

HUMANE REVIEW

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The Newsletter of the New York State Humane Association



Humane Education Can Change Lives

On the first day of school, the need for humane education is evident for many teachers and their students. One of our Board members, a former educator, remembers all too well students coming into her room crying because their prized and pet cows were just auctioned off at the local county fair even after winning blue ribbons.

These students were connected to their animals and clearly open to learning about caring for and about them for non-commercial reasons. The problem? Humane education, though mandated by NYS law in elementary schools, is not taught unless an individual teacher finds a way to fit it into the curriculum. There are very simple and easy ways to incorporate lessons about animals and the environment into lesson plans, and many can be found on our website. As a matter of fact, one of NYSHA's goals has been to promote humane ed but we have met with little success with the NYS Department of Education, although we will continue to try.

Humane education is an important concept that can teach children compassion, respect, and empathy for the Earth, the environment, for each other, and for all living beings. It can be a key factor in countering the highly negative influences that bombard children every day, whether it is violent TV or video games, bullying they encounter or experience themselves, or disturbing news coverage concerning local and global events. Children have a natural love of and curiosity about animals and teaching them that animals have needs, wants, and emotions just like they do is a powerful lesson that carries over into their treatment of each other and their future pro-social life.

There are many ways to introduce humane education, including expert guest speakers, visual aids, games, and books and brochures. NYSHA members have decades of experience visiting schools and introducing children to topics such as wildlife, factory farming, environmental issues, marine life and ocean well-being, zoos and circuses, taking care of dogs and cats, global warming, rain forest preservation, and the effect of diet on their health, all presented in a way that emphasizes respect and the value of all life. The COVID pandemic that began in 2020 has made visits by guest speakers more difficult but doesn't affect teacher involvement.

The most effective method for fostering humane education is for teachers to incorporate it as much as possible into their class curricula, since children spend many hours each day at school and the teacher is a role model and authority figure. There are many



Humane Education can take place in many settings.

organizations set up to help in this task by providing humane education programs for all grades K -12, and NYSHA has links to many of these on its website.

Humane education is easily incorporated into classroom topics, and examples from the animal and environmental world tend to pique children's interests. A popular example in math education involves pet overpopulation and the value of spay/neuter. Have student calculate how many cats will be born in a given period of time, if one male and female pair of cats can have 2 litters per year with 6 kittens each, half of which are female who can have their own litters after 6 months. It will become apparent that there aren't homes for them all.

Besides schools, libraries and adult centers can also incorporate humane education into after-school children's programs and evening adult presentations. NYSHA is looking into these as possible venues and is also working with other large national organizations and local animal-oriented groups. Since NYSHA has several educators on its Board, anyone interested in this critical means to protect animals can contact us for suggestions, ideas, or guidance.

Remember -- humane education can take place anywhere. Let your local news station producer know why their coverage of the Saratoga horse races is offensive and insensitive, explain to a neighbor why her outdoor cat should be indoors, put up a turtle crossing sign along a road, invite children (and adults!) to meet your rescued donkeys, bring grandchildren to animal sanctuaries and wildlife refuges instead of a zoo. We can, and should, all be teachers in our daily lives to shape current and future attitudes toward the creatures whose world we share.

President's Message

The impact of COVID appears to have diminished and the long summer is almost at an end. We need to step out of our homes, shake off the summer languor, embrace the autumn briskness, and resume actions that promote the well-being of the animals of the state.

There are numerous ways to help, and choosing an activity that matches your interests will keep you engaged. Help is needed in all areas, as COVID not only reduced financial donations, it reduced activities of all types.

Something we can do easily is contact the Governor's office and express support for the three animal bills that passed the legislature and are awaiting her signature to become law: the Puppy Mill Pipeline bill, the NY Cruelty-Free Cosmetic Act, and the Shelter Standards bill. They are explained further in *Our Voices in Albany*, along with contact information for Governor Hochul.

We can also watch out for people committing cruelty to animals. Jot down the facts of the situation: what happened, where it did happen, when did it happen, and who did it? Use your smart phone to create a video if possible, and call the police or the local SPCA to report it. The public's reporting of cruelty is the catalyst for most investigations that bring relief to the animals being abused.

When we become aware that an arrest has been made in an animal cruelty case, we can reach out to the district attorney's office with a polite letter or email and urge them to take the case seriously, not

only for the sake of the animal, but also for society, for animal abuse is highly correlated with subsequent crimes against humans. Look at Dr. Hovel's booklet, *The Connection Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*, located on our website, for information to bring to the attention of the district attorney's office.

