sense of humor and will butt you just for a joke.

They are not afraid of humans.

They are excellent climbers and figure out easily how to open gates.

Because their fleece lacks lanolin they can get extremely cold in the rain since the water just soaks right through the fleece.
LESSON PLAN SIX

HOLLOWBONED AND FEATHERED

Purpose:

• The children will understand that it takes time to develop a friendship or to bond with human and nonhuman beings. They will learn to value patience.

• The children will learn to be gentle with the animals.

• The children will get to know cruelty-free alternatives to eating meat.

• They will learn about more compassionate ways to celebrate Thanksgiving.

• The stories as well as the documentary *Winged Migration* will raise awareness for the beauty of all bird species.

• The children will learn how to make natural feeders for wild birds, and how to help wild birds in winter.

Materials needed:


• pinecones, peanut butter, birdseed, and string.


Segment A – Introduction (20 min)

Welcome the children back to the sanctuary. Have the kids sit in a circle. Ask them if they found a tree in their own neighborhood that they liked and that they adopted. If so, let the children describe their trees and share their pictures and stories.

Explain to the children that you would like to introduce them to a little boy today. Show a picture of The Little Prince. Explain that a pilot who was stranded in the desert many years ago met this little prince one morning when he woke up. The little prince asked him to draw a sheep for him and thus began their friendship. During the course of their friendship the pilot would learn all about the little prince’s journey through the universe, visiting planet after planet wishing desperately to be able to go home to his own little planet that was hardly bigger than a house. Listening to the little prince’s stories, the pilot realized what is really important in life. Ask the children if they would like to hear one of the stories that the little prince told his friend, the pilot. It is a story about a fox. Read the sequence about the little prince and the fox from The Little Prince (Saint-Exupery, 1943. p. 56-63).

Ask the children the following questions: What does the fox mean when he asks the little prince to “tame” him. Possible answers could be: Tame means to get to know somebody very well, to appreciate somebody, to become friends with somebody, etc. Why did the color of the wheat fields suddenly have a whole new meaning for the fox? Did anything like that ever happen to you? Explain the fox’s secret: “One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes.” What happens if we try to see other living beings with our heart?
Ask the children if they would like to try to “tame” some very special creatures who are living at the sanctuary. Tell them that they are turkeys who have been rescued from factory farms where they lived in so-called “growing houses” together with 50,000 other birds. Like chickens, their beaks got trimmed and sometimes even their toes. Explain that turkeys are bred in a way that encourages the rapid growth of their breast muscle. Because they grow so fast they outgrow their supportive systems, such as their legs and their hearts, which often fail prematurely resulting in early mortality (HSUS, n.d.).

Ask the children to tame the turkeys (give the names of the animals) just like the little prince did, by sitting down a little ways from the animals and watching them patiently. Explain that after a while the turkeys may allow them to come closer and closer, and maybe they will even allow them to pet them. Encourage the children to learn from the turkeys by “taming” them, just like the little prince tamed the fox.

**Segment B – Interaction with the Animals (20 min)**

(Please note that the typical order of the segments has been changed in this lesson plan.) Take the children to the turkey barn and pasture and let each child sit down near a turkey. Give the children some privacy for this activity but make sure that they are supervised by a nearby volunteer or staff member.

**Segment C – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (10 min)**

Ask the children how it felt to be with the turkeys. Encourage the children to share what it was like to “tame” them. Give the children the opportunity to ask questions about turkeys.
Segment D – Instruction (60 min)

Explain to the children that many people who get to know turkeys in real life decide to celebrate Thanksgiving by adopting a turkey at a sanctuary instead of eating one for a meal. Adopting in this context means to donate some money that the sanctuary can use for the care of the animals. Tell them that this is a great way to help animals. Let the children know that people who really like the taste of turkey meat but who don’t want to eat real meat can eat plant-based meat alternatives that taste almost the same but do not require that an animal be killed.

Explain to the children that like turkeys, ducks and geese are also killed in many parts of the world for their meat. However, sometimes even those who breed and sell them for this purpose have a hard time killing and eating them once they have spent time with these birds.

Read the sequence about Fernando Yusingco, a duck farmer in New Zealand, from the book *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* (Masson, 2003, p.166-168) Stop reading after the end of the first paragraph on page 168.

