

## Vegan Education in Schools

### Vegan Clubs

#### Years 7 to 12

### Create a companion animal or rescue animal feature wall

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#### Overview

A companion animal or rescue animal feature wall is a powerful way to showcase the stories of rescued animals and beloved companion animals within a shared space at school or in the community. This visually engaging display celebrates the animals' journeys, raises awareness about adoption and animal protection and highlights the bond between humans and animals. By involving students in its creation, the feature wall becomes a collaborative project that fosters empathy, creativity and advocacy.

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#### How to create a companion animal or rescue animal feature wall

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##### 1. Define the purpose and theme of the feature wall.

- Establish the wall's primary goals:
    - a) Celebrate rescue animals and companion animals to inspire empathy and adoption.
    - b) Educate the school community about the importance of animal rescue and care.
    - c) Create a visually engaging space that promotes positive conversations about animal protection.
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##### 2. Choose a prominent location for the feature wall.

- Select a high-traffic area to maximise visibility and engagement:
  - a) School hallways, libraries, or common areas.
  - b) Community centres, youth clubs, or public libraries.
  - c) Virtual walls or digital slideshows for online sharing, if a physical space isn't available.

### **3. Invite submissions from students, staff and the community.**

- Encourage everyone to contribute photos and stories of their rescued or companion animals:
    - a) Include details such as the animal's name, background, personality traits and what makes them special.
    - b) Ask rescue organisations to provide stories and images of animals available for adoption.
    - c) Offer templates or guidelines for story submissions to ensure consistency.
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### **4. Provide materials and guidance for creating the display.**

- Offer creative options for showcasing the animals:
    - a) Printed photos and captions mounted on colourful backgrounds.
    - b) Hand-drawn illustrations or paintings of the animals.
    - c) Infographics highlighting statistics about adoption and rescue efforts.
  - Provide supplies such as poster boards, decorative borders, markers and adhesives to make the wall visually appealing.
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### **5. Incorporate interactive elements to engage viewers.**

- Add features that allow people to actively participate:
    - a) QR codes linking to adoption pages for animals still seeking homes.
    - b) A "Thank You to Rescuers" section where students can write messages of gratitude.
    - c) A voting section where viewers can choose their favourite rescue story or companion animal.
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### **6. Highlight important messages about animal protection.**

- Include educational content to complement the stories:
  - a) Information about the benefits of adoption over purchasing animals.
  - b) Tips for caring for companion animals responsibly.
  - c) Statistics on rescue efforts, such as the number of animals adopted each year.

## 7. Involve students in the design and maintenance of the wall.

- Assign roles to ensure the project remains a collaborative effort:
    - a) **Designers:** Create the layout and add artistic elements to the display.
    - b) **Writers:** Edit and format the stories submitted by contributors.
    - c) **Photographers:** Capture high-quality images of the animals or the finished wall.
    - d) **Maintenance Team:** Keep the display updated with new stories or replace worn materials.
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## 8. Host an unveiling event to launch the feature wall.

- Organise a small celebration to introduce the wall to the school or community:
    - a) Include a ribbon-cutting ceremony or a guided tour of the wall.
    - b) Invite contributors to share their animal stories in person.
    - c) Provide vegan refreshments to align with the theme of animal rights.
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## 9. Promote the feature wall to encourage visits and engagement.

- Use multiple channels to spread the word:
    - a) Posters and school announcements to invite students and staff.
    - b) Social media posts with photos and snippets of the featured stories.
    - c) Updates in newsletters or community bulletins about new additions to the wall.
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## 10. Reflect on the impact of the wall and plan for its future.

- Gather feedback from viewers and contributors:
  - a) "What did you enjoy most about the feature wall?"
  - b) "How did the stories inspire or educate you about animal protection?"
- Consider expanding or rotating the display regularly to keep it fresh:
  - a) Highlight different themes, such as wildlife conservation or animals saved from animal farming.
  - b) Incorporate seasonal campaigns, like "Home for the Holidays" for adoptable animals.

## Outcomes

- **Empathy and connection:** The wall fosters a deeper emotional connection between viewers and animals by sharing personal stories.
- **Awareness and education:** Visitors learn about animal protection, the importance of adoption and the impact of rescues.
- **Creative collaboration:** Students develop teamwork and creative skills by contributing to the wall's design and content.
- **Inspiration to act:** The display motivates viewers to adopt, volunteer, or advocate for animals in need.
- **Community engagement:** The feature wall creates a shared space for celebrating animals and promoting the rights of animals within the school or local area.