



“Tierschutz macht Schule” - the Austrian example of Animal Welfare Education at schools

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Scope of my talk

- Tierschutz-macht-Schule (TmS)
- background
- mission
- activities national/international
- achievements
- visions



Research Gate www.researchgate.net/profile/Marlene_Kirchner

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Background



- Tierschutz macht Schule (TmS) is an NGO “Association for Animal Welfare Education”
- celebrated their 10 years anniversary this year
- Austrian Animal Welfare Act (§2, TSchG, 2005)
 - stating responsibility of the government and administration to engage into ‘Animal Welfare Education’ in a broad sense
 - Federal Government, provinces and communities are bound to awake and to deepen the understanding of the public and especially of the youth for animal welfare (...)
 - Ministry of Health and Women’s Affairs and Ministry of Education implementing this eg. by funding TmS



Mission

TmS facilitating knowledge transfer on Animal Welfare to children and adults,
aiming at reaching children, parents, consumers and adults interested in animal protection

emphasising respect and tolerance for animals' needs

general attitude towards Animal Welfare is science-based
content-wise supported by experts of the field at the Universities

avoiding extreme standpoints

facilitating dialog of different stakeholders



Methods

Joyful educational methods and materials

animal husbandry, handling

responsible use of animal-products

mainly applied in schools by the pupils' own teachers

“Animals create a feeling of empathy and interest in every person. With our work, we promote handling animals in a responsible and respectful manner.”

Dr. Dagmar Schratter, president of “Tierschutz macht Schule”

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Methods

Joyful educational methods and materials

Bring **animal husbandry, handling, responsible use of animal-products** closer to everyone



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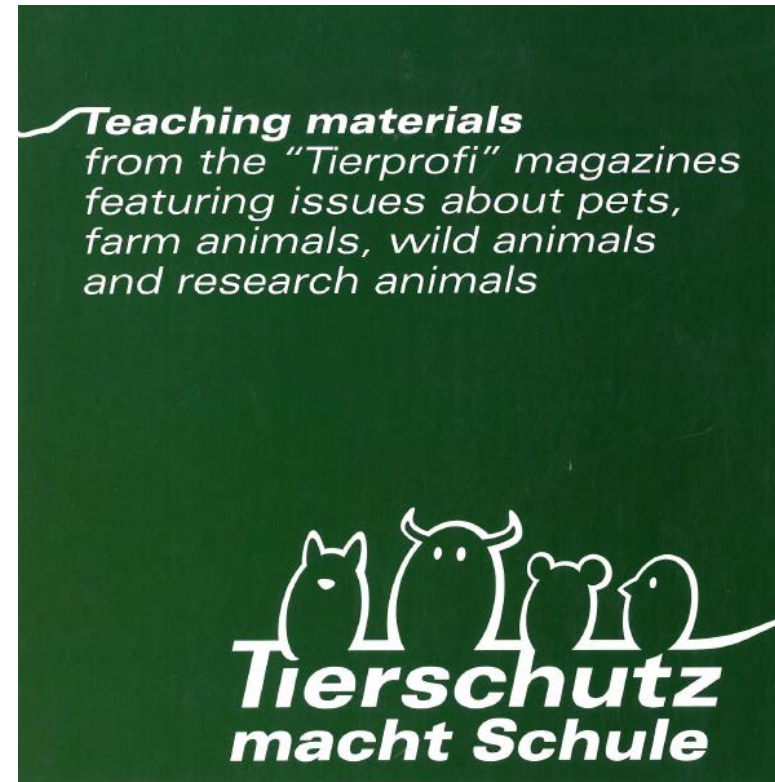


Methods - Teaching materials

Teachers and pupils can choose between different levels of engagement

supportive materials are not limited to application in subjects as 'biology'

→ more universal



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Methods - Teaching materials

- Kindergarten and Primary School
- 3.- 8. year (age 8-13)
- 8.-12. year (age 14-18)
- + extra background for teachers



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Further Methods – Animal Welfare Consultant

