

ARE YOU AN ANIMAL SAFETY SLEUTH?
LESSON 5: Grades 4-6
TWELVE MONTHS OF SAFETY AND KINDNESS!

Show Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6 & 4.7
Communication Arts: 1, 4 & 6; Science: 4 & 8; Fine Arts: 1 & 4; Health & Phys Ed: 5

Objective: To help students realize that safety, kindness, respect and responsibility toward animals is a way of life—365 days a year. Incorporating simple changes or modifications and making good choices will help to create a year of humane attitudes for students, making the world a better place for animals and people too!

Materials:

- Twelve sheets of poster paper
- Markers or crayons

Method: The teacher will write each month at the top of the twelve sheets of poster paper. Help children get started by discussing safety and kindness to animals. Discuss safety measures for pets and daily acts of kindness necessary to keep animals happy and healthy. For example, when the temperature is very hot, dogs get hot, just like we do. A cool drink of water and a shady, breezy resting spot are necessary to be humane (kind.) Is fresh water only necessary during summer months? No, fresh water is essential EVERYDAY. Therefore fresh water is written under EVERY month of the year.

Safety issues would include keeping cats indoors, never leaving your dog outdoors unsupervised, having your pet micro-chipped. Some other topics for discussion may include daily care, such as feeding or brushing or spending time with your pet. Some may include seasonal topics, such as keeping holiday decorations out of reach of pets, keeping all pets indoors during the loud July 4th celebrations, sending valentines or Christmas gifts to the homeless animals at your local animal shelter. Keep the creative juices flowing in your students by suggesting ways they can keep their pets safe and ways to be kind to animals everyday.

(To download the Humane Society of Missouri's Kind Calendar for Animals, go to hsmo.org, click on education, then click on Classroom Calendars. Use this as a prototype to create your own special year for the animals.)

Call To Action: Create a Kind Calendar for Animals in art class and distribute copies to other classes in your school. (The local newspaper may be interested in a copy as well!) Distribute monthly copies with PTA and school notes to parents. Have students create large (poster sized) copies of the calendar and change monthly to display at local businesses and grocery stores. Students can produce copies of the calendars to sell as a fundraiser for your local animal shelter. Students can present a Year of Kindness to Animals in an oral presentation or drama to other classes.

Reading: Visit our section entitled *Recommended Children's Literature* for a comprehensive listing of animal-related books.

Web sites: Visit our section entitled *Recommended Web Links* for animal-related web sites.