

Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers

News Release

February 4, 2015

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HEART Announces Release of Humane Education Resource Guide

Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART), a national non-profit organization dedicated to educating youth and teachers in humane education, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), an international non-profit whose mission is to rescue and protect animals around the world, have announced that they are releasing an animal protection-based, educational resource guide.

HEART, one of only a few non-profits in the country to specialize in humane education, is a direct service provider of programming that focuses on the interrelated nature of human rights, animal protection, and environmental ethics. HEART's instructors teach lessons on a range of topics, including rights of migrant workers, habitat destruction, climate change, puppy mills and farm animal welfare. IFAW, through its animal education projects, engages educators and students ages 5-14 in more than 70 countries, including 100,000 US classrooms by providing free teaching resources in 12 languages aligned with educational curricula across multiple subject areas. Building off of HEART's extensive experience in U.S. classrooms and IFAW's educational mission to provide educators with animal-focused materials, the organizations have prepared a resource guide that focuses on myriad animal issues.

Written and designed as a collaborative effort and funded by a grant from the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), the 166-page guide consists of a total of 40 lessons and includes activities for K-12 youth that can be implemented in classrooms as well as a host of other educational venues such as libraries, camps, and after-school programs. Material has been divided into four grade ranges: K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. The user-friendly guide engages students of all types and abilities in problem-solving activities regarding a wide variety of modern animal issues, including dog and cat homelessness, animals in entertainment, and factory farming to name a few.

According to Christopher Parrucci, a HEART educator and program manager, the guide offers teachers an important opportunity to reach students on a more profound level. Parrucci states, "Education should not only be of the mind but also of the heart. This resource guide shares lessons and activities that allow educators to not only cultivate a student's natural inquisitiveness and desire to learn, but also foster a sense of empathy and compassion for the world around them."

"IFAW is proud to contribute to this guide for educators so that they may continue to inspire and empower the next generation to protect animal welfare and promote conservation in their own communities and around the globe," says Kelly Johnston, IFAW's US Animal Action Education program officer. "Numerous studies have shown that integrating humane and environmental education into the

classroom can help reduce bullying and violence in schools, while improving critical thinking skills, motivating students to become more engaged and promoting academic achievement.”

The guide serves as an excellent tool for trained educators who are looking for a valuable way to supplement their current curricula, and in an effort to more effectively facilitate implementation in schools, all lessons are aligned to Common Core State Standards. Kimberly Korona, HEART program manager and long-time educator, believes HEART’s experience as a leader in humane education is what has allowed the organization to help create this powerful resource that engages students with timely real-world issues while simultaneously allowing teachers to adhere to educational mandates.

Korona added, “This resource guide is filled with enriching ready to use activities and lessons for educators to teach empathy and compassion for all living beings, while addressing state standards too.” In addition, those without a formal teaching background will also be able to navigate this resource with ease, providing parents, guardians, and other concerned citizens an opportunity to incorporate humane education at home and in their communities.

The guide is available for free download on both HEART and IFAW’s websites. Printed copies will be distributed widely at schools and other learning centers, and interested parties are encouraged to get in touch with HEART and IFAW offices to learn more.

About HEART

HEART is a 501(c)(3) public charity based in New York, with offices in Chicago, Indianapolis and Portland, Oregon. HEART’s mission is to foster compassion and respect toward people, animals and the environment by educating youth and teachers in humane education. For more information, visit www.teachhumane.org.

About IFAW

Founded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals, and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats. For more information, visit www.ifaw.org.