



# Animal Welfare Education Programs in National Schools



## Introduction

Animal welfare education aims to develop in young people a sense of responsibility towards animals and towards the environment we all live in. It encourages caring attitudes towards all living things by developing empathy through firsthand experiences and activities.

Children who are brought up with pets tend to become more sensitive to other people's feelings. Caring for pets helps to promote tolerance & self-acceptance and provides early lessons on the facts of life and death. Through pets, children learn how to care for another living being and that in turn helps boost their self-esteem, increases their social skills, gives a sense of responsibility and makes them feel less lonely. In the long run, children can be moulded into caring and loving adults.

In line with this, the foundation has developed an awareness and interactive program for schools to offer education with opportunities for children to interact with pets as part of child development. Interesting education modules designed by the Foundation provide guidelines to educators to enhance the knowledge and interest in animal welfare in addition to encourage respect and compassion to pets especially to dogs and cats.

## Objectives

- To encourage a wider awareness of and respect for all living things and inculcate responsible and caring attitudes.
- To raise awareness and provide guidelines on the animal welfare issues facing today's young people.
- To promote human-animal interaction as part of child development

In order to help children:

- experience and understand the importance of being a responsible caretaker
- Feel confident and comfortable around animals.

## Benefits of the program

The education program will offer the

following benefits:

- Creates appreciation and respect for living things that share our world and gives exposure to different kinds of animal
- Reinforces the principle of treating others with consideration and respect.
- Provides better understanding of the world we live in, children learn to co-exist with animals through interaction and removes their fear of animals.
- Develops responsible attitude towards animals and the environment and a duty to care for the health and safety of all animals – companion animals, wildlife, farm animals.
- Helps raise awareness of animal welfare issues such as abuse, cruelty of animals, stray / abandoned animal problems and animal overpopulation facing our society.
- Changes perception on the value of animals to humans by creating awareness on service animals to aid the blind and disabled, animal-assisted therapy for the sick, elderly, special needs and handicapped children as well as for rehabilitation situations.
- Enhances development of morals and values.
- Enhances students' creativity through activities such as art and drama.
- Provides access to educational material and resources.



Foundation welcomes all donations in kind or cash and volunteers to participate in all its activities.

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