

HUMANE ED NEWS

United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee

September 2017



Working With the New York City Department of Education

The UFT Humane Education Committee has been working with Mayor DeBlasio's liaisons over issues regarding animals in the education system. Through collaboration with the mayor's office, we have achieved the following:

The NYC Dept. of Education has agreed to publish notices in the Principals' Weekly twice a year that remind them that students and their parents must be notified of their right to opt-out of dissection.

Many principals are unaware of this law, N.Y. Education Law Section 809, and will now receive information as to the protection of students that do not wish to dissect. Principals will be able to link to the UFT Humane Ed Committee website for samples of opt-out letters that can be used.

For more information on this law:

<http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/education-law/edn-sect-809.html>

For a sample of the opt-out letter:

<http://www.uft.org/files/attachments/dissection-opt-out.pdf>

Another step was also taken in publishing reminders in the weeklies to remind principals of the humane education mandate for elementary school grades.

For more information on this law:

<http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/education-law/edn-sect-809.html>

FREE Materials for Your Whole Class!

TeachKind offers **FREE** class sets of materials that cover a wide range of issues with age-appropriate language and images. Order your free materials [here](#).

Elementary Teachers:

Our [Share the World kit](#) helps you teach students how similar we are to all the animals, large and small, with whom we share the world. It's geared to grades 3-5 but can be adapted for all ages. It includes an inspiring video about the treatment of animals in society, activity sheets with writing prompts, and a teacher's guide. Order your free Share the World kit [here](#).



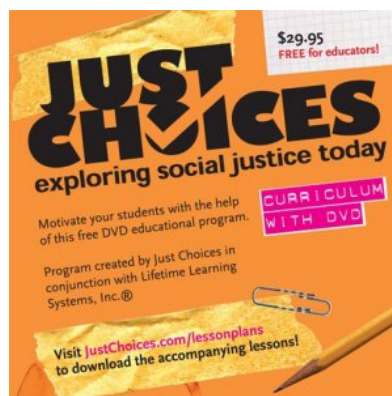
Our **primary school kit** for kindergarten through sixth-grade educators includes [A Cow's Life](#), [A Chicken's Life](#), [A Dog's Life](#), and [A Rat's Life](#) comic books; circus activity booklets; copies of the magazine *The Kids' Guide to Helping Animals*; and [PETA Kids](#) sticker sheets for all your students.



PETAkids.com has lots of materials you can share with your students. No graphic images—this website was made just for kids 12 & under!

Middle & High School Teachers:

Our **secondary school kit** for seventh through 12th-grade educators includes peta2's *Guide to Going Vegan*; leaflets about dissection, the circus, animal testing, and the environment; and peta2 sticker sheets for your class as well as a classroom poster pack and a "Just Choices" DVD that can be used to get your students plugged into animal issues with peta2.com. This website was made just for students 13 & up!



Former NYC teacher, **Lisbet Chiriboga**, is the new Coordinator for TeachKind—PETA's humane-education division. Please contact her at LisbetC@TeachKind.org if you have any questions or need help incorporating humane education into your curriculum.

“Bringing Humane Education Into the Classroom” Webinar

Are you an educator or a youth leader interested in humane education, but not quite sure how to incorporate it into your programs?

On May 31st, 2017, HEART hosted a webinar led by **Lisbet Chiriboga**, TeachKind Education Coordinator for PETA and HEC Board member and **Gail Frydkowski**, Chair UFT HEC. Both certified teachers have effectively infused humane education into the classroom. Participants were given tools for teaching compassion toward animals and learned how to meet current educational

standards and expectations at the same time. By the end of the webinar, new insights into different ways of bringing humane education to youth were provided. This webinar provides “Insights From Schoolteachers” and applies to both elementary and secondary educators.

The webinar is now archived at the **HEART** website and is free after a short registration page. Log on to heart.org and view their “Archived Webinars” for this and other timely programs.

Course on Environmental Crime at John Jay College Successful

**United Federation of Teachers
Humane Education Committee Board
Member Kimberly Spanjol, Ph.D.
taught a course on Environmental
Crime in the Spring 2017 semester at
John Jay College of Criminal Justice.**

Topics covered included:

- * the palm oil industry,
- * crimes against wildlife,
- * companion and farmed animals
- * a deep examination of the animal agriculture industry - including how Big Ag contributes to blocking any meaningful legislation to protect animals.

Guest speakers included Sergeant Mike Murphy, head of NYPD's Animal Cruelty Investigation Unit, and representatives from Animal Equality and Farm Sanctuary. Animal Equality culminated their nationwide college campus tour with a 3 day stay at John Jay College at the invitation of Dr. Spanjol and her student, John Jay Environmental Club President Kristin Craig.



All John Jay students and faculty had an opportunity to experience an inside view of slaughterhouses and factory farms with Animal Equality's virtual reality 3D viewers. According to data collected at the end of the course, every student in the class reported eliminating or significantly reducing their intake of meat and dairy products, and stopped purchasing products that contain palm oil or supporting other industries that exploit or hurt animals.

This data continues to highlight education as a key factor toward making behavioral and lifestyle changes that positively impact animals, other humans and the environment.



