

Scottish SPCA Animal WISE Partnership Pack

Discover how we support children in
early years across Scotland



Forming partnerships that encourage all to

WATCH 🐾 INFORM 🐾 SUPPORT 🐾 ENCOURAGE

03000 999 999
scottishspca.org

Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals | Scottish Charity No. SC 006467



ANIMAL WISE®
SCOTTISH SPCA

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Welcome to the Scottish SPCA's Animal WISE programme!

Welcome to the Scottish SPCA's exciting new Animal WISE initiative.

We want to inspire and empower Scotland's youngest minds to increase their knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and be inspired to make a difference through engaging with our online early years activity packs.

We want to support children's health and wellbeing; enhance their skills when it comes to literacy and numeracy; offer innovative ways to engage with STEM and inspire future career pathways. We hope to nurture children's curiosity of the natural world around them and start them on their journey to be Animal WISE!

By working together, we believe we can support the youngest minds in Scotland to nurture empathy, compassion and a greater sense of appreciation for animal welfare in Scotland.



What is Animal WISE?

We want to provide unique opportunities that empower children to be pioneers during their early years and have a positive impact on the wider community.

Animal WISE encourages pupils of all ages and abilities to work together, increase their knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and be inspired to make a difference through engaging with various educational activities.

Animal WISE has four key components:



WATCH

We need to **WATCH** interactions between humans and animals making sure everyone is kept safe. We need to increase children's knowledge of animal welfare and encourage them to be responsible animal citizens.



INFORM

We want to **INFORM** children that animals matter and instil the belief that they experience emotions and they deserve compassion and empathy.



SUPPORT

We want to **SUPPORT** children to help teach the importance of animal welfare and being a responsible citizen, taking into account developmental stage. We also want to support those who are maybe showing behaviours towards animals that are a cause of concern and work together with others to ensure that that child has the opportunities to succeed.



ENCOURAGE

We want to **ENCOURAGE** children to tell an adult if they have concerns about an animal and encourage them to ask questions, express themselves and develop their inquisitive minds in order to test their knowledge as well as ours.

Introducing Martha and Gibson

Animal WISE features two new mascots; **Martha** our Scottish SPCA inspector and **Gibson**, one of our rescue dogs.

Martha and Gibson have already featured in our Adventure Tails resource packs (which you can find online, check out the link below!) and will continue appearing in exciting upcoming projects such as e-learning and in the near future a book series. This series will help build children's vocabulary whilst also uniquely connecting animal welfare with key milestones within the child's life.

Martha and Gibson are effective when used as part of our learning strategy in engaging a young audience and making them more comfortable and receptive to what they are learning.



How Can Early Years Establishments Get Involved?

Early Years Activity Pack



Our specially designed early years activity pack is **FREE** to download from our website. Here you will also find more information about some of the work

we do at the Scottish SPCA and what we are doing in and around your community.

Rabbit Rescuers



Whether you are thinking about getting rabbits as pets or your child just loves all things fluffy, this booklet full of activities for you to do together

will teach them all about these small companions.

Adventure Tails



Our Adventure Tails activity packs are brimming with fun and educational activities and can be completed by early years

children with the help of an adult.

Games



Why not have a go at our brand new games? These can be played on our website.



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Find all of our resources over at:
www.scottishspca.org/animal-wise

