

## Educational Law Pertaining to the Humane Education

*"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man" ~ Charles Darwin*

### *History Of Humane Education in New York*

In 1917, New York enacted Ed Law § 700, requiring all elementary schools wholly or partly supported by public funds to give instruction "in the humane treatment and protection of animals and birds and the role they play in the economy of nature." Ed Law § 700 was renumbered as Ed Law § 809 in 1947 and it was substantively amended in 1976 to require elementary schools to teach students "the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty." In 1994, New York added additional requirements relating to the study and care of live animals, the dissection of animals, the treatment of vertebrates, and reporting. In 1976, the New York State Education Department published *The Humane Treatment of Animals: A Guide for Elementary Teachers*.

### *Instructional Goals of Humane Education Law 809*

New York is one of thirteen states, that have a humane education law. In nine such states, which includes New York, the provision of humane education is mandatory. The primary goals of humane education are to (1) promote an understanding of the sociological and psychological dimensions of animal abuse and deter violence; (2) cultivate empathy and compassion for animals; and (3) promote environmental conservation.

### *Resources*

Attached is a bibliography of recommended read alouds for grades K-5 which relate to the goals of humane education.

For suggested lesson plans, activities, home school projects, workshops, and additional booklists visit the NY State Curriculum Guide at <http://humaneeducationteacher.org/ny%20humane%20curriculum.html>.