



Houston SPCA

Humane Education Curriculum Guide 2013-2014

**Education@houstonspca.org 713-869-7722 ext. 143
E-mail or call to schedule your presentation today!**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Houston SPCA is to promote commitment to and respect for all animals and free them from suffering, abuse, and exploitation.

Houston SPCA Humane Education Guide

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

- Mahatma Gandhi

What is humane education?

Humane education is the teaching of respect, kindness and compassion in relation to animal welfare, social justice, and environmental issues. It can bring forth the desire and capability to live with compassion, integrity, and wisdom and can give the knowledge and skills to take action in meaningful ways that allow humans to live in a kinder world.

On a smaller scale, humane education teaches people how to properly care for and respect their companion animals, such as cats and dogs, and all forms of animal life. It can be used as a tool to explain the consequences of irresponsible behavior and motivate people to see the importance of living creatures other than ourselves.

More than ever we are realizing the connection between child abuse, animal abuse, and violence towards one's peers. The need to teach kindness and empathy through guided humane education programs, while still connecting with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, is greater than ever. Humane education is the only educational method that recognizes how powerful the connection we have with nonhuman animals is and allows us to use that connection to share our humanity with others.

According to the National PTA Congress,

“Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind and considerate in their relations with each other. Character training along these lines will result in men and women of broader sympathies, more humane, more law-abiding-in every respect, more valuable citizens.”

Humane education can be integrated into regular classroom education, adding more meaning and compassion to language arts, math, science, social studies, health, and more.

What can the Houston SPCA offer *your* classroom?

The Houston SPCA offers free humane education lessons for school classrooms and assemblies in the Houston area. We can schedule class visits to your school and present lessons to students from 2nd to 12th grade. These lessons are TEKS-aligned and address the TEA-recommended character education values.

We also give the opportunity to broaden the scope of careers for students by relating many animal-centered working opportunities to them through our humane education presentations. We can also participate in school-wide events such as career days, health and safety fairs, environmental fairs, and other community-related programs.

Presentations Available for School-Wide Assemblies

School-wide assemblies will range in length from 45 minutes to 1 hour. Each presentation gives an inside look into the operations of the Houston SPCA as well as the services we offer to our community.

“Career Day: Working with Animals”

This program focuses on introducing students to the world of animal care and welfare. Students will learn about numerous animal-related careers, how those careers benefit animals, and what qualifications are needed for those positions.

“Animals Get Bullied, Too: There’s No Excuse for Abuse”

This program introduces the concept of animal cruelty to students and how it relates to bullying between peers. Focusing on empathy and compassion, students will learn what animal cruelty is, what to do if they see an animal being mistreated, and how to spread the word about proper treatment of animals.

“What are Animals Trying to Tell Us? A Look at Animal Behavior”

This program will describe what animal behavior is, how animals can communicate with each other and humans, and what to do in a variety of scenarios with animals you have just met. Students will learn the differences between animals that are safe to interact with and those that should be left alone.

“Taking Action: What Can We Do to Help Others?”

This program focuses on a student’s ability to spread awareness of community issues such as animal overpopulation, animal cruelty and bullying, proper animal care, disaster relief and wildlife rescue. Students will learn about the role social media plays in spreading a message as well as how they can help their own communities.

2nd Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Pets 101: Care and Ownership”

Associated TEKS-

Science: 2.9

Mathematics: 2.1, 2.4, 2.5

English Language Arts: 2.3, 2.5, 2.18

Session 1: Needs of All Living Creatures

Students will understand what a living creature needs to survive including the differences between plants and animals.

Session 2: Pet Care and Responsibility

Students will learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and happy in their home.

Session 3: How Much Does an Animal Cost?

This session shows students how much an animal will cost for the first year they live in a home with a family.

Project- Pets 101: Care and Ownership

All four sessions are meant to foster the creation of a “How to” poster showing their peers how to properly take care of an animal of the student's choosing.

