

PET CARE

INSTANT MEETING
AGES: 5 - 6

GOAL: To introduce different types of pets and how to take care of them to kids.

PROGRAM AREAS COVERED:
"In My Community" Keeper Badge

PREPARATION TIME:
20-30 minutes for printing, cutting and gathering supplies

(Optional) Arrange a short tour at your SPCA/Humane Society during this meeting or after you introduce pet care to your group. Ask the tour guide to show the children different types of animals while talking about why we all need to work together to care for our pets at home to ensure they stay safe, healthy, and happy. Or arrange for a local veterinarian to come to the meeting with pets to talk about caring for animals.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Paper bags (the kind used to pack lunches) for each child
- Cut up copies of Paper Bag Puppy Template on page 7
- Cut out Flashcards on pages 4 and 5
- Pencil Crayons
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors (For leader to cut out flashcards and Paper Bag Puppy Template)
- Copies of Cat and Dog Colouring Pages on pages 8 and 9



OPENING

Enjoy your usual Opening.

Have everyone sit down and tell the group what kind of animals they have at home, or ones that they would like to have at home. Ask them what they like or dislike about cats, dogs, fish etc. and if they have any responsibilities at home for taking care of their own pets.

Now that everyone has started talking about animals, have them move on to your choice of the activities located on the following pages.



PET CARE BASICS



1 Shuffle up the flashcards and have the group sit down in a circle.

2 Ask everyone to take a card and pass the pile to the person sitting to his/her right.

3 After everyone has a card, go around the circle and ask them to describe what is on their card.

4 If a child cannot identify a card have the group, or yourself, help them out.

5 With each card that is presented discuss either what type of animal is shown or why a certain thing is needed to care for an animal properly. *(Please see page 6 for additional information on talking points.)*

6 Ask the group to provide their own information as well as share stories about their own pets.



PAPER BAG PUPPY



1 Cut out "Paper Bag Puppy Template" shapes before meeting.

2 Give each child a paper bag, set of shapes, glue, and markers.

3 Give yourself the same supplies so everyone can follow along.

4 Place the flap (which is normally the bottom of the bag) right side up. This will be the animal's face and mouth that will help it talk once it is a puppet.

5 Have each child colour the eyes, ears, mouth, and nose any colour they want.

6 Help each child glue on the ears, eyes, whiskers and nose on the top of the flap.

7 Help each child glue the tongue on the inside of the flap so that it sticks out.

8 Show everyone that if they put their hand inside the paper bag they can now make their puppy talk.

9 Let everyone draw on spots, stripes etc. to make their puppy unique.



RED ROVER

1 To end off the meeting split the group into two equal teams.

2 Try to play the game outdoors, if possible, or in a large area where the two teams can stand far apart from one another.

3 Have the groups form a straight line, facing each other with the members of each team holding hands.

4 Decide which team goes first, or flip a coin if one is available.

5 Explain to the group that the first team will choose a person they want to join them. After they have decided they call "Red Rover, Red Rover, we call [insert child's name here] over!"

6 The child whose name is called then runs as fast as they can toward the opposing side. If he/she breaks through any two team members joined hands he/she can bring one team member back with them to the other side.

7 If the child does not break through he/she must then join the opposing team.

8 Have the kids play until one team has all the players or it is time to end the meeting.

CLOSING

Enjoy your regular Closing.

Ask the group to remember what you talked about when it comes to taking care of pets. Have them bring home their craft (colouring page and/or paper bag puppy) to show their parents. Let them know they can bring photos of their pets to the next meeting as well as any stories they might have about their favorite animal.



PET CARE BASICS - FLASHCARDS

Bunny



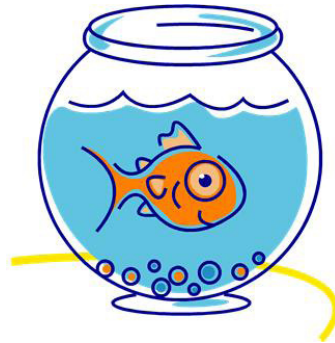
Dog



Cat



Fish



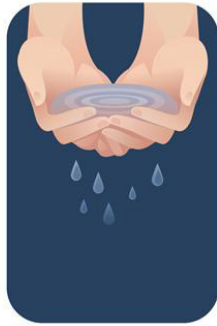
Frog



Hamster



Water



Exercise



Love



Shelter



Food



Toilet



PET CARE BASICS - INFORMATION

WATER

- Pets need to drink lots of water just like people.
- Always make sure to have a water dish, or two, filled with fresh water in an area where your pet can get at it to drink.

