

**Community Focus Statement B:** Encourage community involvement in civic beautification and maintaining the community’s rural character.

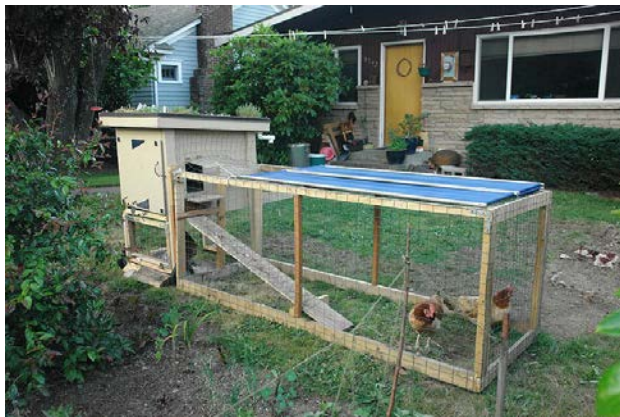
**Action Statement B.3:** Encourage safe animal keeping through educational programs and partnerships.

**B**

**Benchmark:** A safe animal keeping program is organized and developed with experienced teachers. An education program and lesson plans for experienced teachers meets regularly.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** variable dependent upon the program proposed.



Backyard chicken coop with a green roof. Photo source: Josh Larios

Because of Muscoy’s rural nature and equestrian culture, safe animal keeping should be encouraged by providing resources and education to residents. These educational programs should be local and accessible to the community and could appeal to a variety of skill levels.

Educational programs could relate to the care and safety of household pets, such as dogs or cats. Pet first aid courses can be geared to first-time pet owners to familiarize them with pet CPR, administering medication, signs of a medical emergency, disaster safety, and other emergency first aid tools. Awareness of toxic household products, foods, and plants can also help pet owners avoid unnecessary veterinary emergencies.

Additionally, educational programs could relate to the care of farm animals and livestock. As many Muscoy residents own horses or other livestock, animal safety and health should be at the forefront. Injuries and other accidents can be avoided by teaching children animal safety, such as how to approach animals, safe handling of animals, and to be aware if an animal appears agitated or angry. Adults could be engaged on more advanced topics, such as biosecurity or other health standards, to keep livestock in Muscoy happy and healthy.

Safe animal keeping education can take a variety of forms in Muscoy—half-day workshops, regular classes over several weeks, after-school enrichment activities, or community fairs. Partnerships could be developed with the San Bernardino County UC Cooperative Extension, particularly 4-H. The San Bernardino City Unified School District and the Baker Family Learning Center could also facilitate and coordinate on safe animal keeping programs.

Safe animal keeping education can be a form of civic engagement and would help maintain Muscoy’s rural character for generations to come. Expertise from veterinarians, equestrians, and other agricultural experts could contribute to the community’s knowledge and collectively benefit Muscoy.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a Muscoy Advisory Committee	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
2. Partner with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health's Preventive Veterinary Services program to create a safe animal keeping program specifically for Muscoy.	Muscoy Advisory Committee	Years 1 – 3	<a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/publichealth/">http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/publichealth/</a>  University of California Cooperative Extension <a href="http://ucanr.edu/">http://ucanr.edu/</a>
3. Solicit expert livestock and animal keeping volunteers to serve as teachers in coordination with County staff.	Muscoy Advisory Committee	Years 1 – 3	Grant Funding: <a href="http://youth.gov/">http://youth.gov/</a>  <a href="#">Animal Humane Society</a>
4. Identify a funding source (County support, grants, sponsorships, other fundraising efforts).	Muscoy Advisory Committee	Years 1 – 3	<a href="#">Red Cross</a>
5. Develop a curriculum to meet the unique needs of Muscoy, and create a schedule for the class to meet on a regular basis, with key topics to attract a variety of skill levels.	Muscoy Advisory Committee	Years 1 – 3	
6. Revisit the curriculum to revise and improve it based on the previous year. Solicit input from those who took the class on what worked and what didn't. Encourage graduates of the program to return and serve as volunteers.	Muscoy Advisory Committee	Annually	