

December 11, 2023

Trevor Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Yakima School District

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Greene:

I'm writing from [TeachKind](#), PETA's humane education division, which works with schools across the country to promote compassion for animals. We have been following the string of [reports](#) of animal abuse in the Yakima community and are offering our resources and support, including donating a box of books about kindness to animals to each of the elementary schools in your district.

In light of these horrific ongoing cases, it's vital for your schools to show unequivocally that cruelty to animals is never acceptable and to help young learners respect all sentient beings by showing them that animals are *someone*, not *something*. Research indicates that many young people have witnessed animal abuse and that children who have observed acts of cruelty to animals are at an increased risk of perpetuating such violence, including against their peers, underscoring the pressing need for schools to adopt proactive, [trauma-informed strategies](#), such as integrating humane education into their curricula.

To support this meaningful work without burdening your budget, we are pleased to provide Yakima School District with a range of resources that encourage compassion for animals, entirely free of charge. Along with a selection of TeachKind materials, including our popular "All About Animals" [Bilingual Activity Book](#), we'd love to send an assortment of empathy-building books including [Buddy Unchained](#), [Maverick and Me](#), [Hobbes Goes Home](#), [Junebug: No Life Too Small](#), and more, for every elementary school in the Yakima district.

As [former educators](#), we know that teaching children the importance of kindness and compassion helps tomorrow's leaders become responsible, critically thinking individuals who consider the wants and needs of all others, not just those who look and behave like them. Your district's [commitment to fostering character education](#) in its students is admirable, and we'd be pleased to help enhance your existing programming.

Our resources can equip your staff members with the tools they need to foster prosocial behavior, can help prevent future incidents of cruelty to animals in your community, and can even [improve students' academic performance](#). And they can be used to meet Common Core standards while simultaneously inspiring students to become conscientious and compassionate thinkers—something we like to call "feeding two birds with one scone."

On behalf of PETA and our many members and supporters who live in Washington, thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Julie Everett (she/her)
Correspondence Coordinator
[TeachKind](#) | PETA's Humane Education Division

Cc: Dr. Jenny Rodriquez, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning ([REDACTED])
Kirsten Fitterer, Executive Director of Communications and Engagement ([REDACTED])

