

By Matty Giuliano

My name is **Musky**  
A Ferret's Story

Illustrated By  
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# Humane Education Book Companion & Activity Guide

# Humane Education

## Book Companion & Activity Guide

### Introduction

The important work of Humane Educators is to acquaint students with as many potential strategies as possible that create impact points for the homeless animals throughout the many communities at large, throughout our nation. Because its lessons are highly transferable to any number of other programs or activities in which a young student might engage, a highly beneficial by-product of Humane Education programming is the sustainable impact it affords to the individual student, the school collective, the family unit and the greater community.

We accomplish this through a Humane Education driven curriculum which uses Project-Based and ProSocial learning strategies designed to explore our relationships with animals, with each other and with our world as framed by our target criteria. The result? Informed, invested, engaged and empowered --- service-minded, results-driven, empathetic leaders of tomorrow. Objectives include:

- Exposure to the animal (over)population crisis in our communities, counties and country and what students, as change-agents, can do about it --- locally and globally.
- A practical understanding of how animal shelters operate and the individual --- and community --- role students can play in successful outcomes for homeless animals.
- An enhanced awareness of how each student's own thoughtful, informed and qualified decisions, and service contributions, impact the community at large.
- An appreciation of the importance of --- and need for --- critical thinking skills in achieving targeted results and setting new paradigms, and, the role of critical *feeling* --- a term coined by the Humane Educator author of this packet --- as an essential informing agent to critical thinking.

This Activity guide contains thought-provoking questions designed for teachers to use as discussion cues and what we call (and will label) and "empathy bridge." Pages are numbered and companion discussion cues and empathy bridges follow. The additional activity sheets herein further reinforce the messaging.

Because we know that both teachers and parents have many pertinent demands. Thus, the ultimate objective is to tie the Humane Education curriculum for this book to existing educational standards, by subject and grade. For purposes of this packet, we will focus on the

aforementioned discussion cues and empathy bridges in the hopes of opening up new levels of discussion that lead to heightened levels of empathy for all. Correspondingly, this booklet will likely go through a number of iterations as the nuances of respective community needs are evidenced.

Please note that you will see us refer to animals using pronouns. It is part of the Humane Language Initiative of the Humane Educator authoring this guide. Interestingly, people generally describe their own animal companions using gender. However, animals outside the home are frequently objectified as an “it.” To be true to our empathy bridge potentiality to facilitate change, we hope you’ll join us in this effort!

As Humane Educators, we are often asked, “What makes a human, humane?” The obvious answer is, the letter E. However, what that “E” represents is key. The E stands for Empathy. Empathy changes *everything* it touches and the personal experience of the power of one person to facilitate that change can never be minimized.

Musky will show us precisely how that can happen.

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### Discussion Cues and Empathy Bridges

Some of the following Discussion Cues and Empathy Bridges will clearly lend themselves to comparative lists, Venn diagrams and other counting and categorizing opportunities. Please use and expand as it will best benefit the children in your classroom or in your care --- and please share your thoughts with us on the My Name Is Musky Facebook page!

**PAGE 1** – Hi! My Name is Musky! I’m a different kind of animal friend.

- Where do you think the name Musky came from?
- How many kinds of animal friends can you list who live in our homes?
- How many kinds of animal friends can you list who do not live in our homes?
- Musky says he’s a “different” kind of animal friend. What do you think Musky means?

**PAGE 2** – Some people have a cat as their friend... Other people have a dog as their friend... But I am not a cat or a dog. I am a ferret!

- How many of you have a cat(s) as your animal companion at home? Do you have more than one? How many cats do you have if you count them all?
- How many of you have a dog(s) as your animal companion at home? Do you have more than one? How many dogs do you have if you count them all?
- Do you have any animal companions at home who are not cats or dogs? Who else shares your home with you?
- What are some good things about sharing our homes with companion animals?

**PAGE 3** – When I was little, I lived with a young man in his apartment. For some reason, he didn’t want me anymore.

- When Musky says, “When I was little, I lived with a young man in his apartment,” do you think Musky means when he was **tiny** or when he was **younger**?
- Why would Musky’s person not want Musky anymore? Can you list some reasons?
- How do you think Musky could tell that the young man didn’t want to have Musky in his home anymore? (EB)
- How do you think that made Musky feel? And how does that make you feel? (EB)

**PAGE 4** – One day, he dropped me off on the side of a dirt road and drove away!

- Why do you think the young man dropped Musky off and drive away?
- How do you think Musky felt? (EB)
- How would you feel? (EB)
- What other choices could the young man have made if he didn't was to keep Musky anymore?