When a defendant in a cruelty case has been convicted, we can write a polite letter to the judge on the case urging him/her to impose a sentence that reflects the seriousness of animal crime. Judges do read their mail. In fact, several years ago, a Sullivan County judge dealt with a case where a puppy had been battered and then buried under rocks in a wooded area where he was later found by hikers. The judge said he had received more mail about that case than any other in his career. Letters came from as far away as California.

In addition to financial contributions, we can donate our time at local humane agencies to help walk and socialize the dogs and cats who are so desperately waiting for homes. Those of us who enjoy farm animals and horses can spend time volunteering at farm sanctuaries and horse rescues. In addition, humane agencies can use your old towels, sheets, and blankets for the animals.

All of these activities and entities need our assistance, and together we can help make up for the impacts that the years of COVID had on them. Let's each do what we can to help.

Please be kind to animals,

Patricia Valusek

The World Around Us – Chipmunks

Chipmunks -- Now you see them and now you see MORE of them and now you don't! We know them from cartoons, movies, songs, and books and find them adorable. They are one of the happy harbingers of spring, but most of us don't know much about them! So -- a few fun facts...

They are generally solitary, but chirp constantly when looking for a mate or to warn others of danger. They live in tunnels underground as long as 30 feet with separate areas for eating, sleeping, food storage, nesting, and toileting. Sometimes they even have a shorter burrow to escape the daytime heat and eat safely, and can sleep up to 15 hours a day.

Chipmunks give birth in spring and late summer to about 4 or 5 pups in a litter, with a life span of 3-5 years. Their feces spread seeds for new plant growth and serve as a natural fertilizer, which is very beneficial.

They love to eat berries, nuts (gathering up to 165 daily!) and seeds -- and especially what's in our gardens. To humanely keep them from destroying our harvests, sprinkle the surrounding area with coffee grounds, garlic, mint, or other strong smelling herbs.

These little ones hibernate from late October or early November until the weather warms up again, and their body temperature drops to 40 degrees from 94 and their heartbeat to 4 per minute! But at times they even wake up for a snack if the winter is warm.

So - as we change our routines from fall into winter, we can look forward to welcoming them back next spring and looking out our windows with a smile!



Our Voices in Albany

As mentioned in our summer e-newsletter, three bills that NYSHA and other humane groups have supported were passed by the NY Legislature. At this date, we are waiting for them to be sent to Governor Hochul's desk. We will let you as soon as we have any news. In the meantime, please contact her by phone at (518) 474-8390, by letter to NYS State Capitol Bldg., Albany, NY 12224, or by sending an email to: governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form and urge her to sign these bills into law when they appear before her.

The Puppy Mill Pipeline bill (A.4283/S.1130), that prohibits the

sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits by NY retail pet shops, will save untold suffering of animals bred in dreadful circumstances. The bill authorizes collaboration with humane organizations to provide space to showcase cats, dogs, and rabbits awaiting adoption.

The NY Cruelty-Free Cosmetic Act (A.5653/S.4839B) will ban manufacture or sale of most cosmetics products or ingredients that have been tested on animals after 1/1/2023.

The Shelter Standards bill (A.6246/S.6870B) will protect animals by providing standards of care for those being held in or transported by animal shelters and humane organizations.

The Vet Is In – Classroom Pets

Some of us fondly remember “classroom pets” from our childhood, but is it time to reconsider this under most circumstances? They can teach valuable lessons about responsibility, humane care, and compassion, but at what expense?

These animals, especially guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, and turtles, often go home on weekends with different students, but who knows what those homes provide and may be inappropriate, even dangerous. Are there other children in the house who may not be old or educated enough to handle these animals? What kind of supervision will they have? If there is an injury to the pet - possibly by another animal in the house - will veterinary care be provided? Lame “pocket pets” have come to the veterinarian having suffered a fractured limb, undiagnosed for days with excruciating pain. Is there a chance of the animal accidentally escaping? And will there be unsuitable treats given, or feeding done on schedule?

Animals need consistency. Being in a new environment, with different smells, people, and other critters, can be stressful. This temporary arrangement often terrifies them.



If the animal remains in the classroom on weekends, temperatures are often lowered. In the warmer months these rooms are often not air conditioned, creating other problems. Who checks in for cleaning, feeding, and other maintenance? If there is an emergency, who remembers to rescue him or her? In addition, being left for several days, especially on holiday weekends, can be very lonely.

And of course, what happens at the end of the school year? Who really checks to see if the new home is a good match? Classroom pets, meant to teach, also teach some wrong lessons - that animals' feelings can be ignored, that they are used for our own purposes, that they are disposable. And what are we teaching children when we isolate animals from others of their species and in cages?

There are exceptions, of course, and the ideal situation is for the pet to be the teacher's own companion animal, with a lifelong commitment to caring for him or her. This would be the best example and a real lesson for the next generation.

The Book Corner – Happily Ever Esther: Two Men, Their Wonder Pig, and Their Life-Changing Mission to Give Animals a Home.

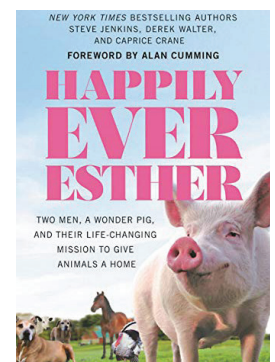
Many of us can't remember a time when we didn't love animals. But getting to know them and respect them for who they are is a lifelong process. For two young men this emotional journey enabled them to establish an animal sanctuary in Canada, far from their city home.

It all started with Esther, a little pig who grew bigger and bigger and bigger. In the process of finding her a comfortable home Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter began to understand that there wasn't really much difference between a pig and their dogs in terms of cognition, love, and dependence on humans for quality care.

Once they founded Happily Ever Esther Farm Sanctuary, they began to understand farm animals and how similar to companion animals they are. Rescuing an increasing number of needy creatures and learning with each one, they taught themselves at the same time their sanctuary educated others.

An easy, tender, and fun read, *Happily Ever Esther* is a heartwarming book about fascinating animals as well as interesting people. But it is also an enlightening story about humane education on a different level – learning to live with others who don't feel the way you do, gradually making them understand why and changing their mindset, sometimes one animal and one person at a time.

We can all have a voice for animal welfare. When we doubt we are effective and think ordinary people cannot make a difference, this touching and inspiring tale reminds us that each of us matters for animals and their future.



Spotlight: William “Bill” Lloyd

What do you say about the loss of a man who embodied compassion, dedication and integrity to the cause of preventing and relieving cruelty to animals for his entire working life. We all, and especially the animals, lost a champion this spring with the death of Bill Lloyd at age 73.

His outstanding achievement was his leadership as the Shelter Manager of the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deer Park. In that capacity, he not only ensured that all animals in need were provided with care, but also in the 1980s, he instituted an in-house spay/neuter program that succeeded in preventing the births of thousands of unwanted animals. Thus, not only were shelter animals spayed/neutered upon adoption, but a low-cost program was made available to the public’s animals, and spay/neuter became the norm in the area.

Bill started working at the Port Jervis shelter as a teenager, and over the years rose to become the shelter manager, a post from which he did not retire until 2012. During those years, NYSHA cannot recall a time when Bill did not respond when asked for help with a cruelty case. The most infamous one in which he and his shelter played a key role was the Fricchione dog fighting case in Orange Co., NY. Bill’s shelter kept 18 of the fighting dogs seized in the case for almost a year until Fricchione was convicted. It put a great strain on the shelter budget, but Bill said that it was the right thing to do and he did it.

NYSHA also called on him to hold a big Rottweiler who we brought to him late at night on New Year’s Eve after the police executed a warrant late in the day in a hoarder case. In



Bill Lloyd receiving NYSHA's Special Award for Leadership.

this and the many other cases, Bill always helped and never left an animal with no place to go. Over the years, he worked with police, veterinarians, and humane agencies to address cruelty cases and bring relief to the animals, even if it meant leaving his bed in the middle of the night. He really cared for animals more than he cared for himself.

As far as his personal companion animals, he loved goats and had several over the years, and liked to spend his down time with these sociable, intelligent creatures. He felt that so-called farm animals had as much love to give as cats and dogs, and he advocated for their humane treatment.

After he retired from the shelter where he had dedicated his life and left part of his soul, he briefly joined the NYSHA Board, but health issues got in the way, and he felt he had to leave. We missed him, but knew it was the best choice for him. Unfortunately, his health took a turn for the worse, and we have lost him.

We asked the person who helped care for him toward the end of his life, what his legacy was, and she said. “The impact he made on other lives is his legacy.” She added, “He deserves a statue of himself with animals, but he just wanted other people to carry on his work for the love of the animals. He was humble and kind and I miss him so much.”

We would only add that Bill Lloyd has now crossed over that Rainbow Bridge to be warmly greeted by all the animals he helped over the years, who preceded him to that peaceful place.

Thank You, Shoppers!

We appreciate those of you who shop on various sites, such as Amazon Smile, and have chosen NYSHA to benefit from a percentage of your purchases.

We don't see names to thank, but please know how grateful we are.



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