

## Poster Contest

Every year the education department holds a county-wide poster contest in celebration of "Be Kind to Animals Week," the first week of May. The contest is open to children in kindergarten through 8th grade. Each year we receive hundreds of posters from all over the county. Many were displayed at the Santa Cruz Public Library and the Freedom public library. Winners are selected by panel, 1<sup>st</sup> through third for each grade. There is an awards ceremony where winners are given certificates and prizes and may even get their picture in the paper!

## Tours

Scheduled tours of the shelter are available for any community group. To schedule a tour you can contact the education department at 566-3753 or [education@santacruzspca.org](mailto:education@santacruzspca.org). No more than 20 people can attend each tour. If there are children, there must be enough adults present to supervise them.



## Volunteering


How would you like to receive a hand-made personal Thank You from a classroom of children? It is just one of the rewards of being a volunteer in the Humane Education Department. Train to become a docent, help with our Kids Camp or special events or help with office work.

## Just for Kids

In 2008, we added a link to the Humane Education webpage called "Just for Kids". This fun and educational web environment has lots of information on caring for different animals, how to be safe around dogs, fun games you can play with your pets, downloadable coloring and activity pages as well as many cool links to other web sites that are just for kids.

## How you can help.....

-  Acknowledge and reward children for acts of kindness. Let them know it is important to you.
-  Acknowledge acts of cruelty.  
"One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it."  
-Anthropologist Margaret Mead

-  Be a caring and compassionate role model- Actions speak louder than words.

-  Instill compassion by reading aloud animal stories with humane themes. A list of recommended books is available through the Education Department.

-  Involve children you know in community service projects.

-  Don't patronize animal entertainment industries with your children. Teach compassion, not cruelty and disrespect



2685 Chanticleer Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
831-465-5000 main  
831-479-8530 fax  
[www.santacruzspca.org](http://www.santacruzspca.org)

Education Department  
831-566-3753

[education@santacruzspca.org](mailto:education@santacruzspca.org)

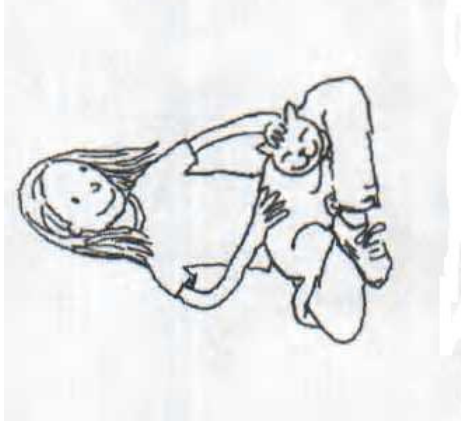
## The Santa Cruz Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

## Humane Education



*Planting seeds  
for the future .....*

*Teaching Compassion.....*



*“Children trained to extend justice, kindness and mercy to animals become more just, kind and considerate in their relations with one another.”*

*-National PETA Congress, 1933*

## What is Humane Education?

Humane Education has been a part of animal welfare since the first organizations were founded in the mid 1800s. Today, most shelters and sanctuaries recognize the value of Humane Education and make it a part of their overall efforts. The purpose of Humane Education is to be pro-active and help prevent further abuse, neglect and abandonment of nonhuman animals through programming that informs and instills empathy, compassion & responsibility for all living things.

## Our Programs

Additional information and applications for our programs are available on our website at [www.santacruzspca.org](http://www.santacruzspca.org), Programs, Humane Education.

## Classroom Presentations

Creative and educational presentations are offered free of charge to all classrooms in Santa Cruz County. We visit upward of 12,000 students annually covering topics of responsible care, bite prevention, spaying and neutering, wildlife and endangered species. “Paws for Teachers” is our Humane Education newsletter sent two or three times a year to all teachers in the county.

## Kid's Camp

Kids Camp is a summer day camp for children ages 8-13. We currently offer 4 one-week sessions each summer, two for younger kids and two for older kids. Each day of the week is devoted to a different animal topic. Topics include dogs, cats, small animals and exotics, farm animals, and wildlife. Campers also get to visit the shelter and the animals regularly not only to learn about what we do but also to help the Animals have a stress free stay as well as helping them to find homes.

## Pet Care Badge/Animal Try It

The Education Department has partnered with the Girl Scouts of Monterey County to offer assistance in helping scouts to achieve their Pet Care Badge and brownies to achieve their Animal Try It. The Pet Care Badge Binder has tons of companion animal related information that not only helps them complete the activities needed for their badge but also can be used as a reference book for the future. You can download the Pet Care Badge Binder on the Humane Education Page of our website. Scout or Brownie troops can contact the education department at 566-3753 or [education@santacruzspca.org](mailto:education@santacruzspca.org) to schedule an accompanying presentation.

## Community Service

The Santa Cruz SPCA receives calls about Community Service ideas every week and this need can often be fulfilled by volunteering for the animal shelter. However, there are other ways to complete community service hours and in 2006 we created the Community Service Action Guide to be useful for students who are looking to do community service projects related to animals. The guide is available for download on the Humane Education Page of our website. We are also hoping to start a Peer to Peer Education project where the students become the teachers. This project would allow students needing a service learning project to be the presenters for their peers as well as younger students on the subject of how to care for companion animals. This will not only introduce them to basic animal care as well as speaking in public, it also gives them valuable community service hours in the process. Contact the Humane Education Department at 566-3753 for more information on this fledgling SPCA project.