

CANINE COMPANIONS

LESSON 1: Grades K-3

WHAT DO DOG'S NEED?

Show-Me Standards:

Academic Goals: 1.6, 1.10, 2.5, 3.1, 3.6, 3.7, 4.6, 4.7

Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts: 6; Science: 3; Physical Education: 5

Objective: To teach children about the basic needs of dogs and to help them understand the similarities between the needs of pets and those of people.

Materials:

- “Design Your Own Pet Tag” handout
- “Pets and People Match-up” cards
- Hole Punch
- String

Method: Both children and pets need people to take care of them; they are incapable of meeting their own basic needs. While a young child requires the constant care of parents, pets need a family, as well, to provide for them. What kinds of things must we have in order to be healthy and happy? We need food, water, shelter, exercise, medical care and love. Pets must have all of these things, too!

We are going to play a game called “Pets and People Match-up!” First, I will show you a picture of something that we, as people, need. Then, you will find the picture that matches the same need for your pet. As you match needs, talk about why each need is so important for both people and pets.

Card Matches:

Child/Dad playing ball – Dog playing with ball

Mother feeding baby – Mother and son feeding dog

Boy sleeping – Dog sleeping

Man hugging girl – Boy hugging pet rabbit

Child at doctor – Dog at Veterinarian

Child getting bathed – Dog getting bathed

Girl drinking water – Cat drinking water

Boy getting dressed – Dog with collar, ID & leash

What would happen if each of these needs weren't met?

Need Represented:

Exercise and fun

Nutrition

Sleep and shelter

Love and companionship

Medical Care

Proper hygiene; grooming

Water; hydration

Clothing/ID (without a collar and tag, pets are naked!)

Now we're going to sing a song to help remind us that we must care for our pets each day. Let's sing the "Love Your Pets" song. (Sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat").

*Love, love, love your pets,
Love them every day.
Give them food,
And water, too.
Then let them
Run and play.*

Call to Action: Give the children an opportunity to practice meeting pets' needs. Have half of the children pretend to be pet owners and let the other half pretend to be their pets. Have the owners do pretend activities such as feeding, walking, petting and playing with their "pets." Then, reverse the roles.

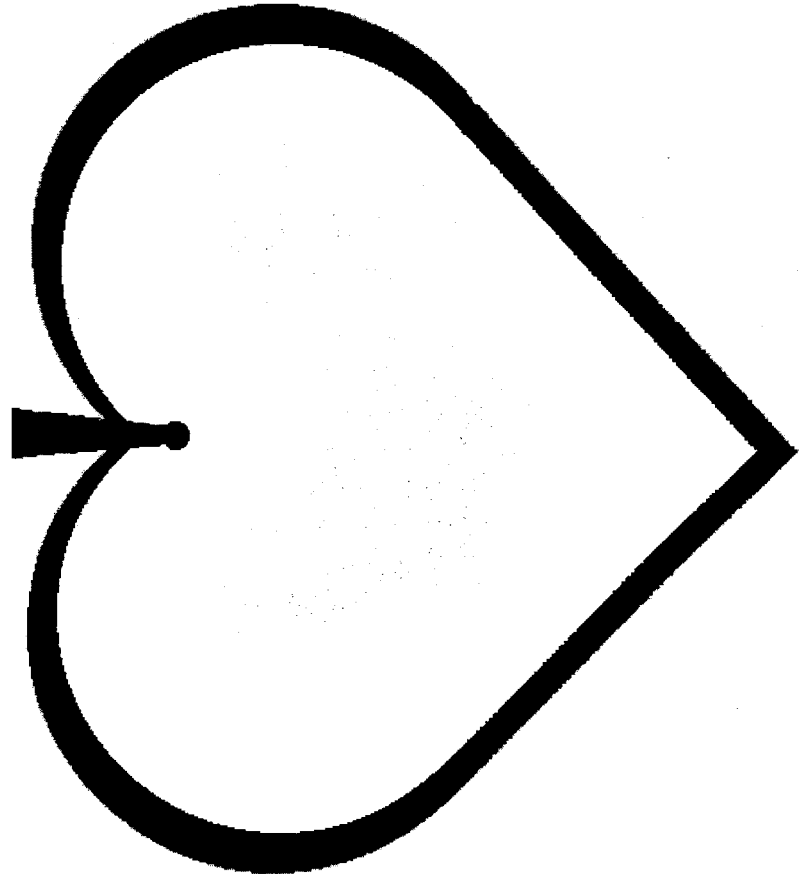
Distribute the "Design Your Own Pet Tag" handout. Ask each student to create an ID tag for a pet. Reinforce the information that should be included on an ID tag. Punch a hole at the top of each ID tag and insert string. *What could happen if your pet escaped outside without an ID tag? Why is it important that each individual pet have a collar with an ID tag?*

Have the children bring their tags home to remind their parents that dogs and cats must have proper identification.

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.



Design your own
pet I.D. tag here.
Don't forget to include
your address and phone number.



Show your own pets how much
you love them...
Make sure they always wear
a collar and I.D. tag!

Pets and People Match-Up

Cut out each card. Show one "people" card to students. Talk about the need each picture represents. Place the "pet" cards individually face-up. Ask one child to come forward and find the matching "pet" card. Repeat until all cards are matched.

