



School Realities: Obstacles and Opportunities for Humane Education

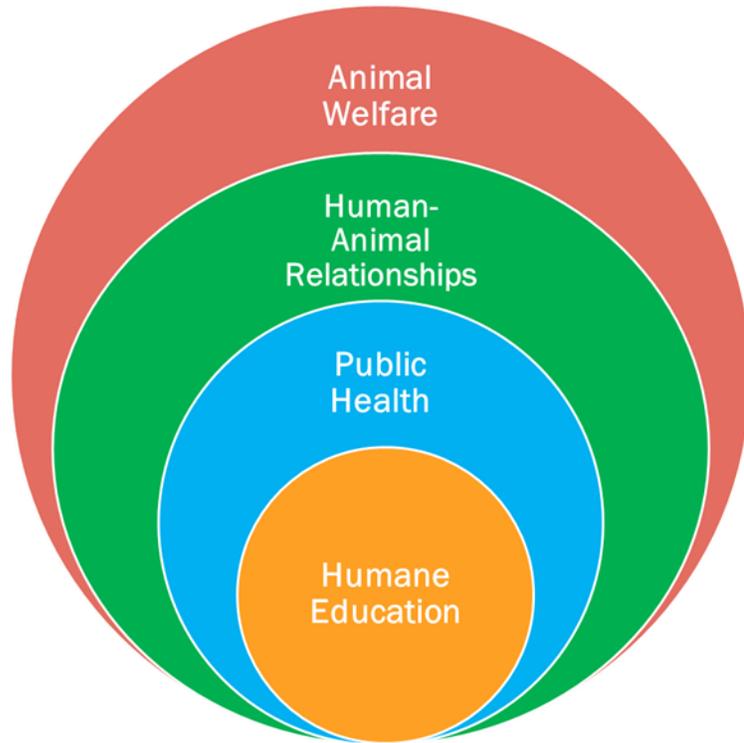
Webinar Overview

Four main obstacles in partnerships between humane groups and schools are often money, time, messaging, and academic standards and testing. Each of these items poses individual challenges but all can be overcome by planning and incorporating the humane education message in a way that meets the needs of the audience you approach.

These obstacles can be turned into opportunity by aligning partnership proposals with the main priorities. In any school-based proposal, state standards and the academic curriculum are important to keep in mind. Any initiative will most likely need to align with the school goals for that year. You can find all U.S. state and national standards for your humane lessons at your specific state Department of Education website or the Common Core website <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

Creating partnerships often requires an understanding of where the audience currently stands on an issue and addressing related concerns. For humane education this often means looping in public health or the human health concept. For example the issue of dog bite prevention and communicable diseases is an important part of helping individuals learn about dog body language and basic needs such as veterinary care. The flip side is that this topic also helps to end a public health concern—rabies, communicable disease, and bites. The framework shown on the next page shows the components involved in reaching the end goal of increased knowledge and action related to animal welfare.

Humane Education Frameworks of Social Change



Itle-Clark, S. & Comaskey, E. (2014).

Opportunities for Humane Education Infusion

- ✓ Offer free resources like humane education lessons or materials, teacher workshops, or virtual fieldtrips.
- ✓ Prepare a proposal outlining your project to share with the school staff. Include:
 - a. Your Name
 - b. Program Overview and Request
 - c. Connection to Known School Initiative
- ✓ Learn about character education, social and emotional learning, or prosocial and anti-bullying programs in your districts. The tenets of humane education align perfectly.
- ✓ Put schools in the spotlight. Offer projects/programs that allow a school, teachers, or students to shine. Help publicize their achievement.
- ✓ Become a service-learning or community service partner.

Additional Resources

- Academic Standards:
 - Common Core Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/>
 - State and National Standards <http://www.educationworld.com>
- Professional Development: Certified Humane Education Specialist Credentialing Program <http://www.humanesociety.org/ches>
- Student Resources: <http://www.humanesociety.org/students>
- Educator Resource Materials:
http://www.humanesociety.org/parents_educators
- Association of Professional Humane Educators:
<http://www.aphe.org>
- Whole Child Movement: <http://www.ASCD.org> (search “Whole Child” for multiple resources and downloads)
- *Kind News* Humane Education Magazine:
<http://www.humanesociety.org/kindnews>