



AGE GROUP



2B. HOW WE CARE (PETS, FARMS, AND BEYOND)

GOAL: Campers will understand that compassion is the underlying value that informs proper animal care. However, our compassion does not always translate from our care of pets to our care of farm animals and other creatures.

MATERIALS: Paper, pencils, materials needed for pets/farm animals (include props that inspire creativity; like using a jump rope for a fence, etc).

OUTPUT:

- **ZERAIM:** Write a song together about having happy animals.
- **SHORESHIM:** Write a song about what animals need.
- **NEVATIM:** Create a healthy living space (small scale, with props) for animals of camper’s choosing (Tigers, Monkeys, Cows, etc—something not in camp).

ACTIVITY

1. Stir up conversation about animal care by asking about companion animals (1-2 minutes):
 - Who has a companion animal? What are some things you do to take care of them? What are their needs? Are people always able to give their companion animals everything they need?
2. **ROUND 1:** Split the group into two: half the campers pretend to be companion animals, half are caretakers. Caretakers must determine what their “animal” is, and what it needs, without words.
 - Campers can choose whatever animals they want to be (zoo, farm, pet, etc).
 - Animals: What kind of animal do you want to be? How do you communicate to your caretaker what you need?
 - Caretakers: Where are you taking care of an animal? (Home taking care of companion animals, zookeeper, farmer, scuba diver...) How do you figure out what your animal needs (and provide them)? Food, shelter, water, climate, safety, pooping... Are you able to

give your animal everything it needs? If not, should you be keeping this animal?

3. **ROUND 2:** Reverse roles and create new identities, repeat whole process.
4. Discussion about needs: What did you learn from being an animal? What did you learn from being a human caretaker? What was hard? What was easy?
5. Explain that there are virtually no federal laws that protect the well-being of farmed animals. Standards of care are actually left up to the industry to decide. So if a standard involves putting an animal in a crate for its whole life, then the whole industry has a right to claim that that is humane. There are at least some anti-cruelty laws in every state, and most work to protect pets/companion animals. Few also include farmed animals.
6. **DISCUSS:** If animals are not protected as living things, they are treated and protected as property. What does that mean for pets and what does that mean for farm animals?

PARTING MESSAGE: What happens to our animals when we see them as property and not as living creatures? What happens to us, when we treat animals as property and not as living creatures?

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ADDITIONAL RELEVANT SOURCES ACCOMPANY “2A WHAT A GOAT (OR CHICKEN) WANTS.”

SOURCE: *Midrash Tanhuma Noah 6*

Just as God shows compassion to human beings, God shows compassion to animals, as it is written, “God’s mercies are upon all God’s works.” (*Psalm 145:9*)

אַבְלֵ הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא, כְּשֵׁם שֶׁרַחֲמָיו עַל
הָאָדָם, כֵּן רַחֲמָיו עַל הַבְּהֵמָה, שְׁנֵאָמַר:
”וְרַחֲמָיו, עַל-כָּל-מַעֲשָׂיו”

ASK: Do farm animals count within this? What compassion can we offer them?

SOURCE: *Background information from Melissa Hoffman Humane Education and Program Specialist*
JEWISH INITIATIVE FOR ANIMALS (JIFA), FARM FORWARD

“U.S. law provides more generous laws for animal protection for pets than for farm animals.”

FEDERAL LAW

- The Animal Welfare Act was established in 1966 and originally, the law only applied to certain mammals used in research.
- The law has been revised several times over the years.
- When the Animal Welfare Act was amended in 1970, the definition of “animal” was expanded to include all **warm-blooded animals** generally used for research, testing, experimentation or exhibition, or as pets, but it clearly **excluded farm animals**, including horses, livestock and poultry. It also **purposely excluded rats, mice, and birds bred for research**.
- **Pet owners, agriculture use and retail pet stores are NOT under the control of the federal law.**
- Farm animals are regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) **only when used in biomedical research, testing, teaching and exhibition**. Farm animals used for food and fiber or for food and fiber research are not regulated under the AWA.

STATE LAW

- Virtually every state has an anti-cruelty statute, but the majority of farmed animal suffering is **exempt** from state criminal anti-cruelty laws. **Cruelty laws vary (A LOT!) by state, and may apply to companion animals, wildlife, etc—including farmed animals kept as pets.**
- **Farm animal confinement statutes also vary by state.** CFE’s (common farming exemptions) make any method of raising farm animals legal, as long as it is commonly practiced within the industry. This means that the corporations, not the government or any other authority, are the ones who get to decide whether the way they treat animals is cruel or not. For example, “hacking off unwanted appendages with no painkillers...” as is often done when de-beaking chickens and castrating steers. In the case of Nevada’s, the law even states that “the State’s welfare law’s cannot be enforced to interfere with established methods of animal husbandry...”

SOURCE: <https://awic.nal.usda.gov/farm-animals>

SOURCE: <http://www.navs.org/legal/animal-welfare-act>

SOURCE: <http://aldf.org/resources/advocating-for-animals/farmed-animals-and-the-law/>