BE Kind to Animals And People, too!

American Humane Association
PETSMART Charities
Be Kind to Animals...And People Too!

What do you think when you hear the word kindness? Write what kindness means to you here.

KINDNESS = ______________________________________________________

Did you include treating animals with love and care in your definition of kindness? Kindness should include the way you treat people and the way you treat animals and all living things. People who are kind to animals are usually kind to people, too. And, it has been proven that people who care about all living things are less likely to commit crimes. That’s why it’s so important to learn about the right ways to treat your human friends and your animal friends.

Animals and people are not so different, after all. They depend on and need each other.

Animals are a part of our families and are our beloved pets. They are in movies and television shows that entertain us. We visit them in zoos and nature preserves. Some animals, like service dogs for the blind and disabled, and police dogs, work beside humans.

And, the one thing all animals and people share—they deserve to be treated humanely and with respect. It is possible for all living things to live on our planet peacefully and in harmony.

Humane education is about learning to be kind to all living things, both human and non-human. It is about developing respect and compassion for the planet we live on and all of its inhabitants. Making the world a better place for all is a big job, but everyone’s work helps. You can make a difference. You can choose to make kindness a part of your life at home, at school, in sports and everywhere you go. Kindness is contagious. You may have heard the expression, “What goes around comes around.” That means that what you put out there in the world usually comes back to you. Choose to put kindness out there and you will be greatly rewarded when it comes back around to you.

Throughout this special newspaper section, we’ll look at humane education and kindness. You’ll read quotations about what famous and not-so-famous people had to say about kindness and animals, too.

NEWS CHECK

Learning standard: writing for fluency
Can you find a kind person in today’s news? Write a paragraph telling how that person is showing kindness.

Choose one of these four quotes that you like and write what you think it means.

“When a man has pity on all living creatures then only is he noble.”
The Buddha

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”
Mahatma Gandhi

“The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected... Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth.”
Chief Seattle, 1855

“I am sometimes asked, ‘Why do you spend so much of your time and money in talking about kindness to animals, when there is so much cruelty to men?’ And I answer, ‘I am working at the roots.’ Every humane publication, every lecture, every step, in doing or teaching kindness to them, is a step to prevent crime — a step in promoting growth of those qualities of heart which will elevate humane souls, even in the dens of sin and shame, and prepare the way for the coming of peace on earth and good will to men.”
George Angell – Founder, MSPCA
One of the great things about being kind, or humane, is that it is so easy to do. Read the Golden rule and think about what it means. Talk about it with your classmates.

When you treat people and animals the way you want to be treated, what happens? People get along. They help each other. They are considerate and gentle. They are respectful. Why? Because, we all want the same things. We want people to be nice to us and treat us with respect. It’s a simple idea, really. Treat others the way you want them to treat you. It’s easy and it makes the world so much nicer to live in. The best part is – you have the power to do this, right now, today.

Imagine a pebble being thrown into a lake. Picture the pebble hitting the water. What happens next is that a small circle, or ripple, forms around the pebble and it grows bigger and wider. Toss in more pebbles and more ripples flow out. That’s how it works when you are kind. Every humane act you do is like tossing a pebble into the water. Those kind acts grow and spread and before you know it, they’re flowing all around you. It’s a powerful thing and it all starts with you.

Writing Prompt:
Why is it important to treat animals with kindness? How would you do that? Below are three more quotes about living humanely. Pick your favorite quote and describe why you chose it.

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."
William Penn.

"Our task must to be free ourselves - by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."
Albert Einstein.

"Humanity advances only as it becomes more humane. Dr. Frank Crane."
According to American Humane, Smart Animal Lovers Make a Difference

**Preparing Your Pet for a Disaster**

Disasters, like earthquakes, floods, fires, or tornadoes can strike anytime and anywhere. When disaster strikes, phone lines go down, public shelters become overwhelmed, and essential services are often unavailable. Some people must leave their homes for evacuation shelters. But evacuation shelters don’t accept animals. So, what can you do to make sure your pet is cared for before, during, and perhaps even after a disaster?

