



Kind vs. Cruel

Subject: Treating animals with kindness

Grade Levels: Pre-school – 5th grade

Time: 15-20 min

Audience Size: any

Objectives:

- Students will understand the difference between the words “kind” and “cruel”
- Students will understand how to treat animals with kindness
- Students will learn how to report animal cruelty

Materials:

- 6 foam boards with the following scenarios written or drawn on the front
 - A child throwing rocks at squirrels (cruel)
 - Students raising money for a local animal shelter (kind)
 - NOT pulling a cat’s tail (kind)
 - A child bragging about how he likes to squish bugs (cruel)
 - Telling your parent about a stray dog/cat you saw on the way home (kind)
 - Leaving your dog outside in the rain/snow (cruel)
- On the back of each board, write one letter from the words BE KIND. It may be necessary to number each board to make sure they stay in order.

Introduction:

What are some synonyms for the words “kind” and “cruel”? (Solicit audience responses.) Write these words on a board or large pad of paper. Wow, we’ve got a lot of words here...do you think you should be “kind” or “cruel” to animals? Let’s test your knowledge and see if you can tell me which situations are kind and which are cruel!

Procedure:

1. Ask for a 6 volunteers and have them come to the front of the room. Hand each volunteer one of the 6 foam boards. Each volunteer should hold the board so the group can read the scenario on the front. Keep in mind that the boards should be kept in order so when the cards are flipped around at the end, they will spell “BE KIND.”
2. Have a student in the audience read the scenario on the first card.
3. Ask the student or the entire group if the scenario is “Cruel” or Kind.” Correct them if they get the answer wrong and explain why. If a situation is “Cruel,”

- remind the students that they should always tell an adult if they suspect someone is being cruel to animals.
4. Continue on with all of the boards.
 5. Once board 6 has been read, tell the group that there is a secret message behind the boards and in a minute we'll ask the volunteers to flip the cards over so we can all read it together.
 6. On the count of 3, have the volunteers flip over the cards and have the group yell out "BE KIND."