# SPCA Serving Erie County

# *PACK*

## Manual and Resource Guide

*People and Animals Connected through Kindness*

Youth working together, changing lives!

# *PACK* Manual and Resource Guide

Do you love animals? Do you want to help change the lives of animals and people in our community? If so, starting a club at your school, in your summer camp, or even at your afterschool program is easy. The SPCA Serving Erie County wants to help you do this. This resource guide will give you ideas, tips, and tools that you can use to start your own *PACK* or club today.

What does *PACK* stand for? *PACK* is an acronym which actually stands for *People and Animals Connected through Kindness.* One of the main missions of the SPCA is to promote the humane treatment of all animals and people. Forming your own animal club is one way that you can help ensure that both animals and people are being treated properly. You can be the voice of others by promoting positive changes in our community through your actions and by teaching others about important issues that people and animals face.

What is *PACK*? *PACK* is a resource guide that you can use to help you learn all about the different pieces of forming your own animal club. You will find basic building blocks needed to form your club, topics to explore, club resources, and also important contact information for SPCA presentations, shelter tours, volunteer programs, and fundraising opportunities that exist for you club.

Even though each *PACK* is formed by youth in their school, summer camp, or afterschool program, the SPCA is here to help. If you have any questions about forming your own *PACK* after reviewing and using this guide, call Pamela Hylinger, Director of Humane Education, 629-3530.

*Are you excited? Your friends at the SPCA are. So, let's begin!*

# *PACK*

Any student, educator, or administrator can easily form a *PACK*. Use these suggestions and steps to help you.

1. Make some noise: Are there others who feel the way that you do about wanting to help animals? If so, see if they want to help start a club. Begin to talk and think about what it is that you want to accomplish or do as a club.

2. Work with your school: Meet with your principal or a teacher. Your club will need an adult present for all of your meetings and who can help your *PACK*. Maybe some parents or guardians would even be interested in helping! Before you start working as a club, make sure you have permission from your principal.

3. Have a plan: Work with your principal or a teacher to choose a day and time to hold your first meeting. Invite others to come and begin talking about all of your ideas and the ideas that other students have.

4. Form your *PACK*: Get organized by identifying *PACK* members, a meeting place or "den", designating tasks or jobs, and creating club resources. Working as a *PACK* will enable your meetings, projects, and plans to run more smoothly.

5. Pick a subject: Begin your efforts as a club by starting to do your research. Think of topics that you'd like to explore, projects, and other ways that you will work together throughout the year to help both animals and people.

- *Here's a helpful tip!* Check out the Humane Society of the United States Youth at www.humaneteen.org to learn more about animal clubs and projects.

Your *PACK* should be very proud! Helping others is an amazing act of kindness, compassion, and respect. Your friends at the SPCA thank you for all of your humane actions and efforts. *United, we will pawsitively change the lives of people and animals!*

# *PACK* Plans

Once the club is formed, where do you begin? What is the first project or topic that you would like to explore? Are you having trouble thinking of issues that you'd like to cover as club? Don't worry! Your friends at the SPCA are here to help.

## *PACK Journal*

With lots of helpful resources and ideas, check out the SPCA's *PACK Journal*. This journal will help your club think of objectives, jobs, and even questions if you'd like to interview or arrange presentations from animal related service providers. Visiting pieces like *Touching on the Topics* can help you and your *PACK* brainstorm different topics that you'd like to learn more about. Use this as a guide to help you make plans throughout the year.

## *Fundraising*

After you *PACK* is up and running, you may be interested in fundraising. Check out *The SPCA Serving Erie County's Official Kids Fundraising Manual* at YourSPCA.org. There are lots of great ideas for fundraising projects. If you have any questions, contact Bethany Kloc, Special Events Coordinator, at 629-3532.

## Shelter Tours

Would your *PACK* like to visit the SPCA? If so, shelter tours require 6 weeks scheduling notice and are conducted on Tuesday or Thursday evenings. To schedule a tour, please call a Humane Educator, at 799-8651. *Please note: an adult chaperone or club leader must accompany your PACK.*

## Humane Poster and Creative Writing Competition

Conducted annually, this competition is open to all schools, afterschool programs, home schools, Sunday schools, and troops in Erie County. To learn more, contact a Humane Educator at 629-3538 or visit the Humane Education Department at YourSPCA.org for contest details and brochures.

# *PACK* Plans, continued

## Presentations

Do you want to learn more about the SPCA or a specific animal related topic? Presentations are scheduled 6 weeks in advance and are based upon availability. To learn more, please call a Humane Educator, at 799-8651.

## Volunteering

Your club is on a mission to help others. One way to do that is by volunteering. For individual high school students, check out our *Youth Volunteer Program*. Space is limited, so if your club wants to volunteer or help the SPCA, think about one of our fundraising projects in *The SPCA Serving Erie County's Official Kids Fundraising Manual*. For questions or to learn more about volunteering contact Kelly Lindstrom, Director of Volunteer Services, at 629-3503.

## The Latest Mews

*Kids' View: The Latest Mews* is an online newsletter for anyone to check out. Learn more about the SPCA, the animals we help, and our community by visiting YourSPCA.org and checking out *The Latest Mews*!

## Current Events

Does your pack want to keep up-to-date with the latest animal related events and stories? Check out YourSPCA.org. We constantly update our site with the latest news, breaking stories, upcoming fundraisers, and SPCA events.

Remember to check out the newspapers and your local news too. Those can help your *PACK* learn more about animals and people in both our community and throughout the world.

SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY
SINCE 1867

# Is Your *PACK* Ready to Make Tracks?

Does your *PACK* want to become part of the *SPCA's Official Youth PACKs*? To receive an official *SPCA's PACK Member Certificate,* complete and return this form to:

The SPCA Serving Erie County
Attn: Pamela Hylinger, Director of Humane Education
205 Ensminger Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Now that your *PACK* is ready, get moving! Don't forget to check out the SPCA's *Pack Journal* and *Kids' View: The Latest Mews* at YourSPCA.org. These helpful resources can provide your *PACK* with great ideas and exciting activities.

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What school or agency does your *PACK* belong to? ______________________________
NAME

______________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE PHONE NUMBER

What is the name of your *PACK's* supervising adult? ____________________________

How many students are in your *PACK*? ______________________________________

What grades are the students in? ___________________________________________

Please describe what your *PACK* is doing to help animals and people in our community? ______________________________________________________________

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What else would you like us to know about your *PACK*? __________________________

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