Dr. Spanjol is currently creating a course on Species Justice, focusing on all animal justice issues, that she will teach in the Spring 2018 semester.

An Afternoon With Humpback Whales Off Rockaway Peninsula: A Humane Ed Field Trip

by Miriam Mendoza and Eddie DiDonna

The moment the humpback whale surfaced, its spout blew straight up with the force of a small jet, and you could hear it, the animal was that close. I can only speak for myself in saying that my heart skipped several beats from the excitement of it, but just like the rolling sine-curve-like wave it reminded me of, this very large aquatic mammal rapidly vanished back into the ocean.

There was precious little time to get a thorough look. Yet, with the two humpback whales we had found ourselves between for about an hour, we got many good looks! They were black in color, a slick black gleaming like a gemstone, with patches of white, and a sparkle that moved with the animals. They emerged from below, blew their spouts, and continued their magnificent

out and in maneuvers, finally the tails coming out and going right back in.

Each appearance lasted only a handful of seconds. The more of the whales that came out of the water, the better the sighting, and there were many of those. One turned on her side and rode the surface of the water, flapping; and I could swear she was looking right at us. With some of these surfacings, the humpback stayed mostly under water. Sometimes this gigantic neighbor of ours was slow, other times fast.

Packed with those longing to see a creature very rarely seen in one's life, our boat moved along the peninsula for nearly two hours before the first sighting. That made it all the more spectacular. One realizes right off, watching these creatures swimming in and out of the water, that they know we are watching them and are even performing for us! They themselves were giving us a show and leading us along.



Naturally they are clearing out their breathing system and getting a supply of new air, and their presence there off Riis Park of Rockaway, Queens was for feeding. I thought later that the closer to the shore, the less depth, the easier for them to find food.

We were perhaps half a mile to a mile off shore, closer than I thought we would be when the commentary commenced. The whales provender includes krill and small fish, both plentiful in these waters at this time of the year. With the ocean stretching to the horizon



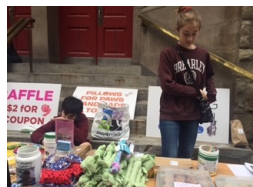
and the waves jumping around us in all directions, plus that clean, robust sea air that everyone loves to breathe, and these two humpback whales extending to us the privilege of viewing them, it was a marvelous experience from start to finish.

All participating UFT teachers found this to be a wonderful learning adventure which they could share with their students through photos and UFT/HEC handouts. We

hope that more of you will consider joining us on future field trips.

Youth Animal Protectors (YAP)

Congratulation to the **YAP Club** <http://www.yapclub.org> for their exciting annual fundraisers.



These elementary and middle school students raised an amazing \$6,001.00 in the 2016 - 2017 school year.

Monies were donated to 28 organizations that work to protect companion animals, farm animals and all animals.

Check out their website to learn more about their worthy endeavors.



Empire State Humane Voters

The New York City Council made history in June 2017 by voting 43-6 in favor of Intro 1233A! New York City will now prohibit circuses with wild animals from ever setting foot here again. We are grateful for **Council Members Rosie Mendez** and **Corey Johnson** for their tenacity in getting the bill passed. **Empire State Humane Voters** worked hard to achieve passage. If you and/or your students want to get involved in local politics designed to help animals, visit their website at <https://eshv.org> for information.



High School for Health Professions **Teens 4 Animal Rights** was invited to visit a middle school in the Bronx to talk to the students about ways in which they can help animals. **Ms. Moni Woweries** had the teens come and share with her students what the teen group has done for animals. **Vanessa Buschek**, President of T4AR, and fellow group members discussed topics in which students can be involved with. They also brought animal magazines, stickers and materials to help the kids make toys for animals.



T4AR with middle school teacher M. Woweries and students.

The T4AR club, along with their advisor, **Gail Frydkowski**, also visited Animal Haven Shelter in Soho for a tour of the shelter to learn about how animals come in/out of the system and how they are cared for.



Vanessa, Kayla, Ayana and Chelsea with their advisor at Animal Haven. The kitten had just been rescued from the streets of NYC the previous day.

The teens also ran weekly vegan bake sales to raise club funds, in which they baked their own cupcakes and cookies. Other items they sold were paw print pencils and animal print slap bracelets.



Club members participated in the outreach effort to call local councilmembers to support Intro Bill 1233, the banning exotic animals in entertainment in NYC. They also attended the council hearing on the bill in Oct 2016. They submitted a statement they wrote to be read to the council. Students from the U.S. Government class along with their teacher, **Ms. Debra Faulmino**, participated.



In late June, the group took a trip to the local zoo and took along the Born Free Zoo Check List to complete and fill out. Overall, results were mixed.

Additionally, **students from Health Profession U.S. Government class** with their **teacher, Debra Faulino** and **HSUS member Gail Frydkowski** participated in Humane Society annual Lobby Day in Albany. They visited the offices of the senators and assembly members seeking co-sponsorship for upcoming bills affecting animals.



Students from the U.S. Government class along with their teacher, Ms. Debra Faulino.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS ARE DOING TO HELP ANIMALS. Information and photos should be e-mailed to **gailfryd@aol.com** for possible use in a future newsletter.