

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

Show-and-tell with rescue stories

Overview

Show-and-tell with rescue stories is an engaging and personal activity where students share their experiences of helping animals. By bringing in photos, videos or personal accounts, students connect emotionally with their peers and inspire others to take action for animals. This activity fosters empathy, raises awareness of animal rights issues and provides a platform for celebrating the positive impact individuals can make. Pairing the session with vegan popcorn and reflective discussions adds a sense of community and enjoyment.

How to organise show-and-tell with rescue stories

1. Encourage students to prepare a personal rescue story to share.

- Ask students to think about animals they have helped or encountered in their lives, such as:
 - a) A companion animal they adopted from a shelter.
 - b) An injured bird or wildlife they helped rescue or report to a carer.
 - c) An animal they helped protect by advocating for better treatment.
 - Provide a guide to help them structure their story:
 - a) **Introduction:** Explain the situation or challenge the animal faced.
 - b) **Action:** Describe how they helped or contributed to the animal's wellbeing.
 - c) **Outcome:** Share how the animal's life improved as a result.
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2. Allow students to bring multimedia elements to enhance their presentations.

- Encourage them to bring photos, videos or drawings of the animal they helped.

- Examples of multimedia additions:
 - a) Before-and-after photos of an adopted or rehabilitated animal companion.
 - b) A short video clip of the rescued animal in its new environment.
 - c) Illustrations or posters they created to raise awareness for the animal.
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3. Include stories from students who may not have firsthand experiences with rescues.

- Provide options for students who have not been involved in rescues yet:
 - a) Research a local rescue story to present.
 - b) Share a story from an organisation like WIRES, Edgar's Mission or other rescue organisations.
 - c) Talk about an animal issue they feel strongly about and what actions they would like to take in the future.
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4. Create a safe and supportive environment for sharing.

- Set ground rules to ensure everyone feels comfortable presenting:
 - a) Listen respectfully and show appreciation for each story.
 - b) Ask thoughtful and encouraging questions after each presentation.
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5. Incorporate a group discussion to reflect on the stories shared.

- After all presentations, lead a discussion to help students connect the stories to broader animal rights themes:
 - a) "What common challenges did the animals in these stories face?"
 - b) "How can we take action as a group to help more animals in need?"
 - c) "What emotions did you feel hearing about these rescues?"
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6. Provide vegan snacks to make the session enjoyable.

- Offer vegan treats like popcorn, cookies or fruit platters.
- Highlight the connection between empathetic food choices and helping animals.

7. Include a creative activity to deepen the impact of the session.

- Examples of creative follow-up activities:
 - a) Students can create a "Wall of Heroes" highlighting the animals featured in their stories.
 - b) Write thank-you letters to organisations or individuals involved in rescues.
 - c) Design posters or flyers to raise awareness about animal rights issues.
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8. Recognise students for their contributions and efforts.

- Provide small certificates or tokens of appreciation for sharing their stories.
 - Feature standout stories in the school newsletter, website or social media platforms to inspire others.
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9. Highlight ways students can get involved in rescues and advocacy.

- Share resources or tips for helping animals, such as:
 - a) Volunteering at local shelters or sanctuaries.
 - b) Reporting injured or distressed wildlife to rescue organisations.
 - c) Advocating for ethical practices, such as adopting rescued animals or helping people live vegan.
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10. Use the session to inspire future animal rights projects.

- Brainstorm ideas for group projects, such as:
 - a) Organising a fundraiser for a local rescue organisation.
 - b) Starting a school campaign about adopting animals or protecting wildlife.
 - c) Planning a visit to a sanctuary to learn more about their work.

Outcomes

- **Empathy and connection:** Sharing personal stories helps students build emotional connections with animals and their peers.
- **Inspiration and action:** Hearing about rescues motivates students to take empathetic action in their own lives.
- **Education and awareness:** The activity raises awareness of the challenges animals face and the ways individuals can help.
- **Creativity and expression:** Students develop creative and communication skills through storytelling and visual presentations.
- **Community building:** Sharing experiences fosters a sense of belonging and collective purpose among students.