

FOREWORD

By

Doris Day

When I learned about Pet Orphans' Humane Education program, I knew our Doris Day Animal Foundation should be involved.

The practice of educating thousands of students about animals and how they relate to our lives is a technique that benefits children and animals now and all of us in the future. We have long been involved with programs to educate people about the research that links children abusing animals to adult violence toward other people and animals.

It is astounding to look back at the childhoods of society's worst criminals – including mass murderers – and find that they abused animals as children. The only consolation is that, hopefully, the knowledge can eliminate this horrendous behavior in the future.

This violence connection gives parents, educators, and social and animal welfare experts a place in educating students. The aim is to avoid more problems in the future. Pet Orphans has a way to do that.

The more all of us know about the unique relationships and links between people and animals, the more humane our society becomes. Each child who learns these important life lessons becomes an ambassador to more children, his or her family and others. Therefore, Pet Orphans' outreach goes so much further than the thousands of students who are directly exposed to the humane education programs.

My own interest in teaching children about the animal-human connection comes from personal experience. I had a very special little dog when I was a child. My father and I disagreed about how an animal should be treated, and my dog was forced to sleep in our basement instead of with the family. I thought that was especially cruel, and I know that some of my empathy for and understanding of animals and how they relate to people came from how much I learned from my father's bad example.

We will not know how many other children, adults and animals will be helped as a result of humane education, but we can be sure that we will have better children and adults as a result of school programs such as Pet Orphans provides.

The organization is about to reach its 100,000th person through this program. I am proud that the Doris Day Animal Foundation can help accelerate the education and be part of giving our children the knowledge and experiences to become better adults.

Thank you to the teachers, administrators, parents and schools for sharing this program with your children.

Thanks for caring,

Doris Day

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