First, if you must evacuate, don’t leave your pet behind. With a little advanced planning and with the help of your parents, you can know what options are available for your pet’s care the moment a disaster strikes. Ask your family to gather the addresses and phone numbers of local hotels, friends, pet sitters, kennels and veterinary offices that would take your pet in case of an emergency.

Second, make sure your pet has current ID tags in case they get lost. Many animals are lost during disasters and are never returned to their owners because they don’t have ID tags. You might even ask an adult to create another ID tag with an out-of-state contact in case you and your pet are accidentally separated during the disaster.

Third, make sure a parent keeps a copy of your pet’s vaccinations in case you have to board your pet or leave the state. Keep pet supplies, like food, water, medications, a leash, and a portable carrier on-hand too.

Don’t wait until a disaster strikes to have a disaster plan for your animals. Plan for your pet’s care now.

**Keeping Track of Your Pet**

Whether lost or stolen, losing a pet is a horrible experience. Yet, most people fail to put any kind of identification on their pets to make sure they come home safely. In fact, only about 16% of dogs and 2% of cats are ever reunited with their owners again.

According to American Humane, an ID tag on your pet’s collar is the simplest and easiest method of identification. The tag should include your name, address, phone number, and the pet’s name.

If your parents are willing to pay a reward, then put that on the tag too. Today, you can also have your animal tattooed or micro-chipped. Tattooing is a permanent ID system that involves putting information on the skin of the pet, usually underneath a back leg or underside of the stomach, for added visual identification. Inserting a microchip into the pet means animal care and control agencies with scanners can quickly identify a lost animal and make sure the animal is returned to his owner.
Why You Should Report a Stray Dog

The stray dog running through your neighborhood may have just escaped out of the yard or perhaps was abandoned several weeks ago. Whether a dog has been lost for one day or three weeks doesn’t matter. Stray dogs suffer. They are scared and confused by their surroundings. They are hungry and constantly looking for food. They run the risk of being hit by cars, teased or hurt by cruel people, or coming into contact with vicious or rabid animals. They may not be vaccinated against rabies either. And if they have the disease, they could bite another neighborhood animal or person and pass it along.

Remember the description and location of the stray animal you see and let an adult know immediately. They can call animal control to pick up the dog. You’ll be ending the dog’s suffering, perhaps reuniting him with his owner, and making sure your community’s safe too.

USE THE NEWS

Learning standards: demonstrating teamwork skills, examining graphics

1) Work in cooperative groups to make an animal thank you collage by clipping words and pictures from the newspaper that show the many ways people benefit from having animals in their lives.

2) Check the newspaper to see how display ads are designed. Design an ad encouraging people to learn about animals in the wild so that they know the right way to treat them.
Pet Care

While cats and dogs are the most popular pets, many other kinds of animals are pets, too. One thing that all pets have in common is that caring for one is a big decision and one you should think a great deal about. When you agree to adopt a pet, you are taking on the awesome responsibility of caring for a living being. This is not so different from agreeing to take another person into your home. If you were doing that, you’d understand that you’d have to make sure that person had a clean, safe place to live and food, water, medical care, exercise and other necessities.

A pet will need all of this, too. Here are some things to think about when deciding whether to adopt a pet.

- How much time will you spend with your pets?
- What kind of animal would make a good pet?
- Why do you want a pet?
- Can you think of animals who may be very cool but not be good pets? Why?

Finally, when you choose to adopt a pet, make sure that you understand what that animal needs. They will need time, attention, doctor care, food, exercise, water, playtime, training, love and more. Some pets, like dogs, cats, and rabbits, will also need to be neutered or spayed so that they do not have babies. That’s important because we have too many unwanted pets in this country and spaying or neutering helps keep those numbers down.
Pet Overpopulation

Pet overpopulation, or too many pets without homes, is a tragic problem. Each year, millions of animals in shelters must be euthanized, or "put to sleep" because good homes could not be found for them.