Session 4: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Associated TEKS-

Mathematics: 2.1, 2.4

English Language Arts: 2.5, 2.17

Session I: What Does an Animal Shelter Veterinarian Do?

Students learn what an animal shelter veterinarian does every day, what kinds of animals they work with, and how they help the animals that come into the shelter.

Session 2: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to pick one of the services the Houston SPCA offers and write a short research paper on the importance of that service to the community.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

2nd Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Finding the Animal in You!”

English Language Arts- 2.7 Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of poetry and provide evidence from text to support their understanding.

Students will learn about different poetry techniques through poems about animals. Students will then create their own poems about an animal of their choosing.

“A Day at the Dog Park: Design and Create”

Social Studies –2.5 The student uses simple geographic tools such as maps and globes.

Students will review basic map skills while designing their own dog park for the Houston SPCA. Students will learn about basic necessities of a dog park as well as animal behavior seen while at the park.

“How Scientists Are Making a Difference”

Science -2.3 The student knows that information and critical thinking, scientific problem solving, and the contributions of scientists are used in making decisions.

Students will learn about what a scientist is, what different kinds of scientists do, and what kinds of animal science research are available. Well-known animal scientists will also be discussed for having major breakthroughs in their lifetime.

3rd Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Pets 201: Responsibility and Awareness”

Associated TEKS-

Mathematics:3.1, 3.4, 3.9

English Language Arts: 3.4, 3.15, 3.18, 3.29

Health: 3.1

Session 1: Pet Care and Responsibility

Students will learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and happy in their home.

Session 2: Why should you own a pet?

Students will understand how pets can positively affect happiness in an owner as well as numerous health benefits.

Session 3: How Much Does an Animal Cost?

This session shows students how much an animal will cost for the first year they live in a home with a family.

Project- Pets 201: Care and Ownership

All sessions are meant to foster the creation of a “How to” pamphlet showing their peers how to properly take care of an animal of the student's choosing.

Session 4: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Associated TEKS-

Mathematics:3.1

English Language Arts: 3.4, 3.15, 3.29

Session 1: What Does an Animal Shelter Veterinarian Do?

Students learn what an animal shelter veterinarian does every day, what kinds of animals they work with, and how they help the animals that come into the shelter.

Session 2: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to pick one of the services the Houston SPCA offers and write a short research paper on the importance of that service to the community.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

3rd Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts – 3.15 Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text.

Health – 3.2 The student recognizes and performs behaviors that reduce health risks throughout the pet's life span.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an 'awareness campaign' using various mediums – digital, art, poetry, essay.

“You Can't See Me, but I Can See You: Animal Adaptations”

Science – 3.9 The student knows that organisms have characteristics that help them survive and can describe patterns, cycles, systems and relationships within the environments.

This program focuses on animal characteristics that help them survive, covering wild and domestic animals and how their traits came about. Natural cycles are also included as a factor effecting animal adaptation.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics -3.4 The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for whole number computations in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy.

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment.

“How Scientists Are Making a Difference”

Science -3.3 The student knows that information, critical thinking, scientific problem solving and the contributions of scientists are used in making decisions.

Students will learn about different kinds of animal science research and well-known animal scientists that have contributed to our knowledge of the animal world.

“A Day at the Dog Park: Design and Create”

Social Studies –3.5 The student understands the concepts of location, distance, and direction on maps and globes.

Students will review basic map skills while designing their own dog park for the Houston SPCA. Students will learn about basic necessities of a dog park as well as animal behavior seen while at the park.

4th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Pets 301: The Perfect Pet for Your Family”

Associated TEKS-

Mathematics: 4.1, 4.4, 4.10

English Language Arts: 4.15, 4.17

Session 1: Pet Care and Responsibility

Students will learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and happy in their home. Students will also learn about behavior training available for their pets.

Session 2: How to Choose the Right Animal for Your Family

This session will highlight the importance of research and what factors can play a part in the decision to bring home a new pet.

