Scottish SPCA Animal WISE Partnership Pack

Supporting colleges and universities across Scotland

Forming partnerships that encourage all to
WATCH 🐾 INFORM 🐾 SUPPORT 🐾 ENCOURAGE

03000 999 999
scottishspca.org
# Contents

Welcome to the Scottish SPCA Animal WISE programme! 03  
What is Animal WISE? 04  
How Can Your College or University Get Involved? 05  
FREE Resources 06  
Virtual Learning Opportunities 07  
Visiting You 08  
Developing the Future Workforce 09  
Volunteering 10  
Careers with the Scottish SPCA 11  
Our Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centres 12  
How Can You Help? 13
Welcome to the Scottish SPCA Animal WISE!

We have been engaging with colleges and universities across Scotland for many years, delivering presentations and inspiring students to explore career options as well as expanding their knowledge.

Through our new Animal WISE initiative we want to enable greater engagement with further education establishments and deliver FREE specific, strategic and innovative opportunities through knowledge-based partnerships.

By becoming a key partner we will endeavour to support students in identifying career pathways, provide expert knowledge in animal welfare, explore volunteering opportunities and establish positive links with the Scottish SPCA.
**What is Animal WISE?**

*Animal WISE* has four key components:

1. **Watch**
   - We need to WATCH interactions between humans and animals and make sure both are kept safe. We need to increase knowledge of the basic needs of animals and how to act responsibly around them.

2. **Inform**
   - We need to INFORM people that animals matter. They are sentient, they have emotions and they deserve empathy and compassion.

3. **Encourage**
   - We need to ENCOURAGE people to report concerns to our animal helpline. We want to help the public build their knowledge and improve our own.

4. **Support**
   - We need to share our expertise and SUPPORT those who need it. We want to tackle isolation and loneliness and the link between animal cruelty and violent crime.
How Can Your College or University Get Involved?

If the Scottish SPCA can help support your course through running workshops, webinars or assisting with a project on site then please get in touch by contacting our education team on 03000 999 999 or by emailing education@scottishspca.org.

There are many benefits to be gained from developing a partnership with the Scottish SPCA.

Benefits:

- **Enhanced networking with the wider professional community.**
- **Share partnership experiences on the Scottish SPCA’s various media platforms and showcase your great achievements with us and inspire others.**
- **Participate in conferences that focus on key animal welfare issues.**
- **Discover more about human-animal interactions and identify how to protect and support the wellbeing of both.**
- **Support extra-curricular opportunities for students to extend their knowledge and improve their skills.**
- **Encourage a desire for positive change and support local community spirit.**
- **Gain insight into the care of animals in our centres by taking part in tours.**
- **Opportunities to participate in webinars covering a wide range of subjects.**
- **Support positive career pathways and highlight the value of volunteering.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: As Scotland’s leading animal welfare charity, we are always available every day of the year for support and advice.
FREE Resources

Animal Ambassadors

Our online workbook, ‘Animal Ambassadors’, can be downloaded from our website at newlink.

In this booklet, students will explore some of the animal welfare issues that we face in Scotland, from the illegal puppy trade to the use of fireworks and why it’s so important that we raise public awareness about these issues.

Participants are asked to imagine they are the newest recruit in the Scottish SPCA’s communications team. They will come up with unique campaigns to help educate the public about the impact of these key issues over five topics. Project planning, research, creating different texts and infographics to convey key messages are just some of the skills that can be developed whilst working through this fun and challenging resource.

Thousands of puppies are trafficked through the illegal trade each year in the UK. Many are kept in horrendous conditions and are often removed from their mothers too early causing distress, harm and health problems, all in the name of making a quick profit.

Puppy farming is big business across the UK and is estimated to be worth £13m in Scotland alone. Puppies are treated like a commodity, bred in huge numbers with no regard for their welfare. The conditions they are born in lead to serious medical and behavioural issues and, in many instances, death at just a few weeks old.

Sadly, the main driver behind the demand for puppies is the general public. The Scottish SPCA does what it can such as raising public awareness of these issues through its #SayNoToPuppyDealers campaign, but our only chance of stopping the supply is for demand to dry up. Our special investigations unit (SIU) investigated hundreds of reports of puppy farms last year. They have successfully raided and prosecuted puppy farms and individuals involved in the greed driven trade.

SIU spearheads Operation Delphin, a UK-wide, multi-agency taskforce with the goal of bringing heartless traders to justice. Members of the group include the Scottish SPCA, the RSPCA who are separate from the Scottish SPCA and who help animals in England and Wales and three other SPCAs (the Dublin SPCA, Irish SPCA and Ulster SPCA) who help animals over the Irish sea. It also includes Dumfries & Galloway Council, HMRC, Stenaline and Police Scotland. The group has had success in identifying puppy farms and catching dealers moving pups around – but we need your support.
Virtual Learning Opportunities

We want to make sure that our engagement with students is ongoing, which is why we will be introducing an exciting new digital platform. Digital technologies will enable greater engagement and reach amongst students. It will provide you with the flexibility to fit learning around classes and lectures and allow students to be able to progress at their own rate. Our virtual learning is designed to complement campus based teaching and will cover a wide range of subjects surrounding Animal Welfare and related topics.