Many people who breed their pets believe they aren’t adding to the pet overpopulation problem if they find good homes for all their puppies or kittens. But consider this:

Finding A Home – A Numbers Game

When people have babies, they usually have only one baby at a time. When dogs and cats, rabbits, birds, and hamsters, even reptiles have babies, they usually have more than one at a time. A male and female dog who are not fixed can produce hundreds of puppies in a lifetime. And this doesn’t include all of the offspring produced by her male puppies.

Humans simply do not produce at these outrageous rates! This adds up to a great deal of unwanted animals in our community.

Millions of pets are without homes every year. Over 60% of dogs and 70% of cats must be "put to sleep" because there just aren’t enough good homes. Make sure to act responsibly and do your part to help control pet overpopulation. Have your female pet spayed and your male pet neutered. Put an end to pet overpopulation by not allowing your pet to have litters.

Neutering and Spaying Help Your Pet

What is spaying? – The process of removing the uterus and ovaries of a female animal to prevent that animal from reproducing.

What is neutering? – The process of removing the testicles from a male animal to prevent that animal from reproducing.

Spaying or neutering can help your dog and cat live a happier, healthier, and longer life. Spaying eliminates the constant crying and nervous pacing that is a sign that a female cat is in heat. Neutering stops the mating drive in males, reducing the urge to roam, which in turn, reduces the risk of fights, injury, poisoning, accidents, and contracting diseases. If you have more than one pet in your household, all the pets will get along better if they are spayed or neutered.

Your pet’s health also benefits from neutering. Early spaying nearly eliminates the risk of breast cancer, and totally prevents uterine infections and uterine cancer. Neutering male pets greatly reduces the risk of prostrate and testicular cancers.
Animals and Humans - Perfect Together

Throughout history, animals have improved the quality of human lives with their help and even their friendship.

- Did you know that there is evidence of people having pet cats more than 4,000 years ago?
- Did you know that 100 years ago, horses were the main way that people traveled over land for great distances?
- Did you know a medieval war-horse might have been required to carry up to 400 pounds?
- Did you know in the 1800s, explorers of North Africa recorded that local people caught and raised African Wild Cats as pets? The African Wild Cat is an ancestor of today’s pet cat.

Dogs, cats, and horses are just a few of the many animals that have become part of humans’ lives. Here is more information specifically about dogs and their daily benefits in our lives.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are animals that are trained to aid their human partners. The main types of assistance dogs are hearing dogs for the deaf, guide dogs for the visually impaired, and service dogs for people with physical disabilities. These dogs’ lives are dedicated to the significant task of giving security and independence to a person with a disability. Assistance dogs help about 20,000 people in the United States, according to Assistance Dogs, International, Inc.

Assistance dogs can come from a variety of sources. In many instances, assistance dogs are selected from animal shelters for training. Also, there are national breeding programs, with volunteer puppy raisers caring for the dogs until they are old enough to start formal training. It’s not always a specific breed that makes the best assistance dog. Many assistance dogs are mixed breeds, often adopted from local animal shelters.

Guide Dogs

The blind and visually impaired members of our society rely on guide dogs to help them find their way. These dogs steer their handlers away from obstacles, signal when a curb is approaching and to stop, and negotiate traffic for their handlers.

The harness and handle, shaped like the letter U, allow communication between the dog and the blind partner. Although the human’s role is to give directions, the dog is trained to insures his safety even if this means sometimes disobeying an unsafe command.

The most common guide dog breeds are Labrador and Golden Retrievers and German Shepherd dogs.
Hearing Dogs

Hearing dogs alert the deaf and hearing impaired to household sounds such as a door knock or doorbell, alarm clock, oven buzzer, telephone, baby cry, name call or smoke alarm. The dogs alert their owners by making physical contact with them and leading the way to the source of the sound. Mixed breed dogs are the most common hearing dogs and many are adopted from local animal shelters.

Service Dogs

Service dogs help physically disabled people. These unique helpers do many jobs that dogs don't usually do. They bring out-of-reach objects to their handlers, pull wheelchairs, open and close doors, and even turn lights off and on. Some of these dogs can sense if a person is going to have a seizure and get help.

Many service dogs are adopted from animal shelters, although some are bred in professional programs and raised by volunteers before they enter training.

