

## Vegan Education in Schools

### Vegan Clubs

### Years 7 to 12

#### Virtual 'Meet an Animal' sessions

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##### Overview

Virtual 'Meet an Animal' sessions provide students with the unique opportunity to connect with rescued animals through live video calls hosted by sanctuaries or wildlife centres. These interactive sessions introduce students to specific animals, share their rescue stories and educate participants about the challenges these animals face. This activity fosters empathy, raises awareness about animal protection and inspires students to support animal protection initiatives.

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#### How to organise virtual 'Meet an Animal' sessions

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##### 1. Partner with sanctuaries or wildlife centres for the event.

- Reach out to organisations that care for rescued or rehabilitated animals:
    - a) Farmed animal sanctuaries showcasing animals like pigs, chickens, or cows.
    - b) Wildlife centres featuring native species, such as kangaroos, wombats, or koalas.
    - c) Marine or aquatic rescue groups presenting sea turtles, dolphins, or other marine life.
  - Confirm the availability of animals who can participate in the live session and the topics the organisation can cover.
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##### 2. Choose a virtual platform for the live session.

- Select an accessible and user-friendly platform for the event:
  - a) Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams for larger groups.
  - b) YouTube Live or Facebook Live for community-wide participation.
- Ensure the platform supports interactive features like Q&A, chat, or polls.

### 3. Set a theme or focus for the session.

- Decide on a specific topic to guide the session:
    - a) **Animal rescue stories:** Highlight the journey of animals saved from exploitation or neglect.
    - b) **Wildlife conservation:** Discuss efforts to protect endangered species and habitats.
    - c) **Farmed animal advocacy:** Explore the lives of farmed animals and promote moral consideration of using animals for food.
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### 4. Promote the event to encourage participation.

- Use various channels to spread the word:
    - a) Posters and flyers displayed in classrooms or emailed to parents.
    - b) Social media posts with event details and registration links.
    - c) Announcements during assemblies or through newsletters.
  - Create a catchy tagline, such as *"Meet Our Rescued Friends: Virtual Visits to the Sanctuary."*
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### 5. Prepare students for the session with educational materials.

- Share resources to help participants engage fully with the session:
    - a) Fact sheets about the featured animals and their species.
    - b) Background information on the sanctuary or wildlife centre.
    - c) Questions or discussion prompts to encourage active participation.
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### 6. Ensure the session is interactive and engaging.

- Work with the host to plan an engaging agenda:
  - a) Introduce the sanctuary or centre and its mission.
  - b) Feature live footage of the animals, showcasing their personalities and behaviours.
  - c) Share the animals' rescue stories and the efforts involved in their care.
  - d) Allow time for a Q&A session where students can ask questions about the animals or the sanctuary's work.
- Include interactive elements, such as polls or quizzes, to keep students involved.

## 7. Record the session for future use.

- Obtain permission from the host to record the session:
    - a) Share the recording with students who couldn't attend live.
    - b) Use clips for educational purposes, such as classroom lessons or school assemblies.
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## 8. Reflect on the session with students.

- Host a follow-up discussion to review what students learned:
    - a) "What did you find most surprising or inspiring about the animals' stories?"
    - b) "How can we support sanctuaries and the work they do?"
    - c) "What actions can we take to help animals like the ones we met?"
  - Encourage students to write thank-you notes to the sanctuary or centre to show their appreciation.
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## 9. Share the experience with the broader community.

- Highlight the event through school newsletters, social media, or local media:
    - a) Post photos or screenshots from the session with captions summarising key takeaways.
    - b) Share quotes or reflections from students about what they learned.
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## 10. Plan ongoing partnerships with sanctuaries and wildlife centres.

- Use the success of the session to inspire future collaborations:
  - a) Schedule regular virtual visits to meet other rescued animals.
  - b) Organise fundraisers to support the sanctuary's work.
  - c) Develop projects that align with the centre's mission, such as habitat restoration or educational campaigns.

## Outcomes

- **Empathy and connection:** Students develop a personal connection to rescued animals, fostering empathy and understanding.
- **Awareness and education:** Participants learn about the challenges animals face and the importance of rescue and conservation efforts.
- **Engagement and inspiration:** The interactive format encourages active participation and motivates students to support animal protection.
- **Community building:** The session strengthens partnerships between schools and animal-focused organisations.
- **Inspiration to act:** Students feel empowered to take steps to protect animals, such as volunteering, donating, or raising awareness.