Activity 4: Humane Map

Overview: Students will create maps of their neighborhoods, highlighting different landmarks related to animals.

Procedure:

Introduction
Ask students to list the different components of a map. (Possible answers: scale; legend or key; title; north arrow; neatline.)

Humane Map
1. Explain to the students that they will be creating a “humane map,” a map of their neighborhood that focuses on animals. Ask students what they think a “humane map” would show. (Possible answers: pet supply stores; dog parks; veterinarian offices; animal hospitals; public parks; animal shelters; rescue group locations; places where wild animals live.)
2. List all of the students’ responses and discuss. Have the class collectively decide which locations should be included in the “humane map.” Include all of the possible answers from Step 1.
3. Have the students discuss and agree upon a symbol for each location (e.g., a dog face to symbolize a dog park on the map).

Research & Mapping
Hand each student a map of the neighborhood. Instruct the students to research online the different places they listed. The students then draw the symbol of each place on their maps in the correct location.

Wrap Up:
1. Once students have completed their “humane maps,” review the students’ findings for accuracy.
2. Ask the students if there were any places they listed that were not in their neighborhood. If not, should they be? Why is it important to have each of these places in every neighborhood?
3. Ask students why they believe it is important for animal guardians and general citizens to know the locations of all these places.