Search and Rescue Dogs

Search and rescue dogs are trained to find missing people by following their scent, or smell, which is in the air. This is an effective method of searching large areas quickly and does not require items of clothing from the missing person. The dog and its handler work as a team. Teams can be quickly transported by helicopter to isolated areas where they can quickly begin to start searching.

Dogs use their senses of smell and hearing to the fullest. It is estimated that a dog is equal to about 20 searchers in good conditions and even more in poor conditions. Search and Rescue Dogs are employed in a wide range of incidents from lost walkers and climbers to missing children and victims of crime. Thirteen certified search and rescue dog teams were sent to New York City on September 11, 2001 after the terrorist attacks.

Many animals, not just dogs, help humans daily. The value they add to our lives is often immeasurable. Animals, like humans, are extraordinary creatures with remarkable abilities.
Volunteering
TIPS TO GET INVOLVED FROM AMERICAN HUMANE

If you care about living things and you want to make a difference in the world, you might want to think about ways to help. You have something to offer – your time. Volunteering your time helps others and can help you do some good work and win respect and appreciation.

If you love animals, you can volunteer many ways. Here are just a few. Read them and circle three that you are most interested in. Before you begin any work, though, talk about your choice with your parents.

Pet Toys

Create some simple pet toys to donate to an animal shelter. Tubes from paper products entertain cats and small mammals. Plastic shower curtain rings are also fun for cats to play with. Dogs love tennis balls, bones, and chew toys. Even the tops to water bottles are popular with cats!

Many zoos raise funds for care of their exotic animals by letting people “adopt” them. Raise money among friends or classmates and pick an animal at the zoo to adopt. It may be interesting to learn more about an endangered species as you support its survival. See if the zoo will send you photos of your animal or will let you visit.

Write Letters

Write letters to local, state and national leaders expressing your views on issues or laws important to animals, animal protection, habitat, or conservation. Organize other friends to write letters, too. There is strength in numbers so send lots of letters. You can write to the editor of the newspaper about local animal issues. And, you can even call your legislator to show your support for an issue.

Money, Money, Money

Most animal welfare organizations operate with limited funds. Pick one and organize fund-raising activities to support it. Car washes, dog washes, and bake sales are just two ways you can make some money and have some fun doing it.

Habitat Watch

Contact local wildlife groups to learn where the biggest areas are that support animals, birds, or other wildlife in your community. Volunteer to clean up or do other projects to help improve those areas.

Be a Pet Walker

Pets that live in apartments, or pets whose owners work a lot or are elderly, may need exercise. See if you can help a neighbor or pet owner you know by offering to walk the pet.

Adopt a Zoo Animal

Volunteer at a riding stable. Many stables offer riding lessons in exchange for help with the work of cleaning stalls and grooming horses. This is a great way to become comfortable around large animals.

Help a Shelter

Volunteer your time at an animal shelter or veterinary office. This is a great way to get to know animals and to learn about their care.
Exciting Careers With Animals

What is a good job? Take some time to talk about this with your class. What do you think would make you happy at work? People work for many reasons. Some work to earn money and that is important but it is also important that your work makes you happy. People spend a great deal of time at work and that’s why job satisfaction matters. People who are happy at work tend to have happier lives overall. So, what do you think would make you happy at work?

What jobs can you think of that involve working with animals? If you said, “veterinarian,” you’re surely right but being an animal doctor isn’t the only way you can work with the feathered and furry ones. Here is a list of other choices for people who want to work with animals. See if you can add at least two others to this list.

Animal shelter worker
Veterinary assistant or technician
Pet Sitter
Pet groomer
Zoo keeper
Wildlife rehabilitator
Dog Trainer
K-9 officer
Horse riding instructor
Animal behaviorist
Humane investigator
Park ranger

Use the Internet or other library resources to find out something about each one of these jobs. Next to each one, mark an I if it interests you and an N if you have no interest in it. Which one would you be most interested in learning more about?