Session 3: How Much Does an Animal Cost?

This session shows students how much an animal will cost for the first year they live in a home with a family.

Project- Pets 301: Care and Ownership

All sessions are meant to foster the creation of a “How to” guide in a variety of mediums showing their peers how to properly take care of an animal of the student's choosing.

Session 4: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Associated TEKS-

Mathematics: 4.1, 4.4, 4.8

English Language Arts: 4.15

Session 1: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Session 2: Animal Behavior

Students will learn about various types of animal behavior and what makes an animal safe to interact with.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to create their dream animal shelter on paper. Students will design the entire shelter to allow for admissions, adoptions, vet care, behind the scenes housing for animals, and any other needs the shelter might have.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

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4th Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics – 4.4 The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for whole number computations and decimal sums and differences in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy.

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment.

“You Can't See Me, but I Can See You: Animal Adaptations”

Science- 4.10 The student knows that organisms undergo similar life processes and have structures that help them survive within their environment.

This program focuses on animal characteristics that help them survive, covering wild and domestic animals and how their traits came about. Natural cycles are also included as a factor effecting animal adaptation.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts- 4.15 Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text.

Health-4.4 The student understands and engages in behaviors that reduce health risks throughout the pet's life span.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an 'awareness campaign' using various mediums – digital, art, poetry, essay.

“A Day at the Dog Park: Design and Create”

Social Studies –4.6 The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

Students will use map skills while designing their own dog park for the Houston SPCA. Students will learn about basic necessities of a dog park as well as animal behavior seen while at the park.

“How Scientists Are Making a Difference”

Science -4.3 The student uses critical thinking and scientific problem solving to make informed decisions.

Students will learn about different kinds of animal science research and well-known animal scientists that have contributed to our knowledge of the animal world.

5th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Pets 401: Health and Happiness

Associated TEKS -

Science: 5.3

Mathematics: 6.1, 6.3

English Language Arts: 5.15, 5.16

Session 1: Pet Care and Responsibility

Students will learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and happy in their home. Students will also learn about behavior training available for their pets.

Session 2: Animal Nutrition

Students will learn how to read food labels for animals as well as understand how important it is for an animal to have a healthy diet just like a human needs.

Session 3: How Much Does an Animal Cost?

This session shows students how much an animal will cost for the first year they live in a home with a family.

Project- Pets 301: Care and Ownership

All sessions are meant to foster the creation of a “How to” guide in a variety of mediums showing their peers how to properly take care of an animal of the student's choosing.

Session 4: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Associated TEKS -

Mathematics: 6.1, 6.3, 6.7

English Language Arts: 5.16

Session 1: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Session 2: Technology and Animals

Students will learn about different technological advances that have helped further our knowledge of veterinary medicine.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to create their dream animal shelter on paper. Students will design the entire shelter to allow for admissions, adoptions, vet care, behind the scenes housing for animals, and any other needs the shelter might have.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

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5th Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics ~6.3 The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for positive rational number computations in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy.

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment. Students will use graphing skills to visually display overpopulation.

“You Didn't Get That From Me: Animal Characteristics”

Science~5.10 The student knows that organisms undergo similar life processes and have structures that help them survive within their environments.

This program focuses on animal characteristics that help them survive, covering wild and domestic animals and how their traits came about. Inherited and learned traits are also discussed as adaptations to help them survive.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts~5.18 Students write expository texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for a specific purpose.

Health- The student recognizes ways to enhance and maintain health throughout the pet's life span.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an 'awareness campaign' using various mediums – research paper or visual display.

“Finding the Animal in You!”

English Language Arts- 5.4 Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of poetry and provide evidence from text to support their understanding.

Students will learn about different poetry techniques through poems about animals, including alliteration, rhyme schemes, and onomatopoeia. Students will then create their own poems from the perspective of the animal.

“Choosing the Adoption Option”

English Language Arts- 5.16 Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.