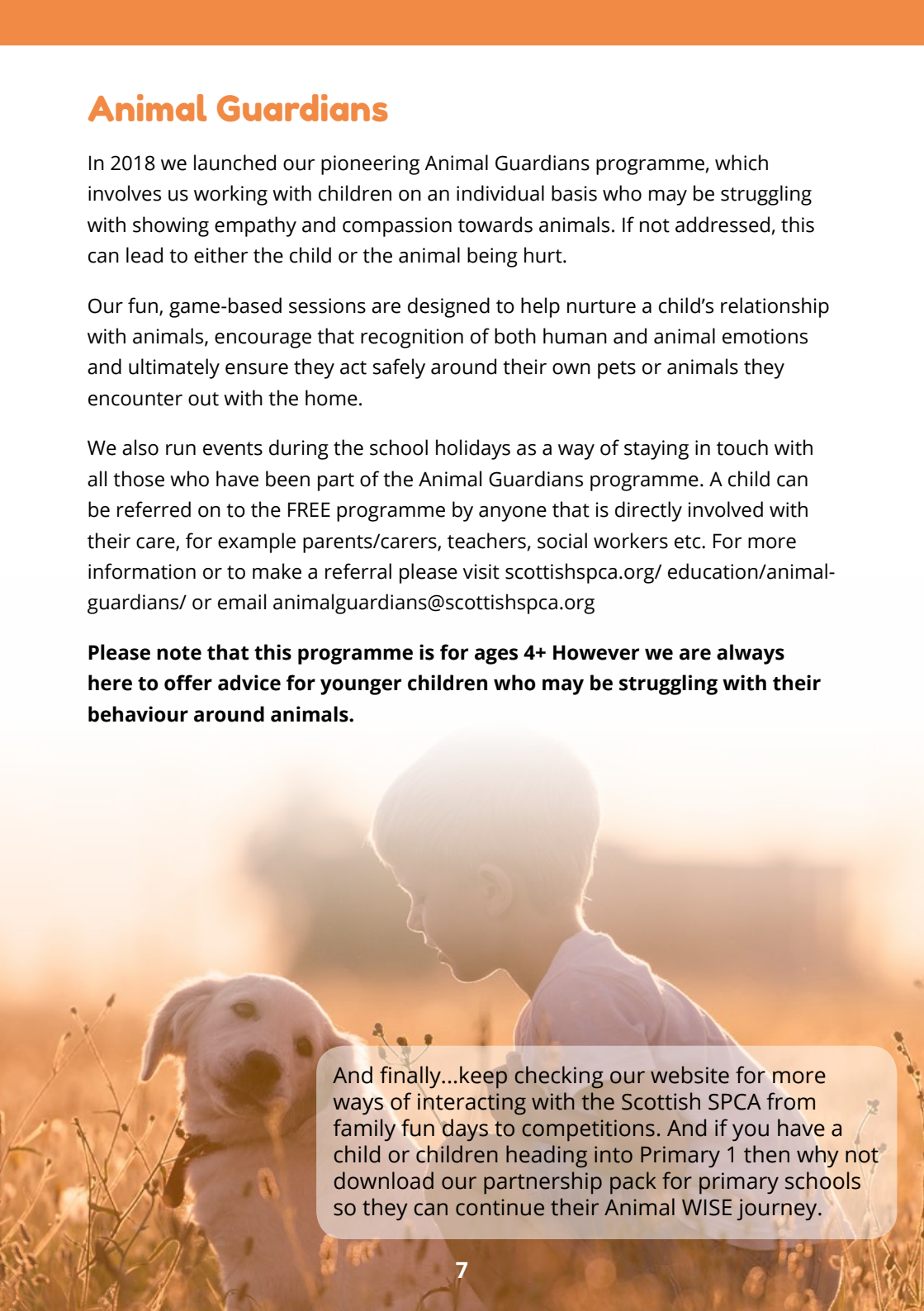
Animal Guardians

In 2018 we launched our pioneering Animal Guardians programme, which involves us working with children on an individual basis who may be struggling with showing empathy and compassion towards animals. If not addressed, this can lead to either the child or the animal being hurt.

Our fun, game-based sessions are designed to help nurture a child's relationship with animals, encourage that recognition of both human and animal emotions and ultimately ensure they act safely around their own pets or animals they encounter out with the home.

We also run events during the school holidays as a way of staying in touch with all those who have been part of the Animal Guardians programme. A child can be referred on to the FREE programme by anyone that is directly involved with their care, for example parents/carers, teachers, social workers etc. For more information or to make a referral please visit scottishspca.org/education/animal-guardians/ or email animalguardians@scottishspca.org

Please note that this programme is for ages 4+ However we are always here to offer advice for younger children who may be struggling with their behaviour around animals.



And finally...keep checking our website for more ways of interacting with the Scottish SPCA from family fun days to competitions. And if you have a child or children heading into Primary 1 then why not download our partnership pack for primary schools so they can continue their Animal WISE journey.



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