“Children trained to extend justice, kindness and mercy to animals, become more kind, just and considerate in their relations to each other. Character training along these lines will result in men and women of broader sympathies; more humane, more law abiding, in every aspect, more valuable citizens.”

-National PTA Congress
Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Field trips to The Gentle Barn are designed to incorporate these Life Science standards:

K – Energy Flow in Organisms: All animals need food in order to live and grow.

1 – Growth & Development: Adult animals can have offspring. Often animals engage in behavior that help the offspring survive.

2 – Interdependent Relationships: Animals and plants depend on each other to live and grow.

3 – Behavior: Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes.

4 – Information Processing: Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions.

5 – Interdependent Relationships: Animals can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met.

6 – Growth & Development: Animals engage in characteristic behaviors that increase the odds of reproduction.

7 – Energy Flow in Organisms: Plants use photosynthesis to make sugars (food) that can be used or stored for growth.

8 – Adaptations: Animal species change over time in response to changes in environmental conditions.

9-12 – Forces & Interactions: Human activity is having adverse impacts on biodiversity through pollution, overexploitation and climate change.

California Education Code Section 233.5(a) states:

“Each teacher shall endeavor to impress upon the minds of the pupils...kindness toward domestic pets and the humane treatment of living creatures.”

Educational Programs

The Gentle Barn Foundation is a non-profit organization that offers standards-based educational programs, as well as, a unique hands-on experience for students K-12.

Home to over 170 rescued animals, The Gentle Barn educates students through direct interactions with the animals. The programs are designed to meet the science standards of individual grade levels. Students are also encouraged to explore issues such as empathy, kindness and responsibility while visiting The Gentle Barn.