Students will learn about the adoption process at the Houston SPCA and what benefits there are to adopting a rescue animal from a shelter. Students will use this knowledge to write a persuasive essay on the topic of animal adoption.

6th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics: 6.1, 6.3, 6.5

Session 1: Too Many Animals!

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment.

Session 2: Modeling Overpopulation

Students will be given data on the overpopulation of various species of animals to use in their overpopulation project. The information will be related to the effects the increased number of animals has on various environmental and economic factors.

Project – Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation

Students will use data on overpopulated species from the previous sessions to visually represent what happens as populations increase.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

*Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Mathematics: 6.1, 6.3, 6.14

Session 1: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Session 2: Technology and Animals

Students will learn about different technological advances that have helped further our knowledge of veterinary medicine.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to create their dream animal shelter on paper. Students will design the entire shelter to allow for admissions, adoptions, vet care, behind the scenes housing for animals, and any other needs the shelter might have.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

6th Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Where Do We Fit: Classification of Animals”

Science -6.12 The student knows all organisms are classified into Domains and Kingdoms. Organisms within these taxonomic groups share similar characteristics which allow them to interact with the living and nonliving parts of their ecosystem.

Students will learn the basics of biological classification and the levels of organization that are set for all living organisms. They will then classify domestic animals according to characteristics they deem important.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts –6.14 Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an ‘awareness campaign’ using various mediums – research paper or visual display.

“Discovering the Animal Writer in You”

English Language Arts – 6.15 Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. B. The student is expected to write poems.

Students will learn about different poetry techniques through poems about animals, including alliteration, rhyme schemes, and onomatopoeia. Students will then create their own poems from the perspective of the animal.

“How Scientists Are Making a Difference”

Science -6.3D The student is expected to relate the impact of research on scientific thought and society, including the history of science and contributions of scientists as related to the content.

Students will learn about different kinds of animal science research and well-known animal scientists that have contributed to our knowledge of the animal world.

7th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics TEKS:8.1, 8.3, 8.6

Session 1: Too Many Animals!

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment.

Session 2: Modeling Overpopulation

Students will be given data on the overpopulation of various species of animals to use in their overpopulation project. The information will be related to the effects the increased number of animals has on various environmental and economic factors.

Project – Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation

Students will use data on overpopulated species from the previous sessions to visually represent what happens as populations increase.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

*Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Mathematics TEKS: 8.1, 8.5

Session 1: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Session 2: Technology and Animals

Students will learn about different technological advances that have helped further our knowledge of veterinary medicine.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to create their dream animal shelter on paper. Students will design the entire shelter to allow for admissions, adoptions, vet care, behind the scenes housing for animals, and any other needs the shelter might have.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

7th Grade In-Classroom Lessons Single Session

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“All About Genetics: A Look Inside Animal DNA”

Science –7.14 The student knows that reproduction is a characteristic of living organisms and that the instructions for traits are governed in the genetic material.

Students will learn the basics of genetics including a look into DNA structure and function, organization of chromosomes, passing on traits from generation to generation, Mendel's theories, and gene expression. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to applicable animal-related situations.

“Where Do We Fit: Classification of Animals”

Science ~7.11 The student knows that populations and species demonstrate variation and inherit many of their unique traits through gradual processes over many generations.

Students will learn the basics of biological classification, the levels of organization that are set for all living organisms, the use of dichotomous keys, and how selective breeding can effect a species' characteristics.

“Comparative Anatomy: Do We All Look the Same Inside?”

Science ~7.12 The student knows that living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function.

Students will learn the bone structure and organ systems of humans and animals to understand the differences in our anatomy and physiology. Students will use this knowledge to identify ‘mystery’ body parts as human or an animal species.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts– 7.17 Students write expository [and procedural or work-related] texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an ‘awareness campaign’ outlined in a research paper.

“Choosing the Adoption Option”

English Language Arts- 7.18 Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes of actions of a specific audience on specific issues.

