

Learning to Care

The *Learning to Care Humane Education Program* is a program run by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) which provides learning materials of all kinds to schools and to the public. The ASPCA believes that children who learn to care about animals and develop a respect for all life will be more respectful of each other and grow up to be more compassionate adults. The goals of this program are to promote the appreciation, recognition, non-invasive study and understanding of animals.

This program also promotes books like *Out of the Darkness: The Story of Mary Ellen Wilson*. This is the true story of the first abused child in America to be removed from her home. In 1874, the ASPCA's founder, Henry Bergh and Etta Wheeler, a Methodist Social Worker stepped in when no one else would. At the time of the removal from her home, the only anti-cruelty organization that existed, the ASPCA, was for animals - not children. Other books that can be purchased through the ASPCA are *Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection*, *Patterns of Abuse: Exploding the Cycle*, and many other powerful and thought-provoking books and articles relating to the human/animal relationship.

There are also lighthearted and happy stories for all ages, animal care guides, first aid for pets booklets, articles, manuals, videos, kits and training materials as well as Teacher and Library Packages.

If considering cats and dogs only, a close approximation to the number, living within the Brigham City limits, would be about 5,600. This number would be the amount living in close relationship to their human families and would not include feral cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, other pets or drop offs and strays. We could all stand to learn a bit more about animals, even if only to understand our neighbors who keep them.

Following are some references to obtaining the materials talked about above: www.asPCA.org, www.animaland.org, www.asPCA.org/catalog. Questions may be emailed to education@asPCA.org or by calling (212) 860-3435. The Brigham City Library also has a reference booklet placed by Animal Control as well as other books and resources.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Animal Control at (435) 734-6650 and thank you for caring.