

Dear Ekaterina and Readers,

Thank you to *Tierschutz.Entwicklungshilfe.E.V.* for the interest and participation in the Educational Project on animal welfare, which we delivered for over 109 children and adults in Kaliningrad. We focused on the welfare of stray dogs. As you mentioned, this project is in its third year. The best way is to refer to it as an example of *One Health*. First of all, the project organisers are a multidisciplinary group. A dog trainer Maria Khamzina and her dogs also known as dog therapists, head librarian Olga Kamilovna Tkachenko and the staff of A.P. Sobolev



Kindness lesson 21/02/2020. Photo by Ben Alyoshkin. Урок доброты 21/02/2020. Фото Вениамина Алёшкина.

children's library in Kaliningrad, biologist and children's author Irina Motkova, journalist and volunteer at *Right to Live* dog shelter Nataliya Zhukova and a veterinary surgeon Benjamin

Alyoshkin. Albert Tainikov designed

the image of a dog for the brain storming exercise, the main activity during the lessons. Many of us are involved professionally with animals or educational work. We all have different approaches but are united in our goal to

help our audiences see why stray dogs exist, engage them in wanting to resolve the problem, and inspire all of us for continuous self-education. The project is also a *One Health*



Kindness lesson 21/02/2020. Photo by Lyudmila Fedoryanskaya. Урок доброты 15/02/2020. Фото Людмилы Федорянской.

territory because improving the welfare is relevant both for people and other species including the dog. So, improving the welfare of the dog is bound to improve the welfare of the human.

Children of different ages made the majority of our audience. In our lessons, known in Russia as Kindness lessons, we discussed the important connection between humans and dogs, with their many roles in human life.

Then we defined what *animal*

welfare is, mentioning the seminal work of Ruth Harrison *Animal Machines* which in 1964 caused an outcry in the UK, the country Ruth Harrison lived and worked in. This led to the reassessment of how animals are treated well beyond the UK, formed the concept of *Five Freedoms* for the assessment of another new concept - *animal welfare*, currently used in



Kindness lesson 21/02/2020. Photo by Ben Alyoshkin. Урок доброты 21/02/2020. Фото Вениамина Алёшкина.

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many countries including the EU countries. In Russia, the equivalent of animal welfare is the responsible pet ownership and care. The main task during the Kindness lessons was the brainstorming exercise in groups. Sharing ideas and working together, our audiences were offering how they would resolve the problem of stray dogs by improving the welfare of owned dogs and offering new homes to the unwanted animals. Larisa Protzan and Marina Gorlachyova made a valuable contribution advocating neutering as a modern way to control populations of domestic pets. The feedback from both children and adults was that they enjoyed the Kindness lessons, which is an encouragement for us to continue the project. On top of that, we were really excited to welcome back the three important participants, Ambassadors of Animal Welfare of the first cohort of 2018. Is this not a measure of success?

Benjamin Alyoshkin MRCVS



Kindness lesson 21/02/2020. Photo by Ben Alyoshkin.
Урок доброты 21/02/2020. Фото Вениамина Алёшкина.



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