Students will learn about the adoption process at the Houston SPCA and what benefits there are to adopting a rescue animal from a shelter. Students will use this knowledge to write a persuasive essay on the topic of animal adoption.



8th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation”

Mathematics TEKS: 8.1, 8.5

Session 1: Too Many Animals!

The overpopulation crisis is discussed and the benefits of spaying or neutering your pets. Students will go through a short simulation of overpopulation in a neighborhood to see its effect on the local environment.

Session 2: Modeling Overpopulation

Students will be given data on the overpopulation of various species of animals to use in their overpopulation project. The information will be related to the effects the increased number of animals has on various environmental and economic factors.

Project – Too Many Pets: Animal Overpopulation

Students will use data on overpopulated species from the previous sessions to visually represent what happens as populations increase.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

*Session optional but recommended

“A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter?”

Mathematics TEKS: 8.1, 8.12

Session 1: A Day at the Shelter

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions.

Session 2: Technology and Animals

Students will learn about different technological advances that have helped further our knowledge of veterinary medicine.

Project- A Look Inside: What Goes On at an Animal Shelter

Students will be given the opportunity to create their dream animal shelter within a specific budget. Students must model their shelter on paper and show shelter spending for approximately one year within budget.

Session 3: Visiting the Houston SPCA*

Students are given the chance to take a field trip to the Houston SPCA as a class, present their projects created in class, and take a tour of the Houston SPCA campus.

* Session optional but recommended

8th Grade In-Classroom Lessons and Projects

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Choosing the Adoption Option”

English Language Arts–8.18 Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues.

Students will learn about the adoption process at the Houston SPCA and what benefits there are to adopting a rescue animal from a shelter. Students will use this knowledge to write a persuasive essay on the topic of animal adoption.

“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Language Arts- 8.17 Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases from the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to an ‘awareness campaign’ outlined in a research paper.

“All About Genetics: A Look Inside Animal DNA”

Science -7.14 The student knows that reproduction is a characteristic of living organisms and that the instructions for traits are governed by genetic material.

Students will learn the basics of genetics including a look into DNA structure and function, organization of chromosomes, passing on traits from generation to generation, Mendel's theories, and gene expression. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to applicable animal-related situations.

“Are You Going to Eat That?”

Science- 8.11 The student knows that interdependence occurs among living systems and the environment and that human activities can affect these systems.

Students will learn about consumer relationships, food chains and webs, biotic and abiotic factors, as well as real-life examples of each topic. Students will then be given mystery animals and environmental situations to discover what relationships are hidden within.

High School Grades 9 - 12

In-Classroom Lessons

All lessons incorporate the Houston SPCA's mission and overview of services available to the community. Most presentations are 45-60 minutes and can be adjusted to your classroom schedule.

“Wolf to Woof: Human Role in Dog Evolution”

Biology –B7 The student knows evolutionary theory is a scientific explanation for the unity and diversity of life.

Students will learn about evolution, natural selection, selective breeding, and what role humans played in the evolution of the domestic dog. Students will participate in theoretical discussion of domestication of new animals.

“Basic Genetics Revealed By Cats”

Biology –B6 The student knows the mechanisms of genetics, the role of nucleic acids and the principles of Mendelian Genetics.

Students will explore genetics through the world of domestic cats. Topics covered include chromosome inheritance, expression of traits, dominant and recessive genes, sex-linked traits, and much more in the world of genetics.

“Are You Going to Eat That?”

Biology –B12 The student knows that interdependence and interactions occur within an environmental system.

Students will learn about consumer relationships, food chains and webs, biotic and abiotic factors, as well as real-life examples of each topic. Students will then be given mystery animals and environmental situations to discover what relationships are hidden within.

“Where Do We Fit: Classification of Animals”

Biology -B8 The student knows that taxonomy is a branching classification based on the shared characteristics of organisms and can change as new discoveries are made.

Students will learn the basics of biological classification, the levels of organization that are set for all living organisms, the use of dichotomous keys, and how selective breeding can effect a species' characteristics.

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All lessons can be accompanied with a visit to the Houston SPCA Animal Shelter to present any projects created from the lessons and receive a tour of the shelter to solidify concepts learned.



High School Grades 9 - 12

In-Classroom Lessons

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“No Excuse for Abuse: Animal Cruelty and What You Can Do About It”

English Levels 1-3 –E13 Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing) to compose text.

In this program students will learn what animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect are and hear about animal cruelty cases that have been solved by the Houston SPCA. Students will take that knowledge and apply it to a student-created awareness campaign . Students will take examples from the media and apply it to their campaign to spread awareness of animal cruelty and the need for proper animal care. Use of technology (videos, blogs, etc.) is highly recommended to create the campaign material.

“Choosing the Adoption Option”

English Levels 1-3 –E16 Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues.

Students will learn about the adoption process at the Houston SPCA and what benefits there are to adopting a rescue animal from a shelter. Students will use this knowledge to write a persuasive essay on the topic of animal adoption.

“Taking Responsibility: How to Care for Your Pet”

English Levels 1-3 –E15 Students write expository [and procedural or work-related] texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes.

Students will learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and happy in their home including feeding schedules, behavior training, socialization, costs, veterinary care and more.. Students will use this knowledge to create a “How to” guide, choosing their favorite form of media (Video, Prezi, Blog, PowerPoint, Pamphlet, etc.), to teach others how to take care of their pets.

“Career Day: Working with Animals”

English Levels 1-4 – E14 Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.

This program focuses on introducing students to the world of animal care and welfare. Students will learn about numerous animal-related careers, how those careers benefit animals, and what qualifications are needed for those positions. Students can then use that knowledge to write a personal piece on what they want to do in the future. 2 2

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High School Grades 9 - 12

In-Classroom Lessons

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“Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone: Animals and the GPS”

World Geography -20A The student is expected to describe the impact of new information technologies such as the Internet, Global Positioning System (GPS), or Geographic Information System (GIS).

Students will discover the importance of the Global Positioning System and technological advancements that have allowed micro-chipping an animal to become a common place occurrence in animal shelters and veterinary clinics.

“Dog Communities Across the Globe”

World Geography -17A The student is expected to describe and compare patterns of culture such as language, religion, land use, education, and customs that make specific regions of the world distinctive.

Students will learn how dogs are treated culturally in different areas of the world including free-roaming dogs in developing countries and the owning of dogs in developed nations. Students will draw conclusions based on information provided about the advantages and disadvantages to each system of dog community.

“History of the Houston SPCA and Federal Animal Shelters”

US History-14B The student is expected to identify the roles governmental entities and private citizens in managing the environment.

Students will compare government-run and privately owned animal shelters in how they manage a city's animal population. Students will find benefits and disadvantages in both systems and will determine how these organizations can work together to support our local community.

“Building the Best Animal Shelter: 3D Modeling and Measurement”

Geometry – G.8 The student uses tools to determine measurements of geometric figures and extends measurement concepts to find perimeter, area, and volume in problem situations.

Students explore what happens during the day at an animal shelter including veterinarian visits, cleaning, feeding, donations, fostering, and adoptions. Students will use that knowledge and an unlimited budget to create a 3D model of an animal shelter to scale including all necessary items for typical animal shelter operation.

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How to Set Up a Houston SPCA Humane Education Visit at Your School:

Please e-mail your request to education@houstonspca.org or call 713-869-7722 ext. 143 with the following information:

School Name:

Date and time requested:

In-Classroom or Large Assembly?

Grade Level:

Topic Requested:

Contact Information:

We are on a first-come, first-serve basis so please request your **FREE** lesson today!

Free shelter tours are by appointment only, Monday through Friday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The tour includes a viewing of our adoptable pets. A humane education lesson will be available if requested.