

Making a Difference for Animals Every Day

There are lots of easy ways for teachers to help children help animals. Here are some ideas:

1. Encourage your school to include Compassionate Citizen as part of its official curriculum.
2. Ask school officials to implement a policy against taking field trips to zoos and circuses. Animals suffer when they are caged or chained, and those in circuses are beaten so that they will obey their handlers and perform tricks that are meaningless to them. They feel lonely, depressed, and frustrated in zoos and circuses. Visit a local animal shelter or wildlife sanctuary instead.
3. Urge school officials to update the dress code to include cruelty-free canvas shoes instead of leather ones. Not only is leather production cruel, it also harms the environment. Turning animal skin into leather requires massive amounts of toxic chemicals, and run-off from tanneries poisons rivers and streams.
4. Start a healthy-meal programme by asking your school to offer only delicious vegan snacks and lunches. Contact us at Info@compassionatecitizen.org for ideas, suggestions, and recipes.
5. Work with the principal to urge children to fly only “kind kites” with cotton string, not sharp glass-coated or metallic manja. Deadly manja injures and kills countless birds and some humans each year.
6. Encourage officials to enact a policy against keeping animals in school. Animals kept as “pets” in schools are often neglected and mishandled by well-meaning children who are too young to grasp the enormity of the responsibility or by busy teachers. Having animals in the classroom also supports the pet trade, which encourages irresponsible and impulsive purchases of animals.



7. Encourage children to start an animal rights club, and lead them in discussions about making kind choices for animals, such as not eating or wearing them.
8. Use special occasions, including International Animal Rights Day (10 December), Earth Day (22 April), and World Environment Day (5 June), as opportunities to discuss animal-related issues.
9. Encourage children to be kind to strays and to put water bowls out for them as well as for birds.
10. Create a display board about animal rights.
11. Set up an information table during school festivals, parent-teacher conferences, and other functions to distribute literature and talk about animal rights with others. Contact us at Info@compassionatecitizen.org for supplies.
12. Get children involved in organising debates, poster competitions, and essay contests about animal-protection issues.
13. Encourage children not to use plastic! Did you know that plastic bags can last up to a thousand years in a landfill? Plastic debris harms stray cows and buffaloes who accidentally eat it and kills countless ocean animals every year.
14. Work with a non-governmental organisation to get stray dogs and cats in your area sterilised in order to prevent them from contributing to the companion-animal overpopulation crisis. Make sure they are returned to the same place where they were found.
15. Plant trees, and contribute towards building a greener environment.



If you let us know what your school is up to, it may be eligible for a Compassionate School Award from PETA India. Schools that take the first six steps listed above will automatically be eligible. You can also send questions and comments to Info@compassionatecitizen.org.