Tell the children that the author of the book who visited Fernando at his farm had an extraordinary experience while he was there. Read p. 170 starting with the last paragraph to the end of the first paragraph on p. 172. Ask the children if any of them ever had the opportunity to watch a duck mom with her babies. What was it like? What do they remember most about the mother and her babies?

Explain to the children that the geese living at the farm are distant relatives of geese living in the wild. Most people in North America have probably seen Canada Geese at some point in their life. Tell the children that geese are fascinating birds and that they can
learn a lot about them by watching the documentary *Winged Migration*. Show appropriate parts of this documentary in the sanctuary classroom. The length of the sequence could vary depending on how much time you have. Have a short discussion about it afterwards.

**Snack Time (15 min)**

It might be a good idea to serve Tofurkey sandwiches or other lunchmeat substitutes.

**Segment E – Nature Activity (25 min)**

Since the children are probably very inspired by the sequences of *Winged Migration* that they watched, I would ask them to spread out, to close their eyes, and to listen to the following dream starter about a little bird in winter. Read the dream starter on p. 290/291 from the book *Earth child 2000: Early science for young children* by Sheehan & Waidner (1994).

Collect pinecones with the children to make pinecone feeders for the birds. Ask the children to roll the pinecones in peanut butter so that the peanut butter is evenly spread on all sides of the cone. Then have them roll the cones in birdseeds, attach strings to them, and hang them on tree branches (Sheehan & Waidner, 1994). Suggest to the children that they could collect some pinecones to take home with them so that they can make pinecone feeders for the birds in their neighborhood.

Thank the children for preparing the pinecone feeders and ask them to get ready for their trip home.
References:


LESSON PLAN SEVEN

HOPE RISING

Purpose:

- The children will learn about the history of wild horses in America.
- They will understand the need for protection of wild mustangs.
- Studying the history of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (1971) will help them to comprehend that children can make a big difference.
- The children will be able to safely interact with a horse. They will be able to avoid potentially dangerous situations, thereby insuring their own safety as well as the safety of the horse.
- The children will be able to identify a horse’s mood by looking at the horse’s ears.
- The children will be able to responsibly care for a horse. They will know how to groom and feed a horse, and how to prevent severe sicknesses such as colic.
- The children will understand that horses watch out for each other even during times of sickness. This will nurture the children’s empathy and compassion for these animals.
- Creating a sculpture from natural materials will enhance the children’s creativity, and will help them to develop a personal relationship with nature.

Materials needed:

- Grooming kit
- Pictures of Andy Goldsworthy’s artworks (if possible)
**Segment A – Introduction (20 min)**

Welcome the children back to the farm, and ask them if they got a chance to make pinecone feeders for the birds in their neighborhood. Give them enough time to tell their stories. Tell the children that they will now get to know another resident of the sanctuary a little bit better. Tell them that this resident is a horse, and that horses easily get scared, and that it is therefore very important that the children don’t make any loud noises or quick movements that might spook the horse.

Have one of the volunteers bring out one of the rescued horses or ponies. Please choose the gentlest one for this demonstration. Introduce the horse to the children. Ask them how they feel about horses. Why do they like or dislike them? Explain to them that ancestors of wild horses and burros actually lived in North America 55 million years ago (Wild Horse & Burro Freedom Alliance, n.d, History and background section, ¶ 1.) However, they died out in North America about 8,000-10,000 years ago. In the 1500’s the Spanish reintroduced modern horses to this continent. Some horses escaped from the Spanish or were freed and became the foundation of the wild mustang herds that live to this day in this country (PBS, n.d., Teacher Resource Page Activities. Home of the Wild and the Free section, ¶ 2). Ask the children what pictures come into their mind when they think of wild horses. Answers will vary. Some kids might think of huge herds of mustangs galloping over the prairie, or strong stallions fighting each other over some mares, etc. Explain to them that only about 39,000 of these animals still roam public lands in the western United States (PBS, n.d., Teacher Resource Page Activities. Home of the Wild and the Free section, ¶ 6). Show the children the following statistics (Right Lead Equestrian, n.d., Horse Industry Statistics section, ¶ 5) on a big cardboard poster:
Total number of horses currently living in the U.S.: 6.9 million

- 725,000 are used in racing or racehorse breeding.
- 1,974,000 are used in showing.
- 2,970,000 are used in recreation.
- 1,262,800 horses are involved in other activities, such as farm and ranch work, rodeo, polo, police work etc.
- 1.9 million people are guardians (owners) of horses.
- In 2004 65,976 horses in the U.S. were killed for human consumption.

Ask the children what these statistics might mean for the horses. Have the children discuss with a partner why such a small number of wild horses are left in the U.S. The children might bring up different aspects such as habitat destruction, the round up of wild horses, or the organized killing of wild horses. Tell the children that in the first part of the last century a lot of mustangs were captured and slaughtered for their meat. However, between the 1950’s and the 1970’s school children all over the United States came to the rescue of America’s wild mustangs.

Tell the children the following story of Wild Horse Annie (PBS, n.d., Teacher Resource Page Activities. Home of the Wild and the Free section, ¶ 16): It was the year 1950 when a woman named Velma Johnston noticed blood dripping from a truck that was driving ahead of her. Velma followed the truck and made a horrible discovery once the truck stopped. The truck contained a large number of wild horses who were on their way to slaughter. Many of the animals were injured because they had been hunted and shot from planes. Velma was shocked, and decided immediately that she would do anything she could to prevent such events from happening again. Together with
numerous other activists she lobbied the Nevada Legislature to ban the hunting of horses from airplanes. Somebody gave her the name “Wild Horse Annie” which would accompany her for years to come. For the next twenty years Wild Horse Annie worked tirelessly for the protection of wild mustangs, and she also encouraged schoolchildren to write letters to Congress. Many children followed her call, and in 1971 the United States Congress passed the so-called Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. Many people say that it was the letters from the children that finally convinced Congress to protect these animals.

Tell the kids that in 2004 the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was fundamentally altered so that once again wild horses could be sent to slaughter. However, after massive protests the House of Representatives voted in May 2005 to restore the protections for wild horses and burros. Now the same vote has to pass the U.S. Senate at the end of the year (Doris Day Animal League, 2005, The Burns Amendment section, ¶ 1-2). Point out that it is important that we protect not only horses who live under the guardianship of people and but also mustangs who live wild, since none of these animals can speak for themselves.

**Segment B – Instruction (60 min)**

Tell the story of the rescued horse whom the volunteer brought out. Talk about horse behavior. Explain that horses or ponies are herd animals, which means that they love to be part of a group of horses. The company of other horses or ponies gives them a feeling of security (Equine World UK, n.d., About horses: Behavior section ¶ 1). A horse’s natural reaction to danger is to flee, and they are equipped with an excellent sense of
hearing and smell which helps them to sense danger as early as possible. Horses can also sense the feelings of other nearby animals or people. They often can tell when you are afraid or angry or relaxed and calm. If the horse senses fear in the person who handles him or her, the horse will very likely get scared too, and will react accordingly, which could mean that the horse will try to flee. This could lead to potentially dangerous situations. Tell them that they should therefore never tie up a horse, and then leave the horse standing tied up alone because the horse might hurt himself if he or she gets scared and tries to run away while being tied up.

Explain to them that a horse’s ears are a good indicator of how the horse is feeling (Equine World UK, n.d., About horses: Behavior section ¶ 4). An unhappy or annoyed horse will lay his or her ears flat back against the neck. A horse, whose ears are pointing forward and pricked alert, however, is usually happy and interested in his surroundings. A relaxed horse will usually lower the ears to the sides. When feeling relaxed, a horse will often also lower the head and most horses also lick their lips. Ask them how the horse that was brought out by the volunteer is feeling now.

Point out that horses and ponies need to be fed at regular times, and that they need to have access to water at all times. Since horses and ponies are grazing animals it is important that most of their diet consists of forage feed such as hay or grass (Equine World UK, n.d., Horse care: Routine care: Feeding section, ¶ 1). Explain that irregularities in feeding or sudden changes of a horse’s diet could lead to severe illnesses such as colic, which is a pain in a horse’s abdomen. Colic can be very dangerous since it can lead to blockage of the intestines, which can kill the horse.
Tell the children that you will read the story of Quincy to them, a horse that lived at a sanctuary in Oregon. Read the chapter “Dumb Farm Animals?” from the book *Hope rising: Stories from the ranch of rescued dreams* (Meeder, 2003, p. 212 – 218). Meeder described in this story how Quincy suffered from a life threatening colic for a number of days, and how one by one nearly every horse living at the sanctuary came by to visit Quincy during his time of sickness. I have personally witnessed similar incidents at a sanctuary, and would therefore add my own story after reading to the children. After you have finished reading the story, ask the children how they feel about it. Give them enough time to ask questions.

**Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (40 min)**

Have a volunteer or staff member demonstrate how to properly groom the horse. Explain the horse’s grooming kit and let the children hold the different brushes and combs as well as the hoof pick. Ask the volunteer or staff member to demonstrate what to do with each brush or comb, and then let each child take over part of the grooming. Spend time explaining the hoof cleaning process. Demonstrate on one hoof and ask different children to clean the other hooves.

After they are done, the volunteers should take each child to their chosen animal buddy. Tell the children that in the next session they will have to write an adoption profile for their buddy, and that they should therefore reflect one more time what is unique about their buddy. Give the children ten minutes with their buddy.
Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (10 min)

After the children are back from their buddies ask each child if they discovered anything new about their buddy today. Also ask them if they have any questions about horses. Since the children received a lot of information about horses today it can be expected that the children have numerous questions.

Snack Time (15 min)

Have the children prepare their own veggie sandwiches. Provide a choice of ingredients.

Segment E – Nature Activity (35 min)

Explain to the children that some artists create sculptures and other pieces of art out of natural materials. The artist Andy Goldsworthy, for example, is well known for his nature sculptures. If possible show the children some pictures of Goldsworthy’s work from the book *Andy Goldsworthy: A collaboration with nature* (Goldsworthy, 1990).

Take the children on a nature walk, and ask them to collect natural materials they would like to use in their piece of art. Make sure that they understand that they should not destroy any plants or harm any insects while they are doing this activity. The nature walk should last about ten to fifteen minutes. Once all the materials have been gathered, have the children decide what would be an appropriate place to build their sculpture. Ask the children to work together and to create a sculpture from the collected materials.

Depending on your group of children this activity could be modified in such a way that the children could create individual sculptures or that they pair up with a partner to work
on a sculpture instead of working in a group. You need to give enough time at the end however, so that the children can look at each other’s sculptures.

Remind the children that they should bring their diaries with them next time as well as all other materials they might need to write the adoption profile for their sanctuary buddy. Ask the children to get ready for their trip home and thank them for coming out to the sanctuary.

References:


LESSON PLAN EIGHT

THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Purpose:

• The children will be able to connect the things that they learned about farmed animals over the course of this program.

• The children will understand the devastating consequences of animal abuse and neglect.

• They will learn how to take responsibility for their own actions.

• The children will understand that compassion has the power to rescue life. They will comprehend that we have to react immediately if we notice that another living being is abused or neglected.

• Writing an adoption profile for their sanctuary buddy will strengthen the children’s self-esteem, and will give them a feeling of empowerment.

• Presenting the adoption profiles to the rest of the group will improve their speaking skills.

• The Council of All Farmed Animals will wrap up the program and give the children the opportunity to put into words all that they’ve learned about the treatment of farmed animals. By slipping into the role of one of these animals they can express the feelings they may have experienced while listening to all the stories over the course of the program.

• Making a pledge to change one thing in their lives that will help these animals will further empower them, and give them a positive feeling about themselves and the animals, as well as hope for the future.
**Materials needed:**

- Five large pieces of cardboard with quotes
- Cardboard posters for the adoption profiles
- Scissors, crayons, colored pencils, glue
- Art supplies for the masks
  

**Segment A – Introduction (20 min)**

Have the children sit in a big circle and welcome them to the farm as usual. Put five big pieces of cardboard into the center of the circle. On each piece of cardboard you should have written one of the following quotes:

- God loved the birds and invented trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages. ~ Jacques Deval, *A fin de vivre bel et bien.*
- When I was twelve, I went hunting with my father and we shot a bird. He was lying there and something struck me. Why do we call this fun to kill this creature [who] was as happy as I was when I woke up this morning. ~ Marv Levy
- Living with animals can be a wonderful experience, especially if we choose to learn the valuable lessons animals teach through their natural enthusiasm, grace, resourcefulness, affection, and forgiveness. ~ Richard H. Pitcairn, American Veterinarian, Pet Nutritionist and Author
- But for the sake of some mouthful of flesh we deprive a soul of the sun and light and of the proportion of life and time it had been born into the world to enjoy. ~Plutarch (c. AD 46 – c. 120)
Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better.

It’s not. ~ Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax*

Note that all quotes were retrieved from the Internet, please see reference list at the end of this lesson plan.