EXERCISE

- Certain types of animals need lots of exercise to burn off their extra energy. Dogs should be taken for at least one walk a day.
- Cats and bunnies may not want to go for walks, but they should be played with instead. Always try to keep some toys on hand so that you can give your pet the exercise it needs without a leash.

LOVE

- All animals need love. For cats and dogs, make sure to handle them gently while petting them and giving them kisses.
- Ask your parents how to pick them up properly and if it is okay to carry your pet around with you. Not all animals like to be held.
- For other pets like fish and hamsters etc. talk to them as much as possible to let them know you're around.

SHELTER

- We all need a place to sleep and a roof over our heads. Pets are no different. Dogs can have houses built outside so they are sheltered from the weather and cats and even fish like to have their own area to hide and get away from people.

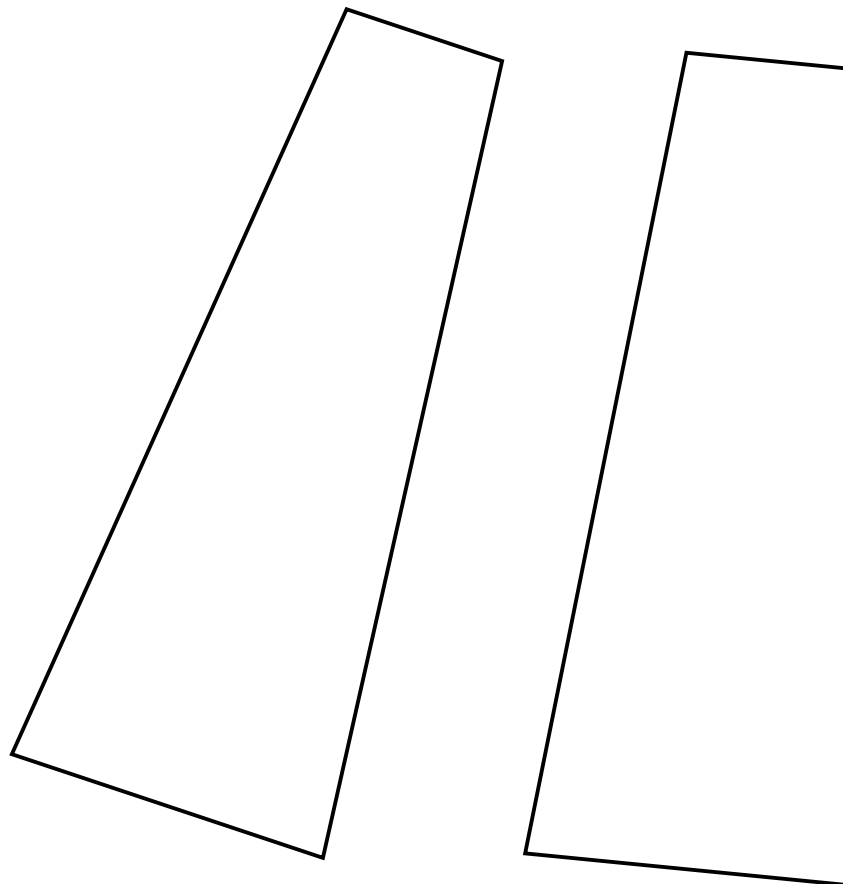
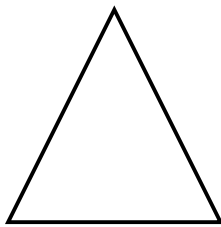
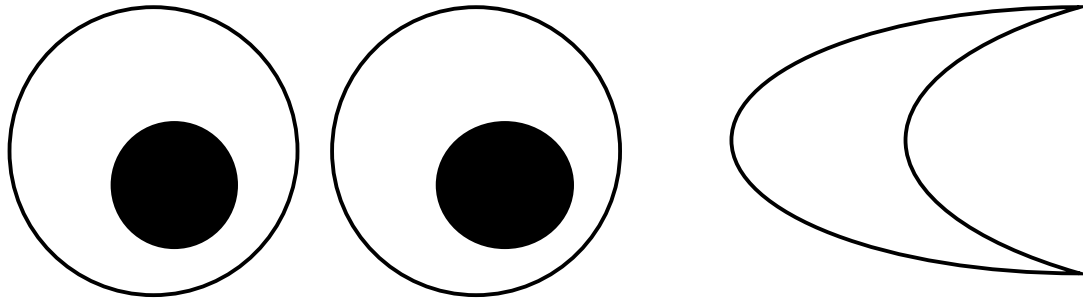
FOOD

