

SNYDER FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS PEN PAL PROGRAM AND



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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SPAY/NEUTER STAMPS EDUCATION INITIATIVES

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Founding Member



**AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP
FOR PETS™**








**A United Voice
For A Common Cause**











Goal – To create a better understanding of companion animals in our society by using the American Partnership for Pets' Spay/Neuter Stamps and the Snyder Foundation Pen Pal Programs.

Objectives –

- 1) Students will write at least 2 letters that convey information regarding animals, and request a response, through the Pen Pal correspondence program.
- 2) Using the Spay/Neuter Stamps, students will mail letters to cities across the United States, then collect responses and identify locations of postmarks on a U.S. map.
- 3) Students will create a class journal of photographic images of animals, to be shared at school or on a field trip to a Pen Pal school.

Activities –

-  Receive a cancelled postmark from each state. Obtain a standard, classroom size map of the United States. As you receive the envelope with the cancelled stamp, place it in or near the appropriate state.
-  Build a tower of cancelled Spay/Neuter stamps to “measure” the amount of correspondence received.
-  Establish a Pen Pal Program with a neighboring school. The optimal goal of this activity could be a field trip to the correspondent's school.
-  Introduce the hobby of stamp collecting. Invite a collector to do a presentation for your students.
-  Create a mock stamp and cancellation device for in-school mailing from class to class.
-  As an art and social awareness activity, design a stamp on different animal issues.
-  Create a class journal of animal pictures from newspapers, magazines, websites and other print media. Limit the size to 8 ½ by 11 so the pictures will fit into a standard 3-ring binder. For each picture, include information regarding the source, publication and date, and the reason for selecting the picture. For the sake of longevity, consider sliding the pictures into an economy-weight plastic sleeve.

-  Encourage students to correspond or “pen pal” with friends and relatives.
-  Create a writing activity for students to inform others about the social awareness issue behind the Spay/Neuter stamps: to benefit you, your pet, and the community.
-  Create a writing activity for students to persuade others to use the Spay/Neuter stamps.
-  Create a writing activity for students to express their point of view on the Spay/Neuter stamps.
-  If possible, access the American Partnership for Pets website, www.americanpartnershipforpets.org, and links to each member of the Partnership to see the wide range of work being done across the country to benefit companion animals.
-  Obtain replicas of other related, inexpensive stamp materials from such companies as Kenmore (1-800-225-5059 Mon – Fri 8-5 EST, www.KenmoreStamp.com) and Mystic Stamp Co. (1-800-433-7811, www.mysticstamp.com).
-  Contact the United States Postal Service at www.usps.com. The Postal Bulletin has devoted a great deal of space to the Spay/Neuter Stamps.
-  Plan a trip to a Post Office near your school.
-  Invite a humane educator to visit your school and provide a program related to animal welfare issues and the Spay/Neuter Stamps.
-  As an extension activity, consult the Project WILD curriculum and activity guide, published through the Council for Environmental Education, and enjoy their Wildlife on Coins and Stamps activity.

These activities can be modified to accommodate many grade levels. Because students have an innate interest in animals, the Spay/Neuter Stamps and Pen Pal program lend themselves well to a meaningful hands-on academic experience and a straightforward approach to a social awareness issue.

If you use this material, please acknowledge the Snyder Foundation for Animals as an original Partner in the American Partnership for Pets Spay/Neuter Stamp Initiative.

Revised, September 30, 2002