

Animal Matters



IN THE NEWS...

Badger Cull

In April, the Welsh Assembly announced that a cull of badgers is to take place in Wales as part of a plan intended to eradicate tuberculosis in cattle. Although the location and details have yet to be decided, it is expected that every badger within the designated areas will be killed over a period of years. This move is popular with farmers, who have long blamed badgers for spreading bovine tuberculosis (bTB) to cattle. Wildlife and animal welfare groups disagree and point out that public opinion is against the cull. In February, the government-appointed Independent Scientific Group on bTB published a report that came out on the side of the welfarists. 'Badger culling', it concluded, 'can make no meaningful contribution to cattle TB control in Britain.'

See our website for links to newspaper reports on the issue, plus links to related sites giving both sides of the debate. See overleaf for suggested lesson ideas.

New rules for pet owners

From September 2008, pet owners in Switzerland will be forced to think twice before purchasing a companion animal. Under new legislation designed to protect animals, dog owners will have to take courses and pass tests, while social animals such as guinea pigs and budgies will have to be kept in groups of two or more. The new law will also target the livestock industry, requiring farmers who keep more than three pigs, five horses, 10 sheep, 150 egg-laying hens or 200 chicks to undertake a course on animal welfare.

For more information, see the Animal Aid website (news and press section).



Youth protest against seal cull

On March 29, the day after the 2008 Canadian seal hunt began, Animal Aid youth members met up in Trafalgar Square to protest. They leafleted members of the public and collected signatures for our youth group petition against the needless killing of seals.

The quota for this year's kill was set at 275,000, a rise of 5,000 on last year. Although the Canadian government introduced new regulations in an attempt to make the killing more 'humane', observers witnessed these being routinely ignored – including the skinning of animals alive. Shockingly, this barbarity took place to produce furs that are at a very low value at market. Pelts are selling for just £5-£15 each.

See our website for a role-play based on the seal hunting issue.



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School talks

Inviting a guest speaker into your classroom is an ideal way to cover many aspects of the curriculum in English, citizenship, food technology and RE. Our speakers are experienced in giving talks on a range of issues, including animal rights in general or specific subjects such as animal experiments, factory farming and vegetarianism. They can adapt their talk to suit any secondary school groups. To find out more, or to book a free talk, phone Carole on 01732 364546 ext 234, or see our website.

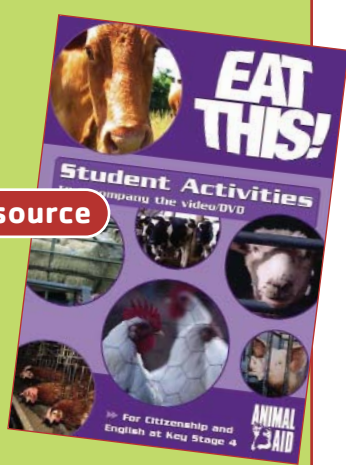


To order FREE copies of any Animal Aid resources, contact the Animal Aid Education Department: Tel: 01732 364546 ext 221 Email: education@animalaid.co.uk To view or download pdfs, see our website: www.animalaid.org.uk/education

Resources

Eat This! student resource

The student activity booklet that accompanies our highly acclaimed *Eat This!* film has been updated. It contains several lesson plans for KS4 English and citizenship and is ideal for promoting discussion and debate on the highly topical question of how we rear animals for food. Versions of worksheets and activities suitable for use on interactive whiteboards are now also available on our website.



Seal cull factsheet

This student factsheet can be photocopied. It gives background information on the seal cull and answers many of the questions frequently raised. Why are seals killed? Is it necessary? Is it cruel? What can you do to stop it?



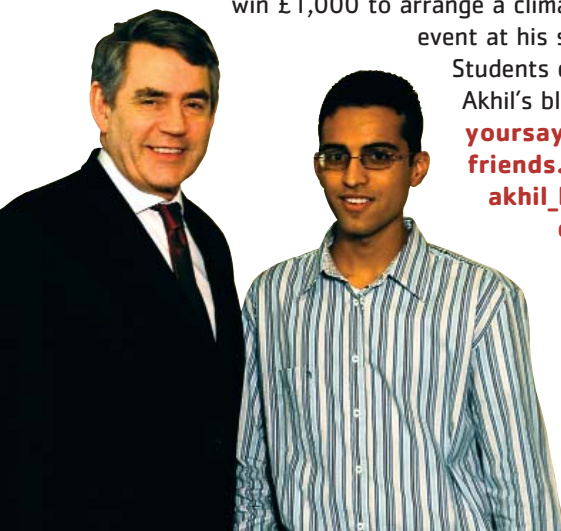
Contact us for a copy or download from the Animal Aid website.

Active kids

Animal Aid youth contact, Akhil Amlani, is DEFRA's London Climate Change Champion over the next year. He recently met Gordon Brown to discuss government policies to combat climate change.

As well as meeting the Prime Minister, Akhil will attend the European Climate Change Expedition and is set to win £1,000 to arrange a climate change event at his school.

Students can visit Akhil's blog at yoursay.footprintfriends.com/blogs/akhil_london_champ_08



CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES:

Mark White, Animal Aid Education Department, The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1AW. Tel: 01732 364546 ext 221 (resource orders), ext 234 (talk requests) & ext 230 (other queries). Email: education@animalaid.co.uk

School group

Enterprising students at Queen Katherine School in Cumbria have formed an Animal Aid group to campaign against cruelty.

They set up an animal research information stall in the school library and collected more than 300 signatures on a petition calling for an end to such research. This will eventually be sent to Procter and Gamble (P&G), the multinational company that tests many of its household products on animals. The group also wrote letters to their MP, the Prime Minister and P&G, calling for an end to animal testing.

If there are any students you know who would like to get involved in campaigning for animals, please tell them to email youth@animalaid.co.uk for information and ideas on what they can do to help.

Lesson Ideas

Citizenship KS3

The Welsh Assembly has announced that a cull of badgers will take place in Wales. Ask students to role-play a TV debate on the issue. Groups could include:

For: National Farmers' Union Cymru (Wales) and Welsh Assembly.
Against: Animal Aid and Badger Trust or RSPCA.

Impartial: DEFRA and Welsh residents

At the end of the discussion, ask students to write letters or to email Elin Jones, Welsh Assembly Minister for Rural Affairs, expressing their views on the matter. **See the Animal Aid website for useful links.**



English KS3/4 Download and analyse sample news reports on the badger cull. See the Animal Aid website for links to articles originally published on the BBC, RSPCA, Daily Telegraph and Guardian websites.

English KS4 *Eat This!* resource, lesson 1: Unit 9, *Campaigning Media*, plus lesson 2: Unit 10, *Design a Campaign Leaflet*. Contact Animal Aid for class sets of sample leaflets to analyse for Unit 9. Students can use the Powerpoint leaflet design template from the Animal Aid website to produce their own finished leaflets.

RE KS3 Invite a speaker from Animal Aid to give a talk outlining the moral and ethical case for animal rights and summarising the views of the different world religions on the relationship between people and non-human animals. Religion, Ethics and Animals student factsheet available from Animal Aid. **Contact us for a copy or download from the Animal Aid website.**