

BBC School Report

Animal Cruelty and Welfare



Animal cruelty, also known as animal abuse or neglect, is at a severe high in the UK. On average every 30 seconds, someone phones the RSPCA in England and Wales on the RSPCA's 'cruelty line'. Animal cruelty can be anything from pet neglect to mass hoarding.

People's views on the matter are quite varied, however, we interviewed a dog rescue called 'Finding Furever Homes' and asked them a few questions on animal cruelty. Their response suggested "Not enough is being done" and they believed "The punishment does not fit the crime". They then went on to follow that "Society also needs to recognize that certain activities such as greyhound racing, as an industry, is cruel" and "This matter could be resolved if someone actually cared enough to make the punishment fit the crime." Their views, as a rescue, revolved around 'the punishment not fitting the crime' and dogs 'are left with physical and mental scarring'.



An issue that many believe is an entertainment sport, is greyhound racing. Of course, greyhounds are renowned for their chasing instincts and natural ability to run fast, but this sport can become very cruel to greyhounds. As part of the interview with 'Finding Furever Homes' they brought up the subject of greyhound racing. They believed that "their lives are limited and sometimes ended very abruptly when they are no longer able to generate money for the owner". This is the way lots of racing greyhounds are treated when they retire and are filling up dog rescues around the country. In most cases, lots of vulnerable dogs are having a short-lived racing career and ending up in rescues.

The high street, cosmetic shop 'Lush' have articles on their website about their views on animal testing and how they source their products. They state they "do not test on animals" and "do not use materials that contain animal derivatives". The shop has become very popular because of this and also caters for vegetarians because of their use of raw materials. They also state that they will "not knowingly purchase ingredients from suppliers" and also have a page on 'votes for a cruelty free future' based on a true story, of a rescue fox involved in fox hunting.

As part of an interview we conducted at our school, we asked some people what their views were on this matter. Some students said "Animal cruelty is when animals are hurt or harmed". We also asked them whether they thought it would stop in the future or what could be done to stop it, and people said "The government should be more involved... and pets should have monthly or regular vet trips to try and prevent it" Overall, everyone in the interview wanted animal cruelty to stop for good.



There are lots of organisations and high street shops, who promote their ideas about animal testing and acting against animal cruelty. For example, “The Body Shop”, a popular beauty and make-up store, have their “Against Animal Testing” campaign, to publicize their ideas on animal testing. Furthermore, other high street shops such as ‘Lush’ and other rescues and organizations across Britain, work tirelessly to promote animal welfare.

You may feel quite small in this matter and feel there is little you can do to help; but you can. You can adopt your next pet, instead of buying from breeders or pet shops because rescues have millions of loveable pets in their rescue homes that are in desperate need of homes and may have experienced animal cruelty themselves. In addition, you can shop from responsible retailers, who are against animal cruelty and animal testing; this way more people are helping animals in need.



This is Herbie. When he was bought into an anonymous rescue, he only weighed 25 pounds. He had a fractured skull and his eyes were really swollen.

He is the result of severe animal cruelty.

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