

PROJECT IDEAS

Organise an awareness week

Hold an Awareness Week and learn about the needs of certain farm animals. Students can create a 'Did You Know' display to share their knowledge with the rest of the school and suggest ways that humans can better meet these needs.

Design a poster

Learn about sentience and create a visual display of what students have learned. You can draw or glue pictures of different animals (e.g. cows, chickens, pigs) and write a short description of how each animal may demonstrate sentience.

Deliver a speech at your school assembly

Research ways in which humans use animals for entertainment, such as in horse racing, greyhound racing and circuses. Students can prepare and deliver a short speech or presentation and present it to the rest of the school.

Write a letter to a company

Find out which companies test their products on animals and write a letter asking them to switch to humane alternatives.

Hold a debate

Debate whether or not animal sentience should matter in industries like the meat, dairy and egg industries. Consider all possible ethical, economic and social viewpoints.

Arrange a school fundraiser

Pick a charity that helps animals exploited by the food or entertainment industry. This might include an organisation that rehomes ex-racing dogs or horses or campaigns to end factory farming. Fundraising ideas could include baking and selling animal-free treats or hosting a talent show for your school community.

Write a creative story from the perspective of an animal

Choose an animal such as a pig, horse or cow and have students write a story from the animal's perspective. Students can research what their animal likes to do for fun, what they like to eat, and how they interact with others.

Create a mural

Talk about the ability of images to convey the importance of animal sentience. Create a temporary mural in your school using large sheets of construction paper, paints or

magazine clippings, and include a simple message like ‘Be kind to animals’ or ‘Animals have feelings too’.

Write and record a song

Discuss the power and use of music, and compare music used in television commercials, film scores and political campaigns. Have students compose and record a piece of music to convey the importance of animal sentience.

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

Write a letter to your local MP

Research an animal rights issue that students have read or heard about in the media recently. This could include the live export trade, the use of sow stalls in pig farming, intensive farming of chickens, or greyhound racing. Write to your local MP asking him or her to represent your voice in parliament.

Start Meatless Mondays at school

Research the major animal welfare concerns within the meat industry. Start Meatless Mondays at your school canteen to reduce your school’s meat consumption. You can even organise a petition or a signed pledge. Download free Meatless Mondays resources at www.thinkkind.org/meatless-mondays-school-resources

Identify animal products in your school

Make a list of animal products used around the school. It could be eggs, wool, dairy products, glue, bank notes, leather... Research how these products are made and brainstorm ideas for more humane alternatives.

Distribute posters and flyers

Choose an issue and create posters and flyers to distribute to your school or local community.

Write an essay

Choose and research an animal rights topic and write an essay exploring the topic of animal sentience. Students should relate their idea to how humans ought to treat animals used in exploitative industries. Students can also write an opinion piece for the school newsletter or start a class blog.

Create a petition

Learn about the importance of petitions in social justice movements. Choose an issue that your students care about, such as ending animal dissections or chick hatching programs, and create an effective petition.

Make a video

Compile a video which explores the life of a hen raised to lay eggs, a horse bred for racing, a pig bred for meat or a cow raised to produce milk. Students should research their topic first and be as creative as possible. It could be a sketch video, a mock news report or a documentary-style production.

Perform a dance story, play or musical

Learn about how performances can convey important ideas while entertaining an audience. Write and perform your own dance story, play or musical which explores sentience in relation to animals used in food production, entertainment or animal testing.

“The question is not, ‘Can they reason?’ nor, ‘Can they talk?’ but ‘Can they suffer?’” –Jeremy Bentham

For more info about the competition, go to www.vegetarian.org.nz or contact us at info@vegetarian.org.nz

Thank you for Think Kind Australia for all the resources and for this wonderful competition idea!

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HUMANE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA