

PET CARE

INSTANT MEETING
AGES: 7 - 8

GOAL: To introduce how to take care of various types of pets and what they need in order to survive and be loved by their owners.

PROGRAM AREAS COVERED:
Key To I Can - Pet Pals Badge, Pet Care Badge

PREPARATION TIME:
20 minutes for printing and gathering supplies Let children/parents know to bring in a photo of their pet for this meeting beforehand (optional)

(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 veterinarian to come to the meeting with animals to talk about pet care.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Paper bags (the kind used to pack lunches) for each child
- Paper Bag Puppy Template on page 7
- Cut out Flashcards on pages 4 and 5
- