

Literacy Activities | Animals: Attitudes and Actions

In most real life situations we do not read, speak, write, listen or complete mathematical tasks in isolation (on their own). We use a range of skills and knowledge to successfully complete a task.

a) Reading, writing, speaking and listening

The purpose of the VCAL Literacy Skills Units is to develop literacy skills and knowledge that allow effective participation in the four main social contexts in which we function in Australian society:

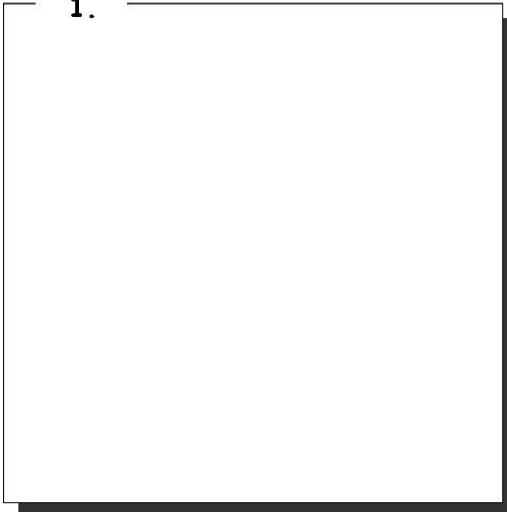
Social context	Animal examples
1. Family and social life	Pets at home
2. Workplace and institutional settings	Animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA
3. Education and training contexts	Animal related courses at TAFE institutions and traineeships or apprenticeships in areas such as equine (horse) dentistry
4. Community and civic life	Volunteering or investigating animal welfare issues such as restricted dog breeds or live animal export.



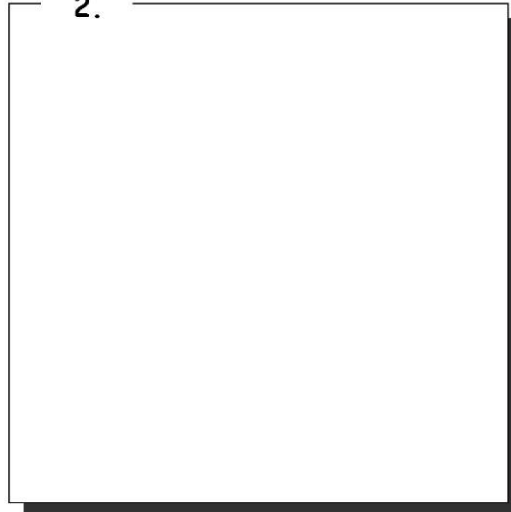
Literacy Activities | Animal Welfare Campaigns and Issues

Visit the RSPCA website www.rspcavic.org and look up *News & Info / Campaigns*. Name or draw four (4) animal welfare issues discussed in this presentation?

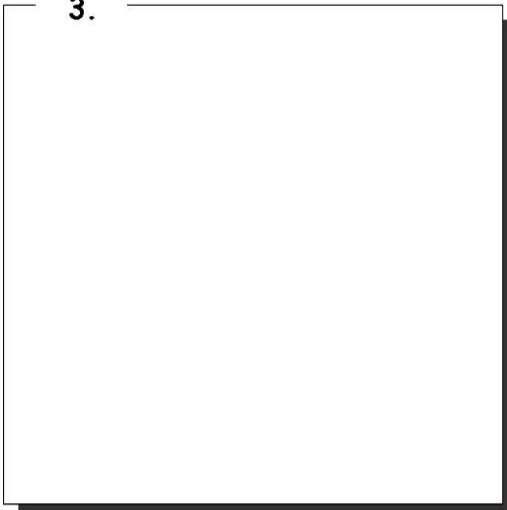
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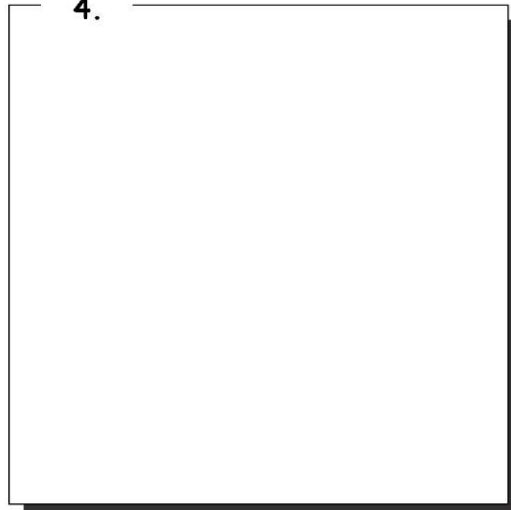
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Literacy Activities | Individual Tasks

- Activity 1: Describe your experience at the RSPCA in the form of a poem. Refer to the example on page 5.
- Activity 2: Write a newspaper article about the use of animals in circuses. Explore both sides of the story.
- Activity 3: Design a flow chart of the journey of a lost/stray or surrendered animal at the RSPCA—from the time of arrival at an RSPCA shelter—to departing to a new home.
- Activity 4: Create a brochure that discusses four (4) different careers that involve working with animals. Try to choose one career from each of the sections discussed ie. animal care, law enforcement, production industry and recreation.
- Activity 5: Make a comic strip of 6-12 frames that explains the issues of leaving pets in hot cars.
- Activity 6: Create a poster that describes the life of a battery hen.
- Activity 7: Write three (3) diary entries from the perspective of a cat that has strayed from home.



Literacy Activities | Group Tasks

- Activity 1: Develop a crossword using key words and terms that you have explored in this presentation. Also include terminology and expressions discussed at the RSPCA. Hint: check out www.crauswords.com.
- Activity 2: Develop a flyer/brochure that explains in detail, one of the key topics explored in this presentation.
- Activity 3: Explore and discuss the 'for and against' views of duck hunting and then present a debate to the class.
- Activity 4: Create a poster campaign to educate students about why cruelty to animals is wrong.
- Activity 5: Film and produce a video/dvd of a campaign to stop the use of animals in circuses. Use images matched with music and sound.
- Activity 6: Create a large collage that explores the action people should take to care for their animals.
- Activity 7: Organise a letter around an issue that your group is passionate about. Find out who you need to write letters to, to voice your concerns and organise a team of letter writers.

An example . . . An animal issue you may be concerned about is 'Live Animal Export' — a very important animal welfare issue. Learn as much as you can about this matter. For instance, did you know:

- . 290,000 sheep died in 1996 as a result of the poor conditions in which they were transported.
- . each year 5,800,000 Australian sheep suffer these conditions—only to be slaughtered at their destination.
- . 720,000 cattle also suffer similar conditions while being transported to the Middle East and South East Asia.

The following poem was written by a student for Individual Tasks - Activity 1.

Last Journey

Spread out on some green, green land,
Suddenly shoved in an over packed van.
Driving down a long, grey road,
All packed tight in a great big load.
Smelly and stinky, it's starting to get.
Feeling sick, "I need a vet".

Walking on to the boat, in first the boys.
Trying to back off, as there was a great big noise.
Packed in tight, small and dark,
Never in my life, have I gone to the park.

Months and months I've been on this boat,
Hoping it will stay afloat.
One month, two months, three months, four,
Five sheep, six sheep, seven sheep . . . floor
All around me, sheep dying,
Above us, birds, free, flying.

I've got to get off, I shall, I will
They keep feeding us a disgusting pill.
Why are they doing this? What have we done?
Exporting us.
Shoved tight.
Not fun.

I wish, I wish, I was off this boat
On the green land, knowing I will stay afloat.

by Jo Smith
Melbourne High School
2005