Ask the children to read the quotes quietly and to go into the center of the circle and sit next to the quote that they most relate to. Once all the children have sat down, ask them why they have chosen these quotes. Discuss the meaning of the quotes in the context of what they have learned over the course of the program. Ask them if there is anything that they care “a whole awful lot about” and have them explain how this influences their actions.

*Segment B – Instruction (60 min)*

Explain the following to the children: Life is never easy. Like most of the animals at the sanctuary many of us have been hurt or will get hurt at some point in our lives, and probably all of us have hurt somebody either intentionally or unintentionally. This is very sad and it causes us a lot of grief, however each day is a new day and we can make a new start. We need to heal our own wounds, and make up for any pain and grief we might have caused others by getting up each day and making the choice to act kindly and compassionately toward all living beings. If somebody abuses us and treats us poorly it is okay to seek help. If we see another living being who has been neglected or abused we need to act and provide help as best as we can. Remember that you are never alone. There are always many souls out there who feel just like you and who will support you in your efforts.
Ask the children to open their heart one more time to a very sad story that will explicitly demonstrate how much our help is needed. Read the story *Lord, Have Mercy* (Meeder, 2003, p. 132 – 139) to the children. It is a story about an extreme case of neglect that involved a mare named Mercy who was rescued by Kim Meeder of Christal Peek Youth Ranch in Oregon. The mare was in such a horrible condition that she had to be put down shortly after her rescue.

My intention with this story is to show the children that neglect is another horrible form of abuse and that we need to act immediately when we notice it because otherwise it can be too late.

Give the children time to express their feelings when you are done reading. Ask them what they would do to help if they notice that somebody is badly neglected. Discuss this issue as long as necessary.

Tell them that the author, who also runs the sanctuary where Mercy died, met a young girl named Sierra who believed that she could make a difference. Ask them if they would like to hear her story. Read the story *The Negotiator* (Meeder, 2003, p. 194 – 198) to the children. After learning about the misery of a group of horses at a ranch in Oregon, Sierra organized the rescue of four horses. Ask the children how they feel about the young girl’s courage and determination to help.

Tell the children that now is the time to create the adoption profiles for their sanctuary buddies. Tell them that each one of them will get a big cardboard poster that they can use for their buddy. Also provide scissors, colored pencils, crayons, etc. in case the children would like to use pictures or drawings for their display. Give the following questions as help: Describe your animal. What is special about your buddy? What does
he or she look like? What are his or her likes or dislikes? What do people need to know about the care of this animal? What are the special needs of your buddy? Why do you think this animal should find the best home possible?

Tell them that you will use the adoption profiles for the web site, which means that the children are truly ambassadors for their buddies. Explain that after they have finished their profiles, a volunteer or staff member will bring out the animals one at a time, and that each child should present his or her animal to the rest of the group. Give the children about thirty minutes to work on their profiles.

*Segment C – Interaction with the Animals (40 min)*

After all children have finished working on their profiles, have the volunteers bring out one animal at a time, and have each child present his or her profile to the rest of the group in the presence of his or her chosen animal. Afterwards, hang up the posters so that they are visible to any visitor of the sanctuary.

*Snack Time (15 min)*

Prepare lots of goodies as a special good-bye.

*Segment D – Feedback and Sharing Ideas (15 min)*

Hand out the post lesson questionnaires (see appendix F) to the children and the program evaluation forms (see appendix G) to the volunteers and teachers or counselors. Also give the teachers and counselors the individual progress evaluation forms (see appendix D) for the children and ask them to fill them out within the next two weeks and
to mail them to you. Explain that it is really important for you to get honest and detailed feedback about the program from each participant. After all participants have filled out their forms collect them and thank them for their help.

**Segment E – Nature Activity (35 min)**

The following activity is a modified version of the *Council of all Beings* as suggested in the *Sowing Seeds* workbook (International Institute for Humane Education, 2002). According to the workbook the original idea for a *Council of All Beings* is based on the book *Thinking like a mountain: Toward a council of all beings* (Seed, J., Macy, J., Fleming, P. & Naess, A. (1988). I would like to call the activity *The Council of All Farmed Animals*:

- Invite the children to spread out in a circle and to sit down.
- Explain to them that they should not talk during the first part of this activity.
- Go to each child and whisper the name of a farmed animal into his or her ear.
- Ask the children to close their eyes. Explain that they are now slowly turning into this animal. What does it feel like to be this animal? What are your days and nights like? How do other beings treat you? Where do you live and how (please explain that they are not living at a sanctuary)? What do you want? What would you like to tell other living beings, especially people? What do you have to give to this world?
- Put paper, crayons, and other art supplies in the center of the circle and ask the children to make a mask for their animal. Give them about 10 minutes to make
their masks. Let them know how much time they have before they start. Ask them not to talk.

