

FABULOUS FELINES
LESSON 3: Grades K-3
KEEPING CATS SAFE:
PET HAZARDS

Show-Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 4.6, 4.7
Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts – 1, 4; Science – 3; Health/Physical Education - 5

Objective: To help children identify pet hazards and to help them learn how to keep cats safe.

Materials:

- “Safety Officer” badges
- Hole punch
- String or yarn
- Colored paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- “Pet Hazards” cards
- “Pet Hazards at Home” handout
- “Happy Holidays” handout
- “The Great Indoors” handout

Method: Cats face many hazards inside and outside the home. A hazard is something that can be dangerous, in this case, for your pet. And because we care about cats, we’re going to learn how to keep them safe. Cats depend on us to watch over them and protect them from anything that could be harmful.

Today you are all going to be made official “safety officers.” You are going to be in charge of keeping cats and all pets safe from harm. Let’s make badges to wear.

Distribute a copy of the badge to each student. Ask students to decorate them with markers, colored pencils, and crayons. Use a hole punch and string so that the children can wear them.

Then, cut apart the “Pet Hazards” cards provided. Put all hazard cards into a box or hat. Have each student choose a hazard card. Each student will be responsible for learning about the hazard they chose. In small groups, students should address:

- 1) Why each hazard is dangerous for cats and other pets.
- 2) In what area of the house the hazard would be found.
- 3) How to prevent this hazard for pets. Keep in mind that pet-proofing a home is very similar to child-proofing a home.

Are these dangers present in your classroom? If you had a classroom pet, how could you make the room safer? What other dangers can students think of that weren’t listed? Are there special times of year that create more hazards? When are those times?

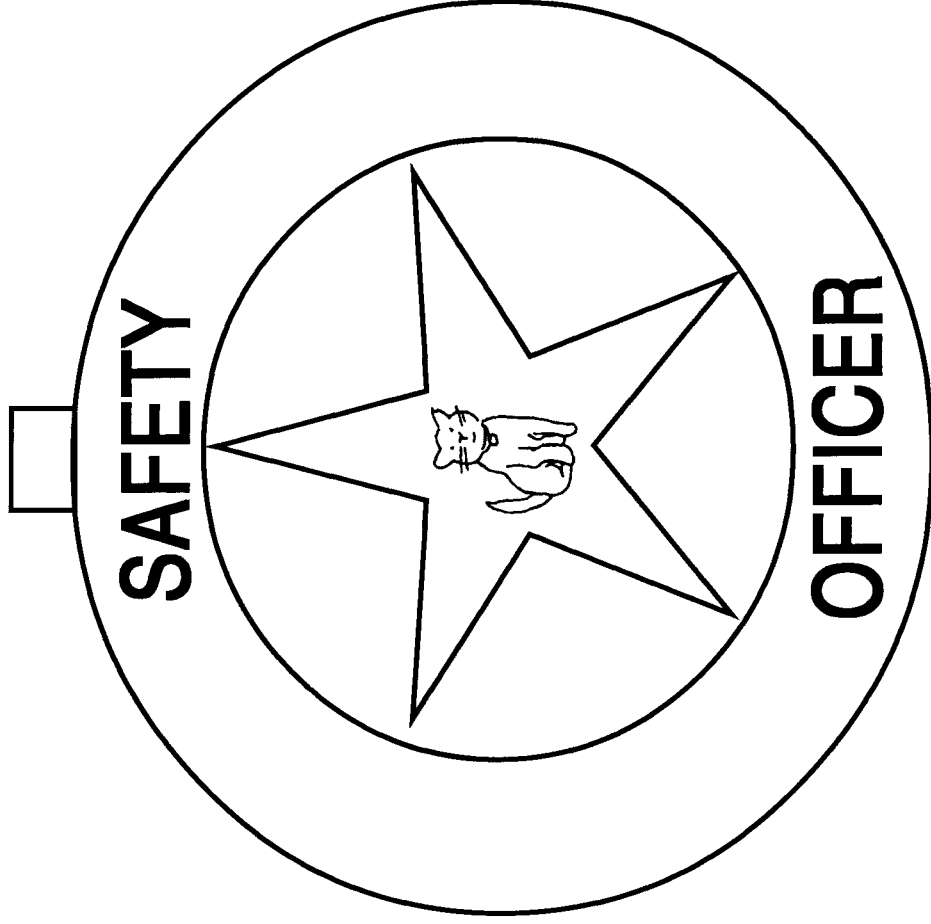
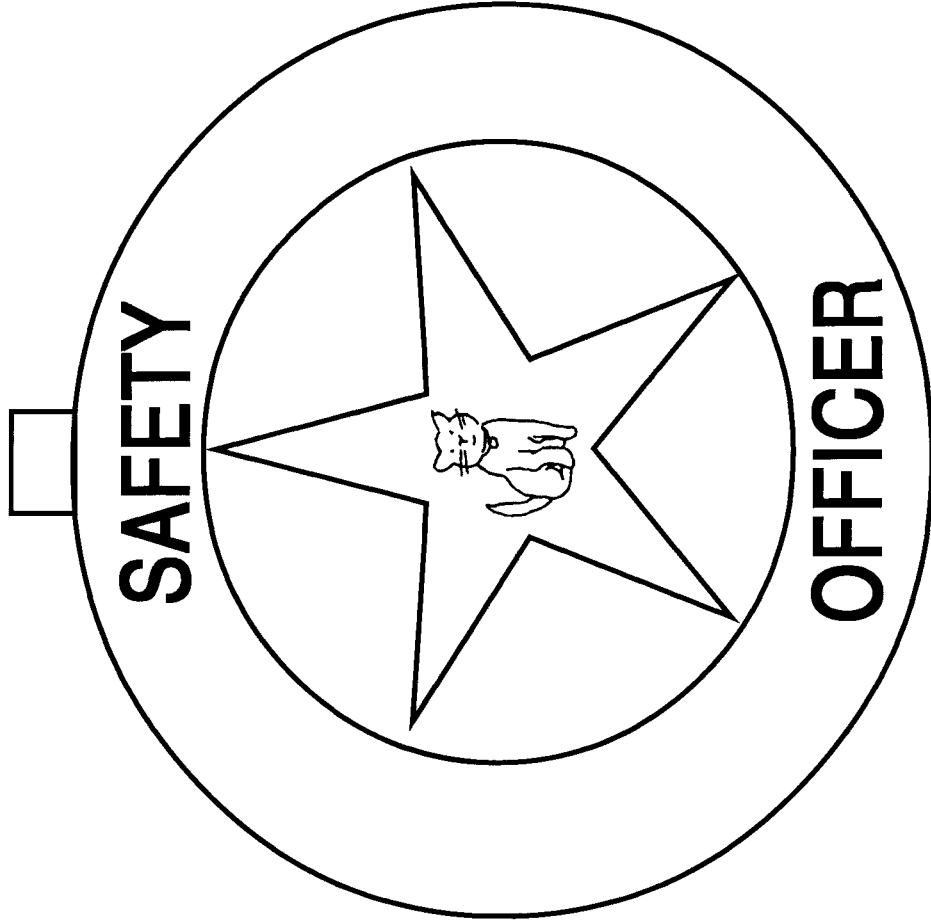
Help students review this lesson with the “Pet Hazards at Home” handout. See the “Happy Holidays” handout and “The Great Indoors” handout to find out more about pet hazards. Be sure to give students a copy of “Winter Pet Tips/Summer Pet Tips” to take home. This is important safety information for all pet parents!

