

Animal Cruelty Poster - Eleventh Grade

OBJECTIVE

To understand the issues concerning the many different levels of animal cruelty.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will learn some of the different kinds of animal cruelty and choose one to create an anti-animal cruelty poster.

MATERIALS

- Paper, drawing materials, painting and other various art supplies

DISCUSSION

- Review the animal cruelty fact sheet included with this lesson. Ask students how they feel about some of the different types of abuse and what they think might be done to address the issue.

LESSON

- Have the students choose one type of cruelty and create a poster that raises awareness.

POST DISCUSSION

- Share the posters with the class.
- Hang the posters in the classroom or throughout the school.

ANIMAL CRUELTY FACT SHEET

Animal cruelty, also known as animal abuse, is far reaching and prevalent in every city and country around the globe. Every day, everywhere, humans inflict harm and mistreat animals for various and multifaceted reasons. Some cause suffering intentionally because they enjoy it. Others abuse animals through their carelessness, often without even realizing.

Types and Facts About Animal Cruelty:

Companion Animals. Neglect and abandonment are the most common forms of companion animal abuse in the United States.

Circuses. Wild and exotic animals are trained through the use of intimidation and physical abuse. Former circus employees have reported seeing animals beaten, whipped, poked with sharp objects and even burned to force them to learn their routines!

Elephants who perform in circuses are often kept in chains for as long as 23 hours a day from the time they are babies.

Animal Testing. More than 25 million animals are used in testing in the United States each year. By 2022, 22% of all species will be extinct if no action is taken.

Animal Fighting. Dogs used for fighting are chained, taunted, and starved to trigger extreme survival instincts and encourage aggressiveness. Dogs that lose fights (or refuse) are often abandoned, tortured, set on fire, electrocuted, shot, drowned, or beaten to death.

Dog Racing. It is estimated that on average it takes 1,000 dogs to maintain a mid-sized racetrack operation. New greyhounds are continually entering the system to replace greyhounds that grade-off due to injury, age or poor performance. There are currently over 30 tracks operating in the United States.

Fur. Eighteen red foxes are killed to make one fox-fur coat, 55 minks to make a mink coat. Animals caught in traps can suffer for days before succumbing to exposure, shock, or attacks by predators. These traps often kill "non-target" animals, including dogs and endangered species. Fur farmers pack animals into small cages, preventing them from taking more than a few steps back and forth. This crowding and confinement is especially distressing to minks-solitary animals who occupy up to 2,500 acres of wetland in the wild.

Slaughter Houses. Piglets are separated from their mothers when they are as young as 10 days old. Once her piglets are gone, the sow is impregnated again, and the cycle continues for three or four years before she is slaughtered. A typical slaughterhouse kills about 1,000 hogs per hour. Dairy farms, on the other hand, have calves are taken away at 1 day old. They are fed milk replacements (including cattle blood) so that their mothers' milk can be sold to humans. Instead of improving conditions for animals, the dairy industry is exploring the use of genetically manipulated cattle.

Chicken Farms. About 285 million hens are raised for eggs in the US. In tiny spaces so small they cannot move a wing. The wire mesh of the cages rubs off hens feathers, chafes their skin, and causes their feet to become crippled.

Cosmetic Industry. To test cosmetics, cleaners, and other products, hundreds of thousands of animals are poisoned, blinded, and killed every year.

Although chickens can live for more than a decade, hens raised for their eggs are exhausted and killed by age 2. More than 100 million "spent" hens are killed in slaughterhouses every year.

Tens of thousands of wild and domesticated horses from the United States are cruelly slaughtered every year to be used for horse meat in Europe and Asia. Since the last horse slaughter plants in the U.S. were closed in 2007, thousands of horses have been shipped to Canada and Mexico for slaughter.

Bull Fighting. Each year, approximately 10,000 bulls die in bullfights.