- After everyone has finished, have the children gather in a circle again. Ask all the beings to speak for themselves.

- Have each being introduce him or herself by telling the council who they are, where they live, and how they spend their time. Have the council answer each time with “We hear you [name of the being].”

- Invite each being to speak again, this time by explaining to the council what is happening to them on this planet. How do people treat them? How have they been abused or neglected? How have they suffered? The council answers, “We hear you [name of the being].”

- Ask each animal to talk one more time, and to share his or her wisdom with the council. What does the animal have to give to this planet and all of its beings? What can this animal teach people? The council replies with “We thank you [name of the being].”

- After each being has spoken, ask the children to remove their masks, and to make a promise that they change one thing in their life that will help their being.

- Remind the children that they should only make a promise that they can really keep.

- End the council with the pledge: “These promises shall not be broken.”

End the program by telling the children how special they are, and how much you enjoyed their company. Tell them that everyone at the sanctuary including the animals has reserved a special place in their hearts for each one of them, and tell them that you
know that each one of them will make this world a better place. Leave enough time for personal good-byes.

**References:**


Chapter 4

Summary and Conclusion

Working on this Independent Learning Project has in many respects prepared me well for a future career as a humane educator. It has given me the opportunity to research and learn about all aspects of program development. Developing a new program is a comprehensive task that goes beyond writing a curriculum, as the first part of my ILP has shown. Any program that is designed for children has to be planned thoroughly and needs to be evaluated constantly. Safety issues need to have a top priority, and many other aspects need to be considered. Working out the details of the program has been a challenging but rewarding task.

Additionally I have learned a lot about the link between violence against human beings and cruelty to animals. Most researchers recognize the significance of this connection, and it is encouraging to see that there are already a significant number of programs that teach empathy and compassion and strive to break the cycle of violence. Animals play an important role in many of these programs, and most of them seem to be highly successful. Unfortunately there are only a limited number of studies available that evaluate humane education programs however I hope that more research in this fairly new field will be conducted in the future.

The goal of my program is to prevent violence against human and nonhuman beings, and I hope that I can thereby contribute to a more compassionate and less violent society. With slight modifications the program can be implemented at any farmed animal
sanctuary in the country, and I hope that I will be able to start this program at a sanctuary in the state of Washington.
References


Retrieved March 27, 2005, from


Loar, L. (1999). “I’ll only help you if you have two legs,” or, why human service professionals should pay attention to cases involving cruelty to animals. In F. Ascione & P. Arkow (Eds.), Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal abuse: Linking the circles of compassion for prevention and intervention (pp.120 – 136). West Lafayette, IN: Perdue University Press.


http://www.pasadosafehaven.org/ADOPTACRITTER/Farm_Animals_1.htm.


http://www.pbs.org/wildhorses/wh_teaching.html


Appendices

APPENDIX A

Parent/Guardian Questionnaire and Permission Slip

Please fill out the following questionnaire and sign the permission slip. Each child needs to turn in the completed form at the beginning of the program. No child may participate in the program without the signed form.

Parent/Guardian Name: _________________________________________________

Name of the Child: _____________________________________________________

Child’s D.O.B. __________________________________________________________

Address: City: ________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: _______________

Home phone: ________________ Cell Phone: ______________ Work: ___________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

How can we reach you in case of an emergency?

_______________________________________________________________________

Give the name and phone number of an alternative emergency contact person in case we can’t reach you: __________________________________________________

Are there any medical conditions we need to be informed about? Please explain:

_______________________________________________________________________

Does your child have any allergies we need to know of?

_______________________________________________________________________

Does your child need to take medication(s)? Please list:

_______________________________________________________________________
(If yes, please give instructions to the staff members of the school or agency who are accompanying your child to the sanctuary. Sanctuary staff and volunteers are not allowed to dispense any medication.)

Has your child ever shown any signs of fear of animals? Please describe:

_______________________________________________________________________

Has your child ever hurt an animal? If yes, please describe:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How old was your child and what happened after the incident?

