Spotlighting Animal Actors

Lights, camera, action! Shine the spotlight on the importance of treating animal actors with kindness and respect with these fun activities.

Animals on the Screen

Building prior knowledge

In advance, make a copy for yourself and each child of the "No Animals Were Harmed" cards provided. Ask little ones where they might see animals. You're sure to hear responses such as at the zoo, in people's homes, and in the forest. Next, ask students if they might see animals in a movie or a TV show. Encourage them to name movies or TV shows that have animals in them. Then explain that it's good to know that animals who act are treated kindly during filming. Hold up the "No Animals Were Harmed" card and explain that if they see this picture at the end of a movie or show, they know the animals who acted in it were treated with care. Next, give each child a card. Then lead children in singing the song shown, holding up the card when indicated in the third line. Finally, have students take the cards home to explain the symbol to their families!

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you see a movie or a TV show
And it has a dog or kangaroo or crow;
When you see this, you can tell
That they all were treated well.
What a happy thing for all of us to know!

Stuffed Toy Stars

Role-playing

With this engaging center, little ones can imitate humane practices on a movie set! Stock a center with role-playing props such as those listed below. To make a simple pretend movie camera prop, attach a circular plastic container (such as a yogurt container) to a box so it resembles a lens. Also attach sticky dot buttons to the box. Invite youngsters to visit the center and pretend to film and take care of the animal actors.

Suggested props:

stuffed toy animals
toy doctor (veterinarian) kit
unused pet toys
food and water bowls
pet carrier
clipboard and pencil

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AMERICAN HUMANE
FIRST TO SERVE®

"No Animals Were Harmed"®

Matching pictures

This game helps youngsters identify the "No Animals Were Harmed"® logo shown during the end credits of a movie or TV show. Cut out two copies of the cards provided and place them facedown. Gather a small group of children around the cards. Prompt a child to turn over two cards. If they match, encourage students to make a sound like the animal on the cards. If the cards don't match, have the child flip them back over. If a student makes a match with the "No Animals Were Harmed"® cards, have students chant, "No animals were harmed!" Reinforce that students should look for this symbol during the credits of a movie or TV show so they will know if the animal actors were treated with caring and kindness.

How Many Words?

Phonological awareness, building vocabulary

Reinforce literacy skills and animal kindness in one activity! Gather two students and give each child four copies of the "No Animals Were Harmed" cards provided. Have her place her four cards in a row. Then encourage her to say the phrase "No animals were harmed" and slide one card forward for each word, from left to right. Next, have students count the cards they slid forward, noting that they said four words. Have them move the cards back to their original positions. Then repeat the activity with the suggested phrases below.

Suggested phrases:
Protect animals.
We love animals.
Take care of animals.
Be kind to animals.

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