Dear NAME OF CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN,

I am writing to ask if you would consider adding books used in the RedRover Readers program, formerly the Humane Education Ambassador Reader (HEAR) program to your book inventory. If your library system does not already include these titles, please consider adding some or all of them to increase your community’s access to books that may increase empathy in children, help develop a respect for animals and provide a better awareness of the power and beauty in the bond between people and animals.

As you may already be aware, empathy-related literature is a powerful way to increase empathy in children, and having children develop empathy for animals will prevent cruelty to animals as well as likely prevent violence and cruelty to humans.

The best available research and thinking in the fields of education, psychology, communication and human-animals studies tell us that developing empathy can reduce violence and other antisocial behaviors. Why develop empathy for animals? Children respond to animals in uniquely powerful ways, and have been found to be extremely open to considering and discussing empathy as it relates to animals. In addition, having a strong attachment to pets correlates with positive social behavior and higher empathy; it may be that helping young children bond with an animal helps children build healthy human relationships, especially if all the other close relationships in their lives are unhealthy.

RedRover, formerly United Animal Nations (UAN), an organization dedicated to bringing animals out of crisis and strengthening the bond between people and animals has a program called the RedRover Readers program. This community-based literacy program trains volunteers and teachers how to use stories, discussion and activities to promote empathy in children. Below please find a list of the books used in the RedRover Readers program, all chosen for their beautiful illustrations, well-told stories and ability to capture the human-animal bond.

*A Home for Nathan*

By Claudia M. Roll, Illustrated by Finn Rizer

*Buddy Unchained*

By Daisy Bix, Illustrated by Joe Hyatt

*Call the Horse Lucky*

Juanita Havill

*Duncan and Dolores*

By Barbara Samuels

*Freckles and Willie*

By Margery Cuyler, Illustrated by Marsha Winborn

*Ginger Finds a Home*

By Charlotte Voake

*“Let’s Get a Pup!” said Kate*

By Bob Graham

*Lucky Boy*

By Susan Boase

*Max Talks to Me*

By Claire Buchwald, Illustrated by Karen Ritz

*Mrs. Crump’s Cat*

By Linda Smith, Illustrated by David Roberts

*Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems*

By Susan Katz, Illustrated by Stacey Schuett

*Orville: A Dog’s Story*

By Haven Kimmel, Illustrated by Andrew Parker

*So, What’s it Like to be a Cat?*

By Karla Kuskin, Illustrated by Betsy Lewin

As volunteers and teachers are trained throughout the country, RedRover is discovering many of the books used in the program are not readily available for volunteers and teachers to check out of libraries. Having the RedRover book titles carried by your library system would go a long way in helping facilitate empathy in school-age children.

For more information about these books and other books on our Suggested Reading List, as well as more information about the RedRover Readers program, please visit [www.redrover.org/readers](http://www.redrover.org/readers).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,