



SPCA Animal Welfare Educator

SPCA Animal Welfare Educators develop resources that educate and encourage teachers, children, parents and their community to think, learn and act together to achieve positive, empathetic and compassionate outcomes for human and non-human members of society.

Education and advice is SPCA's first step taken when improving the lives of animals; by educating people about the right way to treat animals we improve the care of animals in the community long term.

Staff Interview:

We interviewed Cheryl Halverson about her experience as an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator and here's what she had to say:

1 Why did you want to become an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

I have always had a passion for animals and learning everything there is to know about caring for them! Working in Education at SPCA has allowed me to share this enthusiasm with young learners throughout New Zealand!

2 What are the main responsibilities or tasks as an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

My main responsibilities involve creating fun and exciting educational resources for students to learn all about animal welfare, responsible animal guardianship, and the role SPCA plays in the community!



3 What do you enjoy most about being an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

There are so many things, but I would have to say that I really love that I get to educate young animal enthusiasts about my favourite topic – animals! I also love that I learn something new each day and that I get to hear about all of the wonderful things young people are doing to help animals in need.





4 What did you have to do to become an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

There are a few different avenues that you can take to work in Education. For example, you can have experience teaching ECE, primary, or secondary school, have animal shelter experience, and/or a background in communications. I got into my role through pursuing a degree in public relations, studying animal welfare, behaviour, and conservation, teaching English as a Second Language, and working in adoptions at SPCA. All of these experiences equipped me with the skills needed for this role.



5 What skills do you think you need to be an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

To work in Education, it's important to have wide animal welfare knowledge, great communication, writing, IT, and administration skills, as well as a passion for teaching and learning!

6 What advice would you give to someone who wants to become an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator?

If you would like to work in animal welfare education, it's important to have a wide range of animal welfare knowledge. I would recommend learning everything you can about animals and what they need to be happy and healthy. It's also important to know all about SPCA, so I would recommend volunteering at SPCA. There are several ways to get involved, all of which will help you to better understand the role of SPCA.





How to become an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator:

Although there are many pathways to become an SPCA Animal Welfare Educator, it is preferable to have a tertiary education in:

- Animal care, welfare, behaviour, etc.
- Education
- Communications/public relations

Additionally, below are some qualifications and experience needed to work in the Education Department at SPCA:

- Excellent communication skills
- Experience and understanding of effective learning strategies
- Experience working with children and young people
- Be creative and innovative
- Have excellent time-management and organizational skills
- A proven interest and experience in animal welfare, humane education, and the work of SPCA



Fun SPCA Animal Welfare Educator Fact:

SPCA Educators are constantly learning new, exciting things about animal welfare, while also helping others learn all about what animals need to be happy and healthy, in innovative and creative ways.