Call to Action:

Create a “Cat Safety Quilt.” Using pieces of colored paper, ask each student to draw a picture, make a collage, or write something to teach other students about his or her assigned pet hazard. When all of the “quilt squares” are complete, hang them together to form a “quilt” in a large visible area so that other students can learn from it.

Even if you’re not wearing your badge, you should always be a “safety officer” for all animals! You can help animals by making the world a safer place for them. Get your family involved by looking for hazards inside and outside your own home. Take appropriate measures to make your home safe for pets and other animals.

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.



Pet Hazards

CANDLES

YARN

ANTI-FREEZE

MEDICINE

WIRES

CLEANERS

DRYER

AIR VENTS

**THREAD/
NEEDLES**

MATCHES

Pet Hazards

TOILET

TOOLS

DRAWERS

CHOCOLATE

LOTIONS

**SMALL
SPACES**

**CHILDREN'S
TOYS**

**TRASH
CANS**

CABINETS

COSMETICS

Pet Hazards

PAINT

ONIONS

SHAMPOO

DETERGENT

FIREWORKS

PERFUME

RAT POISON

CLOSETS

**INSECT
REPELLENTS**

**WEED
KILLERS**

Name _____

Pet Hazards at Home

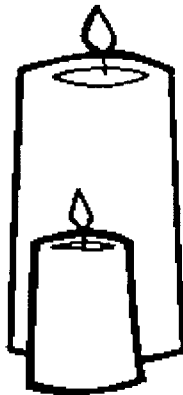
Pet owners need to make their homes safe for pets to live in. That means keeping harmful things out of paws' reach.

