

CANINE COMPANIONS
LESSON 3: Grades 4-6
SHOP 'TILL YOU DROP (FOR YOUR DOG!)

Show-Me Standards:

Academic Goals: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 1.10, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 3.8, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts: 1, 4, 6; Mathematics: 1; Science: 3

Objective: To teach students about the essential items every dog needs and to remind them that caring for a pet includes financial responsibilities.

Materials:

- “Going Shopping” handout
- Pencils

Method: What does your dog need to be a happy member of the family? There are some items no dog should be without and today we’ll learn why. When you need to shop for a new member of the family or a furry old friend, check out a store just for pets and their families like PetsMart. Like most “pet shops” they don’t sell cats and dogs that often come from puppy mills, but host adoption centers to help find homes for shelter animals.

There are at least 10 essential items you and your dog need to live together comfortably. Brainstorm, then write down these items. (Your list may include: food/water dishes, leash, collar, I.D. tag, crate, pet bed, food, treats, grooming supplies, toys, book about dogs). Next, research the cost of each item. Go online to www.petsmart.com or another similar website to look at each item. Or visit a pet store as a group or individually to research products. Total the cost of the items on your shopping list to see how much it will cost to provide your friend with the essential items. Talk about why each of the items is necessary. Can you think of anything else your dog would like to have?

How much does it cost to care for a pet for one year? The cost of basic food, supplies, medical care and training for a pet is anywhere from \$170 to \$1,500 annually, with small birds being the least expensive and large dogs being the most expensive. Getting a pet is nothing to enter into lightly. If you are planning to get a dog, talk with your family about the information you learned today. If you already have a dog, find out from your parents how much it costs to care for her annually.

To help with this discussion, distribute the “Going Shopping” handout.

Call to Action: Go shopping for a shelter pet! Believe it or not, you may have items sitting around at home that could help homeless animals. Most animal shelters and rescues have “wish lists” of items they need. These usually include things like old towels, blankets, newspaper (to line cages), new pet toys, cat/dog food, and kitty litter. Hold a drive at your school and challenge classes to compete to see who can collect the most items!

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

Teacher's box: Use this worksheet to emphasize that caring for a pet includes financial responsibilities.

Name _____

Going Shopping

Getting a pet is exciting. It's also a big responsibility! Before adopting an animal, you need to have the right supplies to take care of your pet. Pretend you're adopting a dog from a shelter. Circle the items you'll need for your new friend. Then answer the questions below.



1. Add up the cost of the items you circled. How much did you spend? _____

2. Which items will have to be replaced over time? How often? _____

3. How else does having a pet cost money? _____



Besides having the right pet care supplies, what other responsibilities do pet owners have? Write your answers in a paragraph on the back.