NEWS CLUES

Learning standard: evaluating career opportunities

Check the Help Wanted ads in today’s newspaper and circle any jobs where people work with animals. Write a description of the most interesting one you found. Then, write a letter to that employer telling why you would be good for the job.
History of American Humane’s Be Kind to Animals Week®

In the early 20th century, animal protection agencies wanted to change peoples’ ideas about the way animals should be treated. Humane leaders wanted to solve some of the terrible animal issues they faced every day.

American Humane needed a way to get people to think about child and animal welfare. It needed a strong message. In 1915, American Humane president Dr. William O. Stillman found that message. It was simple: Be Kind to Animals.

Raising Awareness

The first Be Kind to Animals Week, held in May 1915, was the first public relations campaign of its kind by a national humane group. The message of “being kind to animals” allowed anyone with interest in child or animal welfare to celebrate. This is exactly what happened in that first Be Kind to Animals Week.

To guarantee its success, committees were established in 43 of the 48 states and followed three basic campaign themes:

A. Visit schools and emphasize the importance of humane education to teachers and students

B. Create publicity for the local humane society

C. Observe "Humane Sunday"—the official start of Be Kind to Animals Week—by having local clergymen present a special sermon on the subject on kindness.
American Humane's Significant Events in the Humane Education Movement

1877
Representatives attend the first meeting of American Humane.

1882
The first American Band of Mercy—a group of school children who pledge to be kind to animals and keep them from cruel usage—is formed; soon there are hundreds of Bands of Mercy across the nation.

1915
American Humane creates Be Kind to Animals Week, and launches a national poster contest for children.

1990
Be Kind to Animals Week celebrates 75 years. Congress passes a resolution declaring May 6 to 12, 1990, as Be Kind to Animals Week. American Humane holds its first national humane education workshop.

1993
American Humane establishes the Be Kind to Animals™ Kid Contest

2002
American Humane creates its first standards-based humane education curriculum

2003
The Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

Humane Education
The first week of May is reserved for the national event, but the name is now “Be Kind to Animals,” so that people will learn how to treat animals kindly every day of the year. Through humane education, American Humane hopes to create the animal welfare advocates of the future, one person at a time.

NEWS CHECK
Learning standard: organizing information

Skim today’s newspaper to find mention of any organizations that help people or animals. List them and choose one to find out more about.
Cats

People and cats go way back. They have been friends and partners for a long time. Today’s pet cats are descendants of two wild animals, the African wildcat and the Asian wildcat. The Ancient Egyptians may have been the first to tame the wildcat as many as 4,000 years ago. That’s a long time. Cats were tamed to help people by catching mice and rats. This was an important job because fleas that could spread sickness were on the fur of the mice and rats so, by catching them, cats could help keep people from getting sick.

Today’s cats still catch mice but that’s not the only reason people love them. Cats are playful and loving animals and they make wonderful friends.

So You Want To Adopt A Cat

If you are thinking about adopting a cat, check out your local humane society, animal control shelter or breed placement group. These places take special care to match you with the right cat. There are many cat breeds to choose from. You can also use the Internet to find information on the different breeds and which one might be right for you. Some, like those with longer fur, need more brushing and may not be right for you if you don’t want to do so much grooming and cleaning up cat fur. Some breeds are more playful and talkative and so you can find just the perfect pet if you know a few things before you go. You may want to get two cats so that your pet will always have someone to play with.

Once you choose a cat, take him to the veterinarian to be checked out, and to make sure he gets the shots he needs to be protected. Feed your cat good quality cat food, not table scraps or dog food. And, never give your cat milk because they don’t need it and it isn’t good for them. Instead, be sure your new friend always has lots of fresh water to drink. And, keep your cat indoors all the time because of the dangers outside the house.

Cats are certainly popular pets. Here are a few famous quotes about our feline friends:

Time spent with cats is never wasted. – May Sarton

The smallest feline is a masterpiece.– Leonardo Da Vinci

If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man but deteriorate the cat. – Mark Twain

Hot Dogs

We know from archeological evidence, such as paintings on cave walls, that dogs have lived with people for tens of thousands of years – almost since the first people!

