**Be Aware**

**The Underrated Species**

"The Underrated Species" is a teaching slide/filestrip set produced by the International Union for the Conservation of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. "The Underrated Species" is a phrase that may bring to mind thoughts of successful adaptation by some animals to life in a world dominated by humans. In actuality, "underrated species" is a term used by hunting groups to differentiate "game" animals from those whose numbers are fully protected by law in order to imply that it is "acceptable" to kill animals like deer and turkey for fun because their populations are healthy. That is the message of this teaching tool. Humane educators who question the veracity of this premise and see concern about the ethics of managing wildlife primarily to fulfill human needs should be alerted about this program.

- submitted by Debbie Hillman
- fifth grade teacher
- Meyo Street Elementary School
- Dover-Foxcroft, ME

**Without A Classroom**

For humane educators at shelters and other special places...

Tell Your Favorite Teacher

The New England Anti-Vivisection Society announces its fifth Annual Scholarship Essay Contest for high school seniors. Participating students are asked to write an essay titled "A Brighter Day for Animals: Putting a Stop to Animal Experimentation." We want to encourage young people who may or may not have had any contact with vivisection or the anti-vivisection movement, to research the topic and relate their feelings.

NEAVS will award two $1,000 first-place awards, two $300 second-place awards, and four $250 third-place awards. Essays must be received no later than March 1, 1986. For a list of contest rules, write to Sandra Larson, Director of Education, New England Anti-Vivisection Society, One Bulfinch Plaza, Boston, MA 02110.

- submitted by Sandra Larson
- Director of Education
- NEAVS

Teaching About Stray Pets

Charlie, the Dog Nobody Wanted is a hard-hitting, fourteen-minute video documentary on the fate of an abandoned dog.

The story begins with an adorable litter of pups. Charlie is adopted by a man who abandons him two years later in the middle of a financial hardship. Charlie wanders the streets for 11 months. Ultimately picked up by a humane society, he is eventually euthanized because nobody wants him. The film goes back at this point I recommend stopping the tape here and discussing with the audience what happened to Charlie and why animals are euthanized. There is an additional sequence that follows. The film director reappears with Charlie and explains that Charlie's story happens for real to millions of animals each year. My students and I found this additional sequence confusing. I don't recommend using it, although other humane educators may disagree. It allows for a "happy ending" of sorts, as advertised in the material accompanying the video, but I did find it not very effective. The tape is appropriate for children in third grade and older. It is a powerful one that not only finds a home and in discouraging people from allowing their pets to breed. It is available from the American Humane Association, 9725 East Hampden Avenue, Denver, CO 80231. Write to them for price and ordering information.

- submitted by Carolyn L. Rigel
- Program Specialist
- Massachusetts SPCA

Euthanasia

Euthanasia is not a pleasant topic, yet you probably address it in many of your classroom presentations in schools. A good introduction to this sensitive topic is the following quick activity which graphically demonstrates the pet overpopulation problem.

Divide the class into two groups. (Students remain seated at their desks, however.) Tell students that both groups will be clapping a rhythm and when you say "stop" they are to stop. (Stress beforehand that the students may be reluctant to stop clapping!) Tell one half of the class to clap 15 times with you leading the pace as you count them from 1 to 15. Tell the other half of the class that they are only to clap once every other group clap for number 1. Hence, the rhythm is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (call 15 on 15, repeat.)

After you have reached 15 four or five times, stop the activity. Explain that for every 15 dogs that are born in the United States, only 1 United States citizen is born. (With older students, you can explain that no one knows exactly the number of dogs to births in the human population. This particular estimate is taken from Zero Pet Population Growth in Los Angeles, California. For cats, the estimated ratio is 45 births for each human birth.)

Explain to students that in order for every dog to have a home, each person, even newborn babies would have to take care of 15 or 16 dogs. Ask students how many dogs would have to be in their house. Ask if they think they could provide all the love, food, housing, exercise, medical care, and so on that would be needed by all of the dogs in their house.

After extending the discussion to include cats as well as dogs, the students will be better prepared to understand the realities of euthanasia.

**The Broccoli in the Classroom**

The Baltimore Vegetarians have published a children's activity book titled I Love Animals and Broccoli. The book explores healthy eating, vegetationism, animal rights, ecology, and feeding a hungry world. Forty pages of fun and varied exercises include:

- Calcium Math, Nutrition Puzzles, board games, word search and crossword puzzles, rainy day and car activities, and more. A bonus centerfold game teaches children about cooperation and working with others to help animals. To order I Love Animals and Broccoli, send $5 to Baltimore Vegetarians, Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203.

- submitted by Detra Wasserman and Charles Stabler

**Children's Animals**

Did you know that if your school district joins NAAHE for just $25 per year, teachers in the district can then individually subscribe to Children's Animals for just $6 each per year? And, if you subscribe to Know Kids are the News, you can then $5 each per classroom. Thus, if your school district becomes a member of NAAHE, any interested teacher in the district can receive both Children's Animals and Know Kids for just $11 per year. That means each month he or she will receive either an issue of the magazine, or a corresponding packet of 15 copies of Know Kids for students. And you won't lose out by joining or subscribing in the middle of the year... because we'll carry their subscription into the next year. Since our publications only come out during the school year, you won't miss a single issue. Pass the word to your favorite administrator! ☺

- submitted by Robert H. McFarlane
- Managing Editor
- NAAHE