Virtual learning opportunities will include

- Recorded lectures.
- Live webinars.
- Questions and answer sessions.
- Videos.
- Interactive learning modules.
- Virtual talks and presentations to local groups.
Our experienced and knowledgeable staff can deliver a range of direct engagements; from attending careers events, informal chats and specific topic related presentations suitable to your students’ requirements.

To arrange for one of our team to attend your college or university, please contact our education team on 03000 999 999 or email education@scottishspca.org
Developing the Future Workforce

We have worked hard to ensure we provide a sequence of activities that students can engage in that provide the building blocks for career readiness. This involves exploring career options and extra-curricular activities including volunteering and college/university based learning opportunities.

We want to assist in preparing students with the skills necessary for a specific type of job within the animal welfare sector but also highlight the important roles of other departments who work behind the scenes. We want to prioritise the value of knowledge and skills development, as well as addressing the hiring demands of employers.

Students that engage with activities the Scottish SPCA has to offer are given the opportunity to develop existing attributes such as:

- Self-awareness.
- Respect for animals and people.
- Skills of enquiry and critical thinking and the ability to apply these to animal welfare issues.
- The ability to communicate in different ways and settings.
- An appreciation of a wide range of animals found in Scotland and their environment.
- A sense of injustice and a commitment to tackling it.
- A desire to protect our environment.
- Empathy and compassion.
- Belief that animals are sentient beings.
- Skills in problem solving.
- Creativity.
- Enterprise opportunities.
- An understanding of the link between animal and human health and wellbeing.
Volunteering

We have a strong network of enthusiastic fundraising volunteers and dedicated supporters and are keen to build on this and work in close partnership with all our communities. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in animal welfare and is a rewarding way to spend some of your free time and can also assist in academic studies. Our volunteers make such a difference in the work we do to prevent cruelty, promote kindness and to alleviate the suffering of animals. They support us year round, in many different ways across our animal rescue and rehoming centres, veterinary services, inspectorate, not to mention our National Wildlife Rescue centre and headquarters.

Students can get a chance to try out something new and:

- **Gain a great sense of achievement.**
- **Do something useful and rewarding.**
- **Contribute to the wellbeing of Scotland’s animals.**
- **Be part of a dedicated and professional team.**
- **Develop both skills and confidence.**

Our volunteering programme is open to anyone aged 16 or over although, for some of our roles, different age restrictions apply depending upon the skills and experience required. We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Our Equality & Diversity Policy ensures we never discriminate in our volunteering recruitment.

Students under the age of 16 may wish to get involved through our Work Experience Programme.
Our team and extended family of volunteers work tirelessly every day to champion animal welfare and wellbeing across Scotland. From rescuing and caring for animals in need, to finding them loving homes, releasing animals back into the wild, educating the public and helping to bring those who are cruel to animals to justice, we are passionate about animal welfare.

Working with Scotland's animal welfare charity is rewarding and fulfilling. We are a successful, modern and progressive charity with exciting plans for the future. We want to inspire students to build careers within the animal sector and to gain the relevant skills and knowledge to prepare them for the future and the world of work. That's why our resources and online training help develop the skills that we and other employers would look for in any applicant. Such as:

- Verbal and written communication skills.
- Attention to detail.
- The ability to deal confidently and confidentially with people both internally and externally.
- Ability to stay calm under pressure.
- The ability to work to tight deadlines and prioritise workload.
- ICT skills and a working knowledge of a variety of software.
Our Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centres

We care for around 20,000 animals a year across our nine animal rescue and rehoming centres, which are located throughout Scotland.

We want to show people first-hand the amazing work we do and give them the chance to meet all the wonderful animals within our care. Our teams look after a variety of animals from furry companions such as cats and dogs to feathered friends and even scaly reptiles. Our experienced animal care staff can demonstrate what it’s really like to care for all of our animals and the hard work it entails. If you would like to arrange a visit then please call our animal helpline on 03000 999 999 or email education@scottishspca.org.

Alternatively we can also offer virtual tours, giving students a glimpse at what goes on inside our centres and a chance to ask questions about particular animals or the work that we do.

Please be aware that our priority at the centres is always animal welfare and any visits will respect the needs of the animals in our care.
How Can You Help?

Go Wild for Wildlife

Host a wildlife themed fundraiser for Scotland’s animals!

Scotland is a beautiful country filled with iconic wildlife but they need your help.

Every year, the Scottish SPCA rescues over 10,000 wild animals and they are taken to our one-of-a-kind wildlife hospital. Our resources are stretched to the limit but the casualties keep coming in and each animal needs specialist treatment and care before they can be released into the wild.

By hosting your wildlife themed fundraiser, you’ll be helping ensure that animals across Scotland can continue to receive the care they need from the Scottish SPCA.

It's free to sign up, so get ready to Go Wild for Wildlife.

How to Go Wild for Wildlife

You can choose to go wild for wildlife in your home, in your garden, on your doorstep or online. Make sure you can stay safe by following current guidelines on social distancing, hygiene and meeting others.

Find out more and sign up here: https://www.scottishspca.org/GoWild