Kathy focuses on a wide variety of animal topics with her students, including native wildlife. Here, puppet show, of children to affirm and act upon their understanding necessary for children to foster a sense of responsibility on the part of a sense of justice, and a respect for all living creatures; (2) provide the knowledge and content. It is a process through which we assist children in developing compassion, or math, really helps to spark the children's enthusiasm for her profession has not diminished. Her love of children brought her to teaching, and it has kept her there. Kathy currently is a second/third grade teacher at Battleground Elementary School in Lincolnton, North Carolina. She is concerned not only with her students' academic progress but also with their physical well-being and emotional growth and development. This, along with her love for animals, has helped lead Kathy to humane education. Kathy believes that instruction does not and cannot take place in a moral vacuum. She has sought to instill in her students only the very highest ideals in a moral vacuum. She has sought to instill in her students only the very highest ideals of which humans are capable. To Kathy, those high ideals are the very essence of humane education and the main reason she observes. In one such activity, Kathy's class took part in a letter-writing campaign designed to develop writing skills. Students responded enthusiastically when given the opportunity to write letters on helping to save whales and dolphins. Many of the children wrote to leaders of the Soviet Union and Japan asking for a moratorium on killing whales. In addition, many students also wrote to three major tuna manufacturers, urging them to develop new ways to catch tuna without killing dolphins. The class received several responses from the companies describing "dolphin-safe" fishing methods currently under consideration. Since completion of the unit, Kathy has noticed some of her students voluntarily bypassing tuna said when it has been served in the school cafeteria, while others choose not to do so. It is rewarding to Kathy to see her students making informed choices, with consideration of humane ethics as an important part of the process, regardless of what actions they ultimately decide are appropriate and meaningful for them.

"An activity on . . . animals . . . really helps to spark the children's interest . . . ."

The guidelines which appear at left are taken from People & Animals, our humane education curriculum guide. We think you'll agree that Kathryn [Kathy] Anderson is an excellent example of a teacher committed not only to these goals of humane education, but to the goals of quality and excellence in education as well.

—Patti Finch
NAAHE Director

Humane education involves far more than the teaching of simple animal-related content. It is a process through which we (1) assist children in developing compassion, a sense of justice, and a respect for all living creatures; (2) provide the knowledge and understanding necessary for children to behave according to these principles; and (3) foster a sense of responsibility on the part of children to affirm and act upon their personal beliefs.

"The guidelines which appear at left are taken from People & Animals, our humane education curriculum guide. We think you'll agree that Kathryn [Kathy] Anderson is an excellent example of a teacher committed not only to these goals of humane education, but to the goals of quality and excellence in education as well."

by Bill DeRosa

Back to Basics

Vocabulary enrichment for Kathy's students includes learning words related to preserving one of their favorite endangered species—the whale. Her creativity to blend humane education into these subjects.

One math activity that Kathy's class was really green with enthusiasm is designed to teach measuring skills... with an animal focus! In this outdoor lesson, the class stretches a 100-foot measuring tape across the school playground. Students place pictures of various species of whales and dolphins along the tape measure at lengths that correspond to the actual sizes of the particular animals. The activity allows children to develop their measuring skills and lays foundation for future discussions about humane issues.

Kathy serves on her local Board of the North Carolina Association of Educators. She also served as chairman of the 1984-85 American Education Week in her community. Despite her busy schedule, Kathy finds time to be a member of numerous animal welfare organizations and to teach Sunday school classes at her church. Here, too, she regularly incorporates humane education into her teaching activities.

NAAHE is proud to introduce its members to Kathy Anderson and to have her as our 1985 Humane Education Teacher of the Year.