

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

Fundraising for rescues

Overview

Fundraising for animal rescues is a meaningful way for students to contribute to the wellbeing of animals while building teamwork and organisational skills. By organising creative and engaging events, such as vegan bake sales, thrift sales or sponsored runs, students can raise funds and awareness for animal sanctuaries, wildlife rescue organisations or shelters. Incorporating discussions and vegan snacks makes the activity both educational and enjoyable, ensuring students understand the importance of their contributions.

How to organise fundraising events for animal rescues

1. Choose a fundraising event that suits your group's interests and resources.

- Examples of fundraising activities:
 - a) **Vegan bake sale:** Sell vegan cookies, cupcakes or savoury treats to promote vegan eating.
 - b) **Thrift sale:** Collect pre-loved items from the community and sell them to raise funds.
 - c) **Sponsored run or walk:** Plan a fitness challenge where participants gather donations for every kilometre they complete.
 - d) **Art or craft sale:** Sell student-made artwork, crafts or handmade animal-themed merchandise.
 - e) **Trivia Night:** Host a fun quiz night with animal-themed questions, charging a small entry fee.
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2. Decide on a beneficiary for the fundraiser.

- Select a local or national organisation that aligns with your goals, such as:
 - a) WIRES (wildlife rescue and rehabilitation).

- b) Edgar's Mission (farmed animal sanctuary).
 - c) Local animal shelters or conservation groups.
 - Share information about the organisation with students to emphasise the impact of their fundraising efforts.
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3. Assign roles and responsibilities to students to ensure smooth planning.

- Create teams to handle specific tasks:
 - a) **Promotion team:** Design posters, social media posts or announcements to advertise the event.
 - b) **Event logistics team:** Coordinate supplies, venue setup and overall organisation.
 - c) **Sales team:** Manage stalls, engage with attendees and collect donations.
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4. Promote the event effectively to maximise participation.

- Use creative methods to spread the word:
 - a) Create eye-catching flyers and posters to place around the school or community.
 - b) Share event details on school newsletters, social media platforms and local community boards.
 - c) Encourage students to invite friends, family and neighbours to join the event.
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5. Highlight the cause during the event to educate attendees.

- Set up an information booth with materials about the rescue organisation and its work.
- Play short videos or display photos of animals that will benefit from the fundraiser.
- Share facts about the challenges animals face and how the funds will be used to help them.

6. Incorporate vegan treats and refreshments to align with the theme.

- Provide vegan snacks, such as:
 - a) Vegan popcorn, muffins or cookies.
 - b) Fruit platters and refreshing drinks.
 - c) Label all items as vegan to promote non-animal choices.

7. Create interactive elements to make the event fun and engaging.

- Examples of interactive activities:
 - a) Face painting or temporary tattoos with animal designs.
 - b) A raffle with animal-themed prizes donated by local businesses.
 - c) A photo booth with props like animal ears or sanctuary backdrops.
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8. Track the funds raised and share the results with participants.

- Announce the total amount raised at the end of the event and celebrate the collective effort.
 - Provide updates on how the funds are being used by the beneficiary organisation, such as a thank-you letter or photos of the animals helped.
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9. Reflect on the experience with a group discussion.

- After the event, gather students to discuss what they learned and how they felt about contributing to a cause.
 - a) "What was the most rewarding part of the fundraiser?"
 - b) "What could we do differently to make the next event even better?"
 - c) "How can we continue to support animal rescues in the future?"
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10. Encourage ongoing involvement in supporting animal rescues.

- Use the success of the fundraiser as a launchpad for future initiatives:
 - a) Organise regular volunteer days at the beneficiary organisation.
 - b) Plan another fundraising event for a different cause or rescue group.
 - c) Start a school club dedicated to animal advocacy and ongoing fundraising efforts.
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Outcomes

- **Financial support for rescues:** Funds raised provide vital resources for animal shelters, sanctuaries or conservation groups.
- **Empathy and awareness:** Students gain a deeper understanding of the challenges animals face and the importance of rescue work.

- **Teamwork and leadership:** Planning and running the event helps students develop organisational, communication and leadership skills.
- **Community engagement:** The event raises awareness about animal rights within the school and broader community.
- **Inspiration to continue advocacy:** The positive impact of the fundraiser motivates students to remain involved in helping animals.

