



Dear Educator:

The Texas Humane Network is proud to provide this curriculum that connects our third-grade students to Texas animals. Our Humane Education curriculum helps educators address the relationships and responsibilities humans have to our animal friends and neighbors, both domestic and wild. This curriculum teaches kindness and empathy and helps cultivate compassion toward animals, people, and their natural environment. Students will gain knowledge and tools to make socially responsible decisions when encountering real-world problems.

This curriculum comprises a series of lessons that may be used together as one unit or piecemeal to supplement an existing topic of study. All lessons support one or more TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) skills. Many lessons are literature-based and include reading, writing, math, science, and/or social studies activities.

Research shows that humane education:

- Reduces violence by addressing the link between violent acts towards animals and interpersonal violence;
- Harnesses young people's natural fascination and affinity with animals as a foundation for building compassion, respect, and social and emotional learning; and
- Strengthens academic engagement and has a measurable impact on increasing pro-social behaviors of students.

The lessons encompass a variety of animals, including dogs, cats, small mammals, and Texas native wildlife. We aim to develop a generation of youth who create positive change for animals, people, and the natural world. By integrating this curriculum into your classroom and your students' lives, you are helping this goal become a reality! We hope you and your students enjoy these lessons.

With Appreciation,

The Texas Humane Network