Below are some items that can be dangerous to pets. Some of them are poisonous and can make pets

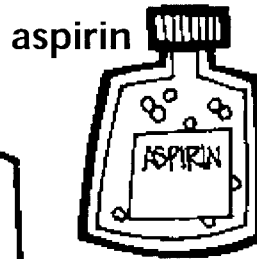
sick. Some can cause them to get tangled up or hurt. Can you tell which things are no-nos for pets? Use a red pencil or crayon to mark those things with an X. (Hint: Everything should be marked X except for two items!)



antifreeze



candles



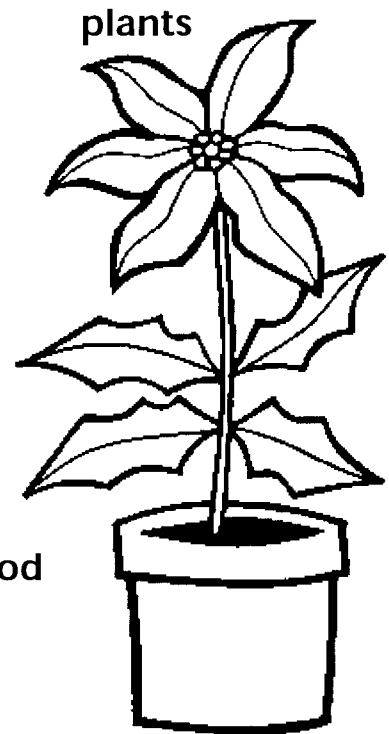
aspirin



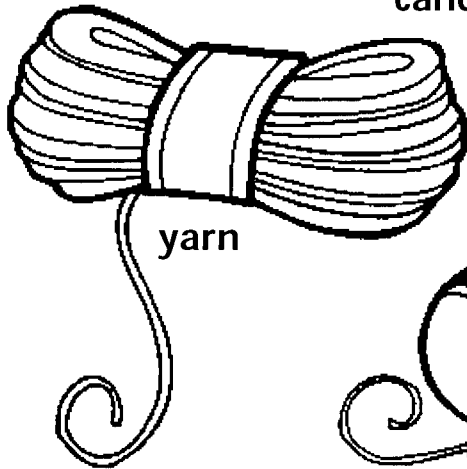
pet food



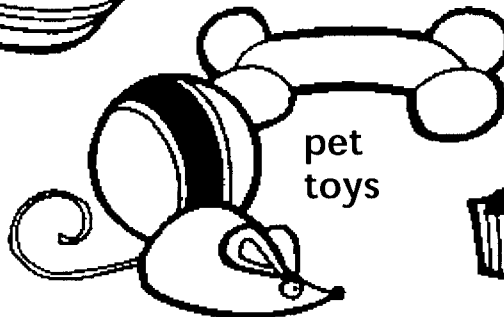
cat food



plants



yarn



pet toys



chocolate

Think of a household item that can be dangerous for kids.
What rule do you follow for that item? On the back, draw that item.
Write the rule for it.

Name _____

Happy Holidays

Holidays are a time to celebrate and gather with family and friends. But holidays can be difficult for pets. Pets may be frightened or confused by lots of guests, loud noises, and new decorations. Do your best to keep your pets in a safe, quiet place during busy holidays. Give them

extra attention too!

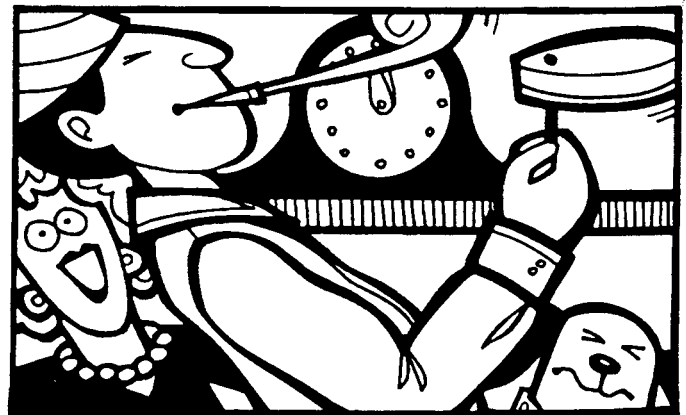
Which holidays are pictured below? Match each picture with the name of the holiday. Think about how pets may be affected by each celebration. What can be done to keep pets happy and calm?

Independence Day

Christmas

Halloween

New Year's Eve

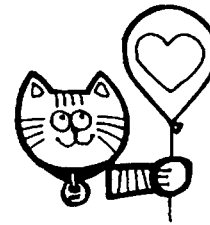


There are lots of serious - and silly - holidays just for animals. Some examples are Spay Day USA, Be Kind to Animals Week, Bird Day, International Dog Biscuit Day, Adopt-a-Dog Month, Name Your Cat Day, and Dog Bite Prevention Week. Draw a celebration for one of these. Make it fun for everyone!

KIND Name _____

The Great Indoors

Cats face many dangers outside.
Use this code to discover some of the dangers.



A C D E F G H I L N O P R S T W

1. _ _ _ _

5. _ _ _ _ _ _

2. _ _ _ _

6. _ _ _ _ _

3. _ _ _ _ _

7. _ _ _ _

4. _ _ _ _ _ _

8. _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Quick KIND Project

Indoor cats need lots of toys. Make a simple toy to give to a cat you know. Or mail it to your humane society for recess time for the cats.

Get a large grocery sack. Cut a big hole in one side. Now the sack is a great cat toy, wonderful for climbing into and out of. (Tip the sack on its side.)

On the back, design codes for the letters not shown in the puzzle.
Now write a secret message.