

Caring Careers

OBJECTIVE

To be aware of the various careers available in animal welfare and how they directly or indirectly help animals.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will invite a panel of speakers to visit who represent various careers in animal welfare. Then, each student will choose an animal welfare organization to visit as a "shadow" student for a day.

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 What kinds of careers are you aware of that work directly or indirectly to benefit animals?
- 🐾 Why might animal welfare be an interesting field to work in?
- 🐾 Many of the organizations that work with animals are non-profit organizations. What does it mean to be a non-profit organization and how is it different than a for-profit agency? Think of examples of each type of organization.
- 🐾 There are some organizations that work to advocate for animals, though they may not have direct animal contact. What kinds of issues might they be advocating for or against?
- 🐾 There are some animal welfare organizations that might disagree on the methods that others use to help animals. Why would they disagree? Are they trying to reach the same basic goals? If so what are those goals?

Procedure

Invite a variety of speakers to a panel discussion for either your classroom, several classrooms, or the entire school. It would be most interesting to invite people from organizations that have a wide range of philosophies and opinions. Examples: the Sierra Club, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a wildlife rehabilitation center, Colorado's Ocean Journey, The Denver Zoo, Colorado Department of Wildlife, * Dumb Friends League. Have each speaker discuss the mission of their organization, examples of how they help animals and what careers and volunteer opportunities are available within their organization. Ask them to bring literature about their organization to share with the students.

Students should then choose an organization they would like to "shadow" or visit for a day to learn about career opportunities available (not limited to organizations represented by presentations).

*The Dumb Friends League has a Student Visitation Program available for middle school and high school students. Students attend the League's Inter-Departmental Training, which gives them an opportunity to learn about the various departments at the League, including Community Relations, Adoptions, and Healthcare. This training is held once a month on prearranged dates. Please call the Humane Education Program for more information at 303-696-4941, Ext. 398.

After the students have completed their "shadowing," have them write about their experiences and share it with the rest of the class.

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 What did you enjoy about your "shadow" experience? How does the organization you visited help animals?
- 🐾 Whether you end up choosing a career in animal welfare or not, how can you advocate for animals in your daily life?
- 🐾 What did you learn about why various animal welfare organizations disagree about each other's methods? Can these organizations work together to accomplish beneficial results on behalf of animals?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have the students present a visual report of the organization they visited. This could be through a photo essay, collage, slide presentation or videotape.