There are many different breeds of dogs: each developed for a specific purpose -- the German Shepherd to guard and herd sheep, the Bloodhound to use its keen sense of smell. Even today, dogs work hard -- in airport security, to help disabled people and even to rescue people trapped during disasters. The dog, regardless of breed is truly one of humankind’s best friends.
Goin’ to the Dogs

So, maybe you and your family have decided to adopt a dog. If you have a lot of time, a puppy might be a good choice. They have a lot of energy and need a great deal of time for training and play. Before you bring a puppy home, you need to puppy-proof your house and move things within Pup’s reach that might hurt him if he sniffs or chews it. Things like trash cans, electrical cords, dangerous cleaners and chemicals, and medicine can all harm your new furry friend. Someone will also need to make time to housetrain Pup and take him outside every few hours.

Once you’ve decided on a puppy or an adult dog, and on the kind that is right for you, then you can decide where to go to get your new friend. An animal shelter, or breed placement group, are good choices. Expect to take the dog to the veterinarian at least once a year for shots and a check up. You’ll also need supplies for your new friend, like a leash, collar with tags, and food and water bowls. Owning a dog can be costly so be sure it fits into your budget.

Your dog will need to go for a walk a few times each day. Even if you have a fenced yard for him to use, he’ll still need a walk once a day, on a leash. That’s good news for you, too, because walking your dog is a terrific way for you to get some exercise and enjoy some special time with your pet. You will also want to take time to groom him and the longer his hair; the more he’ll need it. Grooming isn’t just about looking good; it also keeps him healthy.

It is important to know everything a pet will need before you make a decision to get one. Be prepared! And don’t forget that the Internet is a great resource for your new pet. You will find information on everything from regular exercise and feeding schedules to obedience training.

Dogs are often referred to as man’s best friend. Here are a few quotes that speak to this connection:

Outside of a dog, a book is your best friend, and inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.
Groucho Marx

Histories are more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends.
Alexander Pope

In 1994, PETsMART Charities was created as a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of homeless pets. PETsMART Charities helps homeless pets by offering in-store adoption programs and donating funds to support the valuable work of more than 2,000 animal welfare organizations. Each year, an estimated 10 million pets are abandoned in North America. Of those, more than 5 million are euthanized, simply because they do not have homes. In the past 10 years, PETsMART and PETsMART Charities have given more than $31 million to help animal rescue and welfare organizations in their lifesaving work. And in-store adoption programs have saved the lives of more than 1.8 million once-homeless pets. Since 1994, PETsMART Charities has given more than $31 million to support the lifesaving work of animal welfare organizations. Funds received from PETsMART customers, employees, and other donors are given in large part to groups in the state or province where they were raised. Programs funded include proactive spay/neuter services and behavior training courses that help pets become more adoptable.

PETsMART Charities also helps pets in times of disaster. PETsMART Charities funds are available to help in the rescue efforts and support of pets in need.

To learn more about PETsMART Charities and our vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit www.petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS.
Who is American Humane?

Mission
The mission of American Humane is to prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of children and animals.

American Humane dreams of a nation where no child or animal will ever be a victim of abuse or neglect. American Humane connects with other similar groups and individuals to work toward making this dream come true.

History
In the late 1800s, Organizations that worked to protect children and animals were established. These organizations worked for either children or animals but there was no organization dedicated to both.

At a meeting in 1877, American Humane was created as the only national non-profit dedicated to the well being of both children and animals. American Humane celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2002, and they remain proud to connect child and animal welfare professionals everywhere and continue the work to make it impossible for a child or animal to be harmed.

For more information on American Humane, please visit www.americanhumane.org, send an email to amyt@americanhumane.org, or call (866) AHA-1877.

We hope that throughout reading this piece you have learned what it means to be humane! The tools you have just learned will help you spread the message of kindness and respect. Animals and people have a special bond. Celebrate that connection every day and treat animals and people in a thoughtful way.

We’re Helping Save Pets’ Lives.

Thanks to the support of caring people like you, PETsMART Charities has helped find lifelong, loving homes for more than 1.8 million pets. In partnership with animal welfare agencies throughout North America, we’ve given more than $31 million to provide thousands of homeless pets a second chance.

For more information contact us at 1-800-423-PETS or visit our website at: www.petsmartcharities.org