________________________________________________________________________

Liability Waiver:

“The above named child may participate in the eight-week animal-assisted humane education program at………………………..(name of the sanctuary). I have the authority to act on this child’s behalf and I release. ………………………………(name of the sanctuary) and its representatives from liability in the event of accidental injury or illness. I give permission for this child to receive emergency medical treatment. I accept full responsibility for any expense resulting from providing medical treatment to this child.”

Parent/Guardian Signature:………………………………………….Date:………………..
APPENDIX B:

*Please note that this questionnaire is a slightly modified version of Barbara Boat’s Inventory on Animal-Related Experiences as cited in Loar & Colman (2004, pp.125-126).

Name:……………………………………. Date:……………………………………….

Experiences with Animals Survey

1. Have you or your family ever had any animals?     Yes            No  (Please circle)

   How many?

   a. Dog(s)                                                  
   b. Cat(s)                                                  
   c. Bird(s)                                                
   d. Fish                                                   
   e. Horse(s)                                               
   f. Turtles, snakes, lizards, insects, etc.                 
   g. Rabbits, hamsters, mice, guinea pigs, gerbils          
   h. Wild animals (describe)                                
   i. Cows, pigs, sheep, chicken, geese turkeys, ducks       
   j. Other (describe)                                       

2. Do you have any animals now?                                    Yes          No  (Please circle)

   How many?

   a. Dog(s)                                                  
   b. Cat(s)                                                  
   c. Bird(s)                                                
   d. Fish                                                   
   e. Horse(s)                                               
   f. Turtles, snakes, lizards, insects, etc.                 
   g. Rabbits, hamsters, mice, guinea pigs, gerbils          
   h. Wild animals (describe)                                
   i. Cows, pigs, sheep, chicken, geese turkeys, ducks       
   j. Other (describe)                                       


3. Did you ever have a favorite or special animal?

What kind? ________________________________________________________________

Why was this animal special? ______________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

4. Has an animal ever been a source of comfort or support to you – even if you weren't this animal’s guardian? (e.g. When you were sad or scared?)

Yes               No  (Please circle)

How old were you?  a. Under age 6    b. 6-12

Describe the animal and what happened
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

5. Has your animal ever been hurt?

Yes               No  (Please circle)

What happened? (Describe)
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

a. Accidental? (Hit by car, attacked by another animal, fell, ate something, etc.)

b. Deliberate? (Kicked, punched, thrown, not fed, etc.)

6. Have you ever felt afraid for your animal or worried about bad things happening to your animal? (Describe)

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Are you worried now?  Yes  No (Please circle)

7. Have you ever lost an animal you really cared about? (e.g. Was given away, ran away, died or was somehow killed?)  Yes  No (Please circle)

What kind of animal? ______________________________________________________

What happened?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How difficult was the loss for you?

a. Not difficult  b. Somewhat difficult  c. Very difficult

How much does it bother you now?

a. Not at all  b. Somewhat  c. A lot

How did people react/ what did they tell you after you lost your pet?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How old were you?

a. Under age 6  b. 6-12 years

8. Have you ever hurt an animal or pet?  Yes  No (Please circle)

How many?
1. **What did you do?** (Please describe)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. Was it
   a. accidental?   b. deliberate?   c. coerced?

3. **How old were you?** (Circle all that apply)
   a. Under age 6   b. 6-12 years

4. Were you hunting the animal for food or sport?  
   Yes  No

5. Were you alone when you did this?  
   Yes  No

6. Did anyone know that you did this?  
   Yes  No

7. What happened afterwards? ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

8. **9. Have you ever been frightened-really scared or hurt by an animal?**

   Yes  No  (Please circle)

   What happened? _________________________________________________
APPENDIX C

List of Books and Videos Needed for the Program

Videos:


Books:

APPENDIX D

INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

*Please note that the pretest is based on Dr. Stone’s template for designers of humane education programs (Stone, 2002).

Pretest:

1. Describe the child’s problematic behavior.

2. Explain why this behavior is a problem and what underlying factors contribute to it.

3. Describe the desired outcome and give detailed objectives for this child.

4. Describe observable behaviors that typify the desired outcome.

5. How can this behavior be measured?

Posttest:

1. Describe any changes in the child’s problematic behavior.

2. Explain why the desired outcome has or hasn’t has been achieved.

3. Which objectives have or have not been achieved?

4. What needs to be done to further support the child’s progress?
APPENDIX E

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS (pre lessons)

We would love to know what you think. Please answer the following as best as you can. Thank you very much for coming out to our sanctuary.