- Along with staying hydrated, animals need to be fed at least once a day as well. Your parents should be able to tell you how many times a day to feed your pet. Sometimes cats and dogs are fed in the morning at breakfast time and again at supper.
- Fish and rabbits etc. may only be fed once a day.
- All pets should be fed a certain amount of food so that they don't overeat and put on unneeded weight.

TOILET

- All animals need a place where they can go to the bathroom. However, unless you or your parents can train your pets to go to the bathroom it is best to stick to giving cats a litter box and dogs a backyard to do their business in.
- Help your parents out by cleaning up after your pets. Take a bag along with you when you go for a walk with your dog to pick up when he goes to the bathroom, and change your rabbit's cage or cat's litter box at least once a week.
- No one likes a stinky bathroom and neither do pets. How would you feel going to the bathroom with a toilet that doesn't flush? Think about that next time you don't want to clean up after your pet. They will appreciate it!

PAPER BAG PUPPY TEMPLATE



CAT COLOURING PAGE

Your Name: _____

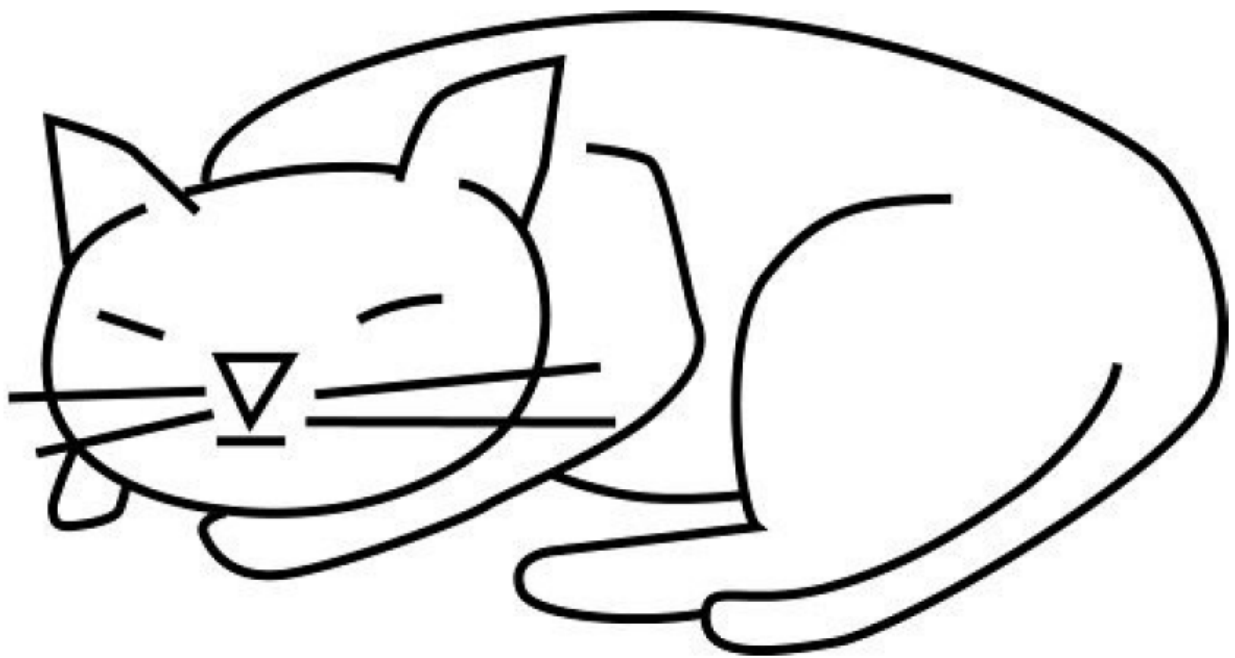


Image Source: <http://www.kids-activities-learning-games.com/support-files/animal-coloring-pages.pdf>