**PAGE 5** – The day grew dark and cold. I did not know how to live in the wild! I was hungry, thirsty, and whew! Did I stink! I needed a bath! I was also very, very scared.

- Musky had quite an adventure after the young man left him behind. Musky experienced being hungry, thirsty and very scared. How do you think you would feel if this happened to you? (EB)
- Musky tells us a bath would have been a good idea. How do you know when you need a bath? What word would tell us how Musky knew a bath was necessary? See if you can insert a word into this sentence: Musky must have been very \_\_\_\_\_ if a bath was needed. (dirty, stinky, filthy, smelly, etc.)

**PAGE 6** – I wandered for a long time, searching for the man who used to feed me. I drank water from muddy puddles and ate scraps I would find by the road.

- Why do you think that Musky was searching for the man who didn't want him anymore?
- How does it make you feel to know that Musky had to drink from muddy puddles and eat scraps left behind on the road? (EB)

**PAGE 7** – One morning, a lady named Stephanie was out on her walk and she saw me.

"Hello there, little ferret!" she said.

- How do you think Musky felt when the lady named Stephanie said hello?
- Musky tells us that the young man dropped Musky off one day --- then that the day grew dark and cold --- that he wandered for a long time and that one morning a lady named Stephanie saw Musky and said hello. How long do you think Musky was searching for the man?
- Musky says the lady said, "Hello there, little ferret!" Do you think that Musky understood what being a ferret meant?

**PAGE 8** – Stephanie made a call on her cell phone and an animal control officer named John came. He picked me up, put me in his van, and took me to the animal shelter.

- Why do you think that Stephanie called the Animal Shelter?
- How do you think that Musky felt about being in the van being driven to the Animal Shelter?

**PAGE 9** – At last I was safe and warm! I met Dr. Nicole, a veterinarian, who took very good care of me. She gave me a bath, brushed my white fur, cleaned my ears, and trimmed my nails. It was like a day at the ferret spa!

- How do you think Musky felt after arriving at the animal shelter safe and warm? (EB)
- What is a veterinarian? What is the short name for a veterinarian?
- What is a spa?

Dr. Nicole also made sure I wasn't sick. After she examined me, she sent me to live with the other animals at the shelter.

- How do you think that Dr. Nicole made sure Musky wasn't sick?
- Do you think Musky was happy to be at the Animal Shelter?

**PAGE 10** – A lady named Kathy put me in a nice, clean cage with my own little bed and a warm blanket—plus, a big bowl of tasty food and a water bottle! My cage was so cozy! I fell asleep with a full tummy.

- Musky mentions a nice clean cage, a little bed, a warm blanket, a water bottle and a big bowl of tasty food. What else might be in a ferret cage?
- Have you ever seen a ferret in a pet store? What kind of house did they have? What things are the same as Musky's house and what things were different?

**PAGE 11** – In the morning, I woke up and found that I had neighbors! There was a hamster named Ham, a rabbit named Peter, a rat named Penny and a guinea pig named Squeaks. We lived in a space called "Critter Corner".

- Have you ever had a ferret? A hamster? A rabbit? A rat? A guinea pig? What are the differences in where they sleep? What they eat? How they play and exercise? How their voices sound? Let's make a list with five columns and list all the categories and how each animal companions may be the same or different from another!
- Why do you think the area at the Animal Shelter where all these little animals live is called the Critter Corner? If you could name it, what would you call it?

**PAGE 13** – The animal shelter was a very busy place. We could hear dogs barking and cats meowing in the other rooms. Though we were different animals, we all had one thing in common: we were all available for adoption!

- What does it mean to be, "available for adoption?"
- If you were at the animal shelter and you were an animal available for adoption, what would you do to get the attention of the visitors so that they would pick you to take home?

**PAGE 15** – I wasn't sure what adoption was, but if it meant I would get a new family who would be kind to me and give me scrambled eggs, my favorite treat, I was all for it!

- What other foods do you think that ferrets eat other than scrambled eggs?

**PAGE 17** – One day, a girl named Victoria, along with her dad, arrived at the animal shelter. They were looking for a new furry member for their family. They weren't sure what type of animal friend they wanted. They played fetch with the dogs and petted the cats.

- How do you think Musky felt when he saw Victoria and her Dad playing with the dogs and cats?
- How would you have felt seeing them play with the dogs and cats if you were Musky?

