

## BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

### 6. KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Welcome the children and see that they are comfortable. Choose some children to say prayers. Ask who can remember any of the words learned in the previous lesson, rather than words they may have learned at home or when they attend Bahá'í Children's Classes. Praise those children who can remember the words. Revise the quote learned in the last lesson, if it is not known.

Today we are going to talk about kindness to animals. Who has a pet at home? How are you kind to your pet? How do you look after your pet? (Let several children tell you) Yes, we need to make sure that our pet has food to eat, water to drink and a good place to sleep.

'Abdu'l-Bahá reminds us that we must be kind to every living creature. Some creatures are small and some are big, but we must be kind to them all. Some people do not understand that animals share the same feelings as we do. Animals get tired and need rest. They get thirsty and need water. They get hungry and need food. They feel pain just like we do, yet some people beat animals. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that it was worse to hurt animals than humans because the animals can't cry out and they can't complain. These are his words: **"Show forth the utmost consideration to the animal, and . . . be even kinder to him than to your fellow man. Train your children from their earliest days to be infinitely tender and loving to animals. If an animal is sick, let the children try to heal it, if it be hungry, let them feed it, if thirsty, let them quench its thirst, if weary, let them see that it rests."** SWAB p. 159

But 'Abdu'l-Bahá does warn us to avoid harmful animals like wolves and snakes. This does not mean that we should harm them, but just let them go on their way. They too are God's creation.

#### GROUP A

Let the children draw animals they know or animals of their own creation, for example monsters, fluffy creatures or dinosaurs.

#### GROUPS B and C "Animal Consequences"

Sit the children in a circle, and give each child a strip of paper about 50X200 cm. and a pencil. Each child should draw an animal head and neck, at the top of their paper and fold the paper over so that only the neck shows. When all the children are finished, tell them to pass the paper to the child on their left. Now draw a body attached to the neck and draw some legs. Fold the paper over so that only the legs show. Pass to the left. Draw some feet onto the legs and then pass to the left. Now all open their papers and see what funny animals you have drawn. If there is time, repeat, with children drawing differently from the first time.

#### OR

Give each child a piece of paper and suggest that they have been given a pet dog. Get the children to write down how would they look after it and draw pictures of their favourite animals.

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### **TO FINISH**

Tidy up the room and put rubbish in a rubbish container. Have the children sit quietly for the closing prayers. Remind the children to be kind to animals.