

American Humane Association

The nation's voice for the protection of children & animals



What a Dog Needs Lesson Plan

Grades: K - 2

Ages: 5 - 7

Time: 45 minutes. *This lesson can be modified as needed to meet time constraints.*

Character Pillars:

Responsibility

Kindness

Citizenship

Standards:

Standard	Area	Performance Description
English/Language Arts	Speaking, Listening, Viewing	E3a
Science	Life Sciences Concepts	S2a
Science	Scientific Connections and Applications	S4c

Rationale: By learning about some of the things dogs need in order to be happy, healthy and comfortable, children may be better equipped to demonstrate the character qualities of responsibility and kindness later in life. Children who experience such lessons may be more likely to become more empathetic adults who care not only about animals, but also about each other and the environment.

Behavioral Objectives:

Students will:

- Identify and demonstrate what a dog needs to be happy, healthy and comfortable.
- Experience the character pillars of responsibility, kindness and citizenship.

Materials:

- “What Do Dogs Need?” worksheet
- “Some Things Dogs Need” worksheet
- White board, chalkboard or flip chart
- Scissors
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Paste, glue or tape

Set:

- This lesson is intended to help young learners become aware of the responsibility issues involved with owning a dog.
- Students will be able to identify what a dog needs in order to be happy, healthy and comfortable.

Procedure:

- Begin a general discussion about dogs by asking students to raise their hands if they:
 - Like dogs
 - Own a dog
 - Know a dog
- Guide the discussion into identifying what dogs need. The following questions may help prompt the students to identify important factors:
 - What kinds of things do kids need to be happy?
 - What do kids need to be healthy?
 - What do kids need to be comfortable?
 - What kinds of things do kids need to be safe?
- Record each category as you discuss it on the board or flip chart:
 - Healthy
 - Safe
 - Comfy
 - Happy



- Guide the discussion into identifying what dogs need to be healthy, safe, comfy and happy.
 - “Who can tell me what a dog needs to be healthy? safe? comfy? happy?”
- Address each category one at a time.
- Record their responses under each category.
 - Students may need encouragement.
- Responses may include:
 - Healthy: veterinary care, vaccines, medicine, checkups/exams, food, nutrition, clean water, exercise, baths, brushing, etc.
 - Safe: shelter, leash, collar, ID tags, fenced yard, etc.
 - Comfy: soft, clean bed, shelter, baths, etc.
 - Happy: friends and family, exercise, play, fun, toys, rules, school, love, attention, training, etc.
- As the responses are recorded, prompt students to explain why dogs need each item.
 - Facilitate a discussion about each item.
- Continue recording and questioning until all categories are covered.

Assessment:

- Distribute the “What Do Dogs Need?” worksheet.
- Instruct the students to color the picture of Denver the dog.
- Next, distribute the “Some Things Dogs Need” worksheet.
- Instruct students to color in and cut out some of the things that all dogs like Denver need to be healthy, safe, comfy and happy.
- Next, ask students to tape, paste or glue the pictures of what dogs need around the picture of Denver the dog.

Advanced

- Instead of, or in addition to, the “Some Things Dogs Need” worksheet:
 - Ask students to draw and color and/or cut out pictures from magazines of what dogs like Denver need to be happy, healthy, comfy and safe.
 - Ask students to glue, paste or tape the pictures around Denver the dog.



Closure:

- When the class has completed the activity, encourage students to refer to their worksheets and share some things dogs like Denver need to be happy, healthy, safe and comfy.
- Encourage students to identify the things both children and dogs need to be happy, healthy, safe and comfy.
- You will find the majority of items correlate between children and dogs.

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What Do Dogs Need?



Some Things Dogs Need