NAME: _______________________________________________________________

NAME OF THE SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION YOU CAME WITH:
______________________________________________________________________

AGE: __________________________________________________________________

Please circle the answer that matches what you think.

1. I like animals living on farms such as cows, pigs, chicken, turkeys, ducks, goats, sheep, and horses.
   A LOT SOMETHAT NOT THAT MUCH NOT AT ALL

2. I can understand “chicken talk”.
   YES A LITTLE NOT SURE NO

3. Cows are playful, social creatures.
   YES SOMETHAT NOT SURE NOT AT ALL

4. It is more important to help homeless cats and dogs, or to protect wild animals, than to care about chickens or cows.
   YES NOT SURE NO IT DEPENDS… (Please comment)

5. Vegetarian food is boring.
   YES SOMETHAT NOT SURE NOT AT ALL
6. It is ok to harm an animal if I don’t like this animal or if I am scared.

YES                      NOT SURE                   NO                  IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)_________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. Neglecting an animal can be very harmful.

YES                      NOT SURE                   NO                  IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)_________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

8. I do not like it if somebody hurts or neglects an animal but it is better not to speak
up because I could get in trouble.

YES                      NOT SURE                   NO                  IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)_________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

9. There is not much that children can do to help animals.

YES                      NOT SURE                   NO                  IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)_________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

10. I treat all people and animals in my life with respect and kindness.

YES                      SOMEWHAT                   NO      IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)_________________________________________________________
APPENDIX F

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS (post lessons)

We would love to know what you think. Please answer the following as best as you can. Thank you very much for coming out to our sanctuary.

NAME: _______________________________________________________________

NAME OF THE SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION YOU CAME WITH:
____________________________________________________________________

AGE: ____________________________________________________________________

Please circle the answer that matches what you think.

1. I like animals living on farms such as cows, pigs, chicken, turkeys, ducks, goats, sheep, and horses.
   A LOT           SOMEWHAT        NOT THAT MUCH      NOT AT ALL

2. I can understand “chicken talk”.
   YES                A LITTLE              NOT SURE            NO

3. Cows are playful, social creatures.
   YES                SOMEWHAT       NOT SURE      NOT AT ALL

4. It is more important to help homeless cats and dogs, or to protect wild animals, than to care about chickens or cows.
   YES                      NOT SURE                   NO            IT DEPENDS… (Please comment)_________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. Vegetarian food is boring.
   YES               SOMEWHAT            NOT SURE             NOT AT ALL
6. It is ok to harm an animal if I don’t like this animal or if I am scared.

   YES                      NOT SURE                   NO          IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

7. Neglecting an animal can be very harmful.

   YES                      NOT SURE                   NO          IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

8. I do not like it if somebody hurts or neglects an animal but it is better not to speak
   up because I could get in trouble.

   YES                      NOT SURE                   NO          IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

9. There is not much that children can do to help animals.

   YES                      NOT SURE                   NO          IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

10. I treat all people and animals in my life with respect and kindness.

    YES           SOMEWHAT           NO        IT DEPENDS… (Please
comment)________________________________________________________

11. Please describe what you liked or disliked about the program.

    __________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________
12. Rate on a scale from 1 to 5 how safe you felt while interacting with the animals. 1 is not safe at all, 5 is very safe. 1 2 3 4 5 (Circle the number that applies to you.)

13. What is the most important thing that you would like to teach other children about farmed animals?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

14. What would you like to say a. to the staff members of the program, and b. to the volunteers of the program?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

15. Is there anything that you would like us to change in the program?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
APPENDIX G

STAFF EVALUATION FORM

YOUR NAME: _________________________________________________________

NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION: __________________________

____________________________________________________________________

DATE: ________________________________________________________________

Thank you for participating with your children in our program. In order to maintain high
quality standards in our program, we would be grateful for your evaluation.

1. How would you rate the overall quality of the program? (Please circle
appropriate answer).

   POOR      FAIR      GOOD      EXCELLENT

2. What specifically did you like about the program?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

3. What aspects of the program could be improved?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

4. Did you notice any significant changes in the children’s behavior?

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________
5. Are we respectful, caring, and supportive of the children?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

6. What did the children learn in this program?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. How would you rate the safety measurements that were taken to ensure the safety of all participants? POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

8. Do you have any additional comments that may help us to further improve the quality of the program?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________