**PAGE 18** – Then, they came to Critter Corner and watched Ham run around and around in his wheel. (Oh, I got so dizzy whenever he did that!)

- Why do you think Victoria and her Dad visited Critter Corner after playing with the dogs and cats?
- Why do you think Musky got dizzy when Ham ran around his wheel?

**PAGE 20** – Finally, Victoria came to my cage and looked at me.

- How do you think that Musky felt when Victoria first looked at the cage? Let's list each feeling.

**PAGE 21** – The shelter attendant took me out of my cage and Victoria cuddled me. I licked her hand and it tasted even better than scrambled eggs! I had found my new family!

- How do you think that Musky felt to find a new loving family?
- How do you feel to know that Musky is happy, safe and loved? (EB)

**PAGE 22** - I was adopted!

- Musky found a forever home! What is the difference between being “adopted” from an animal shelter and being “bought” at a pet store? List everything you can think of.
- Why do you think Musky was so happy?

**PAGE 23** – Victoria’s dad filled out some papers and in a little while I was in their car, on my way to my new home!

- What kinds of papers do you think Victoria’s Dad filled out?
- Why did the Dad have to fill out the papers instead of Victoria?

**PAGE 24** – Victoria put me in a big cage with an upstairs and a downstairs. I had a new bed with a snuggly blanket, a new food bowl, and a new water bottle. But my favorite thing was my new, bright red collar with a name tag that said “MUSKY”.

- Musky really liked the collar and name tag that Victoria provided. Why is it so very important for all animal companions to have some kind of ID on them?

**PAGE 25** – Nowadays, I don’t always stay in my cage. Victoria takes me out every day and we chase each other around her room. It’s called the “Weasel War Dance”.

- The Weasel War Dance sounds like fun --- who would like to volunteer to do a fun version of the Weasel War Dance? Who would like to make the music to dance to?

**PAGE 27** – After a fun day of playing, I fall asleep in my cage and I have funny ferret dreams. Sometimes I dream about the shelter and I think of all the nice people who helped me: Stephanie, Officer John, Dr. Nicole, and Kathy.

- How do you feel when nice people help you?
- What do you do to sometimes help others?

- What kind of funny ferret dreams do you think Musky has? What do you think makes a dream funny?

**PAGE 29** – My dreams are always happy dreams, but when I'm awake and playing with Victoria, I'm having the best dream of all!

- Why is being awake and playing with Victoria the best dream of all for Musky?
- What is YOUR best dream of all for animals like Musky? (EB)



