

SAFETY WITH ANIMALS

LESSON 2: Grades K-3

HANDLE WITH CARE

Show-Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.3, 1.5, 1.10, 2.3, 3.2 & 4.7

Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts: 1, 4 & 6; Science: 3; Health & Phys Ed: 5

Objective: To encourage students to be responsible by considering the effects their actions may have on themselves and others. To teach students to be gentle with pets in order to prevent being bitten or scratched.

Materials:

- Stuffed animal for each child
- “How Would You Feel?” handout
- Coloring/writing utensils
- Kind pledge card

Method: Introduce this lesson by reviewing the fact that animals have feelings, too. Just like us, they are affected by how others treat them. If someone treats us poorly, how do we feel? Mad, sad, uncared for. If someone treats us well, how do we feel? Happy, glad, cared for. Pets respond the same way. If we treat them well, they will be happy. If we treat them poorly, they will be sad. Animals have a right to be happy and feel good just like we do. So it’s up to us to behave in a way that is kind and caring. Pets and people will want to spend time with us if we think about their feelings, too. Treat others as you would want to be treated.

If we are kind and gentle with our pets, they will also be less likely to bite or hurt us. Using stuffed animals, demonstrate the proper way to pick up, hold, stroke and play with pets. Give children an opportunity to imitate your gentle actions with their stuffed animals.

Distribute a copy of the “How Would You Feel?” handout to each student. Read each sentence, then discuss how you would feel. Ask the students to draw a face on each animal and write one word under each completed picture that describes the feeling. Remind students that animals would feel similar to how we feel. The sentences may also lead to a discussion about pets’ basic needs.

Call to Action: Practice being gentle with your pet at home, or a neighbor’s or friend’s pet. Pay attention to how they respond to your actions. Do they purr, nuzzle, get calm, or go to sleep? Have children use a stuffed animal to demonstrate their experiences.

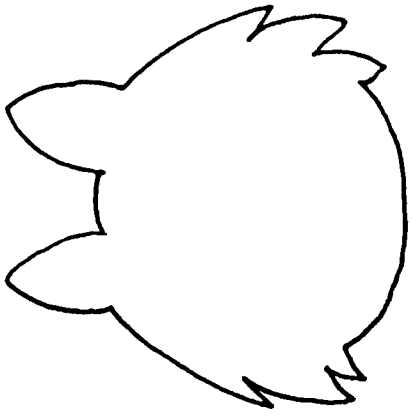
Recite the Kind Pledge and distribute a Kind Card to each student.

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.

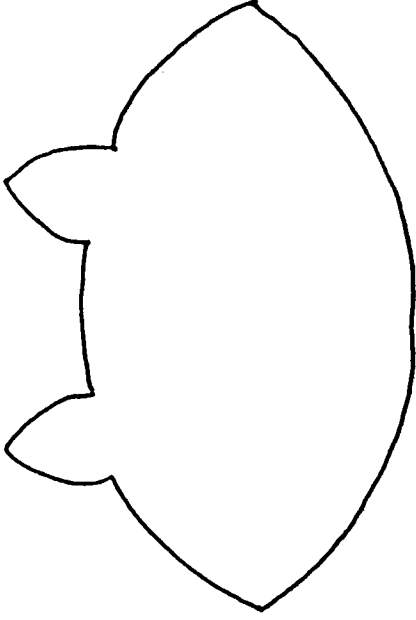
"How Would You Feel...?"

Draw a face on each animal and write one word under each completed picture that describes how you would feel.

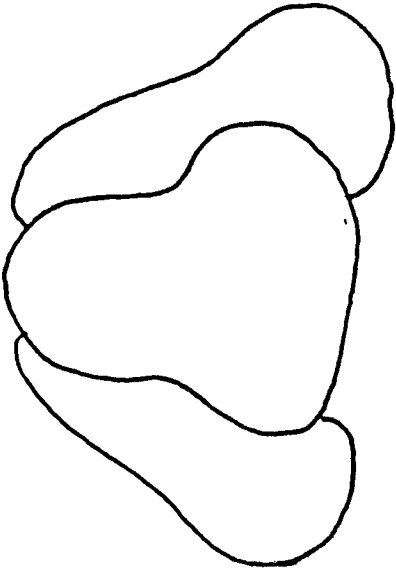
1 Getting picked on and teased.



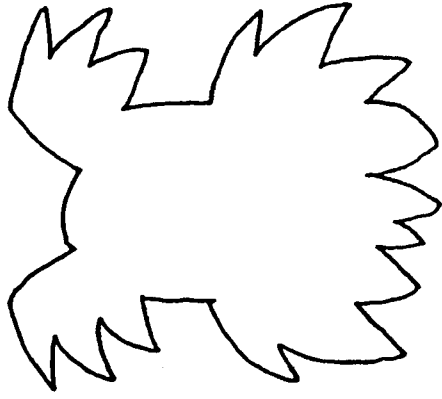
2 Having your ears and hair pulled.



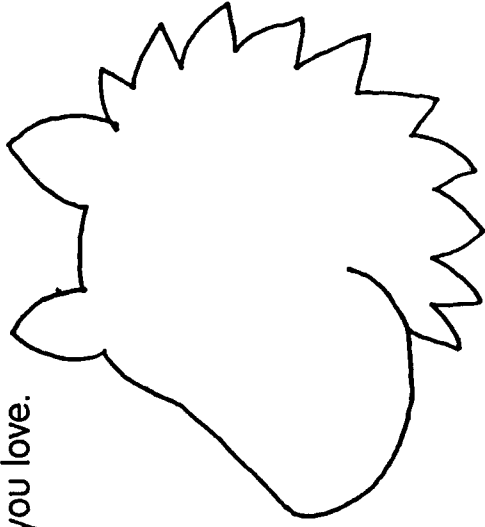
3 Having your own special treat or toy that you don't have to share.



4 Playing a rough game where you get hurt.



5 Taking a quiet nap next to someone you love.



6 Getting picked up gently and hugged softly.