- for teachers interested in teaching animal welfare in schools
- 2 semester on blocked weekends
- national experts as lecturers
- excursions to several different animal facilities
- theoretical and practical final exam

„Wissen ist der beste Tierschutz. Die ReferentInnen vom Verein „Tierschutz macht Schule“ stehen für besonders kindgerechte und seriöse Tierschutzvermittlung. Ich wünsche Ihnen und Ihren SchülerInnen viel Erkenntnis und Freude damit.“
Bundesministerin Aislinn Stöger

„Effektiver Tierschutz ist nur mit Herz und Hirn möglich – durch Sensibilisierung und Wissensvermittlung werden aus TierfreundInnen richtige Tierprofis!“

„Meine große Leidenschaft ist es, Wissen zu vermitteln, welches ermöglicht, die Welt auch für Tiere ein Stück besser zu machen.“

„Tiere faszinieren und interessieren Kinder und Jugendliche. Um ein Zusammenleben mit Tieren für beide Seiten optimal zu gestalten, braucht es ausreichend Wissen über die Bedürfnisse und das Verhalten der Tiere. Die am aktuellen Stand der Wissenschaft ausgebildeten TierschutzreferentInnen garantieren seriöse Tierschutzvermittlung, die den Kindern Spaß macht und ihnen soziale Verantwortung Schwächeren gegenüber aufzeigt.“
Dr. Cornelia Rauho-Möllner, Leitung Erwachsenenbildung

„Ich möchte Kinder zu einem bewussteren und besseren Umgang mit ihrer Umwelt (besonders mit Tieren) motivieren.“

„Tiere erfüllen zahlreiche Bedürfnisse des Menschen – wäre es nicht angebracht, sich dafür zu revanchieren?“

Gefördert aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit  **BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT**

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Further Methods – Pet Buddy

- for kids interested in Animal Welfare
- 2 half days
- in 2 animals facilities
- theoretical and practical
- cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits and budgerigars



Communication

YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TierschutzmSchule/videos>

Website <http://www.tierschutzmachtschule.at/>



<http://www.tierschutzmachtschule.at> , last visited 15/11/2016

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Achievements

Since 2006 TmS distributed ~500.000p.
of their teaching materials

Institution	WELL_KA 2015	Tierprofi 2015	Gesamt 2007-2015
Kindergarten	10	2	29
Primary School	332	206	1508
Secondary School	17	176	851
Other Schools	11	17	122
University	0	0	9
Others	20	49	250
Sum	390	450	2769

n= institutions in Austria purchasing TmS materials

© adapted from Lea Mirwald, TmS 10-years Anniversary Symposium, Oct 2016



Achievements

EDUCAWEL

Study on Education and Information
Activities on Animal Welfare

Recently, TmS was partner in the EU-project
'EDUCAWEL'

study on education and information activities on animal
welfare across Europe

TmS successfully enlarge its portfolio and network
positioned as partner in Animal Welfare Education



Vision



- The handling of animals is based on the ideology that they are our fellow creatures and treated with respect
- consumption of animal products is based on animal protection
- animals in human husbandry and responsibility are treated humanely and kept according to their species-specific requirements
- animal welfare education is provided EU-wide at agreed quality standards and starts early in childrens' lives



European vision

Scientific studies showed that the AW knowledge level in young children and kids were generally low in several EU-member states (IRTA, 2016; Welfare Quality, 2010)

→ European Animal Welfare Education Reference Centre

- setting standards in AW education
- gathering and exchanging education materials in networks
- advocating for inclusion of AW in curricula of all levels
- advice for member states
- research activities

IRTA (2016): Study on education and information activities on animal welfare (EDUCAWEL). SANCO/2013/G3/SI2.649393

Welfare Quality Report 19 (2010): The Provision of Educational Materials about Farm Animal Welfare. Eds. Evans A., Higgin M., Miele M., Morgan S., Ara A., Pinducciu D. & Kulø M.

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Many thanks to Lea Mirwald, chief officer
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Questions?

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