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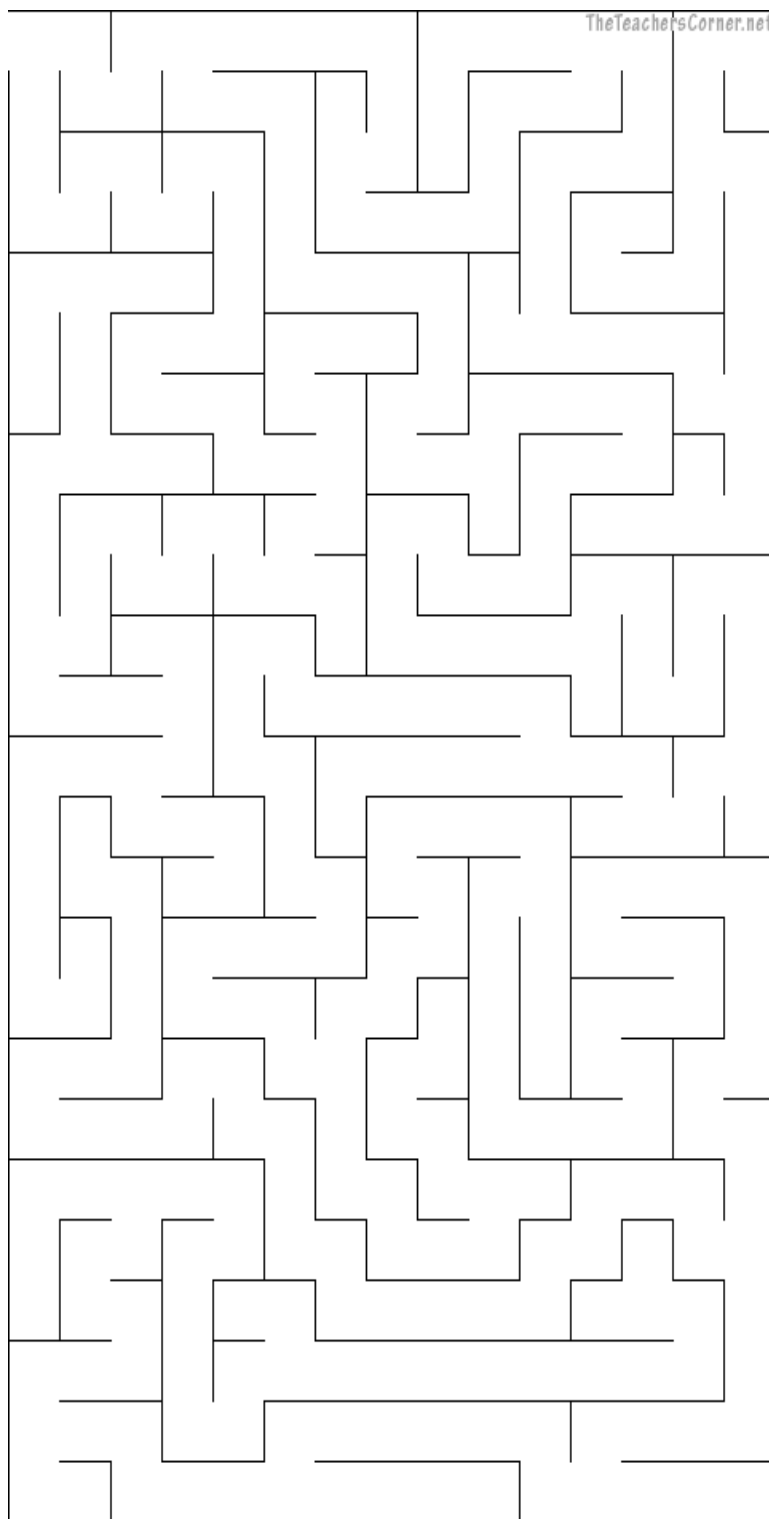


HI! MY NAME IS MUSKY AND I AM A FERRET! WELCOME TO MY COLORING PAGE! I AM A SURVIVOR OF ANIMAL CRUELTY --- BUT NOW I AM SAFE! I LIVE IN A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE WITH A LOVING NEW FAMILY AND I AM ONE VERY LUCKY FERRET! YOU CAN WRITE TO ME ON MY WEBSITE --- THE ADDRESS IS [WWW.MYNAMEISMUSKY.COM](http://WWW.MYNAMEISMUSKY.COM) AND I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. YOU CAN ALSO LEARN ABOUT MY BOOK, "MY NAME IS MUSKY," AND GIVE YOUR TEACHER A COPY OF MY FREE HUMANE EDUCATION BOOK COMPANION & ACTIVITY GUIDE. WON'T YOU COLOR IN MY FUR AND MAYBE TRACE MY NAME? DON'T FORGET MY COLLAR AND NAME TAG --- YOU CAN COLOR THEM TOO!  
THANKS FOR READING ABOUT ME!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

START HERE



**MUSKY FINDS A FOREVER HOME!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## MY NAME IS MUSKY WORD SEARCH

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS BELOW. THEY ALL TELL AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY STORY!

W H O O S I H X L L C V Z S I J H I J D  
W U B F J N O I B O R I T Z E M E N G B  
H V J I L K M U P T P E C D I D Q Q Q E  
M Y B X D M E Q Z F J R B N A U L N B S  
R A C Z A K U Z W O D H U Y X F T K O Q  
D A D X K C W S E O V R P M Q N I W W J  
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O E M L B T L O V J N O I H Y Q A I Y R  
K Y Y T C E N D N I R F E H A M S T E R  
V C Q L U L E N R H D H L T G E C S U E  
S U G W I I Z E W R O Q Z E T O R H T T  
A I P L O M T Z P L T F U R L D U E G J  
D W G Q J E A K R P P F U L X J E L J M  
W H S A V Y M F K K Z W A Z P K L T R G  
T E K N A L B G T O N R B J N W T E O K  
O C T Q H N R X J E S J U E M F Y R S G  
K O B I C J D X L W D Z T W B R G U J V

MUSKY

SHELTER

CAT

RABBIT

BOWL

FUR

BLANKET

ADOPTION

HOME

VETERINARIAN

DOG

FERRET

COLLAR

CAGE

BARK

FAMILY

CRUELTY

HAMSTER

RAT

BATH

FOOD

MEOW

