

Incorporating Animal Protection Materials into the 12-Year Basic Education

(Courtesy of Wen-Lin Hu at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



After the Legislative Yuan expressed its concern on the amendments to the Animal Protection Act, how to incorporate the knowledge about animal protection into the 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guidelines became an urgent task. The K-12 Education Administration, the Ministry of Education, immediately invited animal protection groups, experts, and scholars to set up a team on animal protection teaching materials. In 2019, Fu-Yuan Peng, Director-General of the K-12 Education Administration, convened the "First Meeting of Animal Protection Teaching Material Team," under which they decided to develop animal protection teaching materials based on different educational stages; several priority themes would be developed for primary school, junior high school, and senior high school simultaneously; they would be incorporated into the courses within one year. It was expected that the development of the teaching materials would be completed this September and adopted by pilot schools on a trial basis, and they would be revised in October to November and published for school's reference in December.

The amendments to the Animal Protection Act were passed after the third reading at the Legislative Yuan on December 7, 2018. Article 4-1 of the Act stipulates that the government at all levels shall popularize education and learning related to animal rights and animal protection legislation to enhance citizens' knowledge on animal protection and be included in the 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guidelines. The current General Guidelines of the 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guidelines include such topics as "environmental education," "life education," and "character education;" it is proper to integrate the knowledge on animal protection into a domain or subject as an issue in an appropriate manner. Therefore, the K-12 Education Administration will organize a development team to entrust academic units to compile the contents of teaching materials concerning animal protection. First, the concept of animal protection shall be clarified; then, the knowledge and connotations shall be extended, and learning worksheets and Q&A exercises may be considered; animation or films can be included in teaching resources.

The K-12 Education Administration said that the society has paid more and more attention to animal rights and various animal protection issues, and that each type of animal also had different welfare issues to be discussed. The content of the teaching materials to be developed this time focused on those animals that are closer to human beings first, which would subsequently be extended to the teaching materials regarding economic animals and performing animals. The teaching materials would be integrated into courses within one year, along with the existing teaching plans, and implemented on the ground. Therefore, in the first quarter of 2019, the development team would entrust academic units to progress accordingly to facilitate the administration of courses at the teaching site and strengthen animal protection education in a specific way.