DOG COLOURING PAGE

Your Name: _____

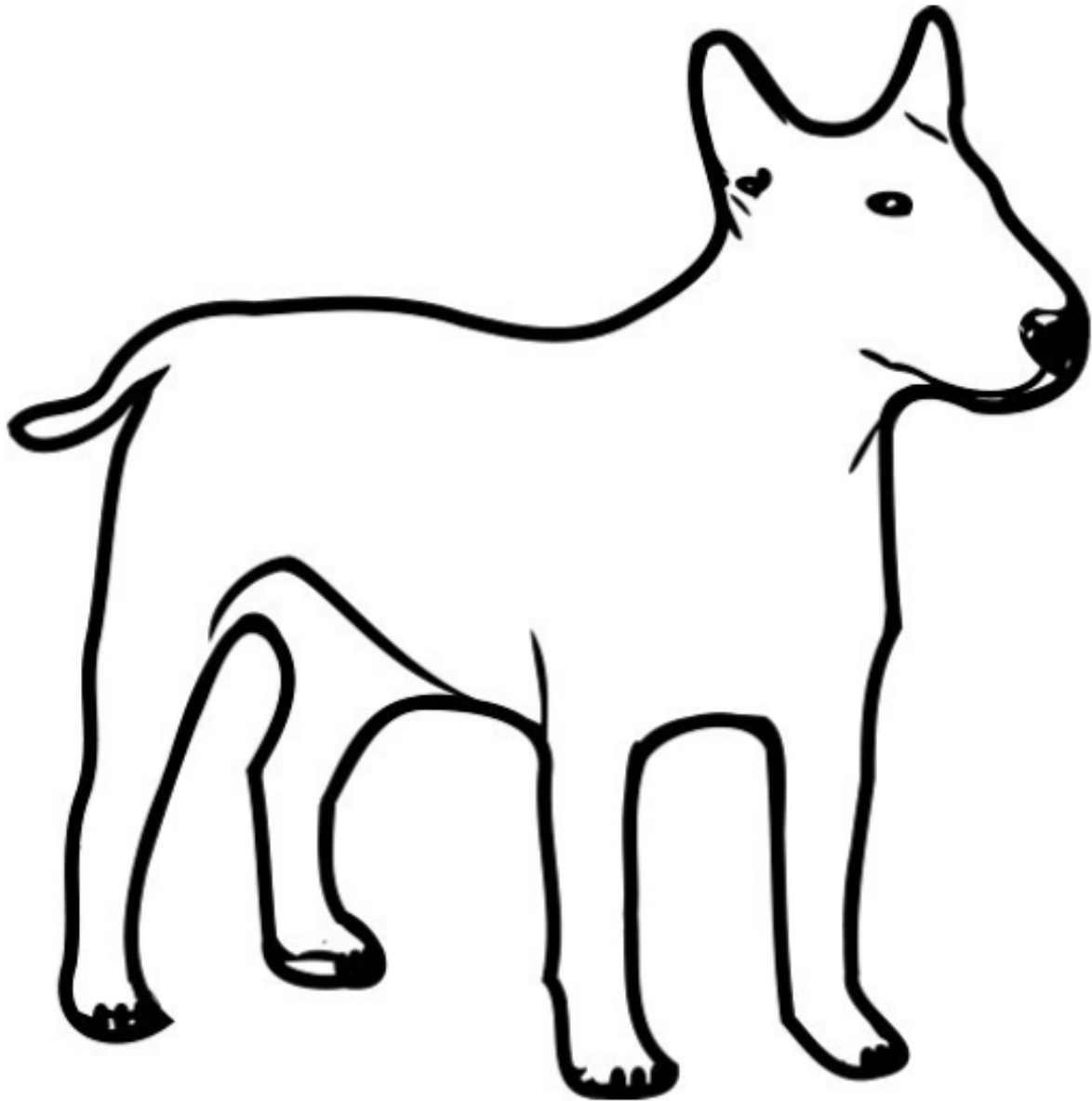


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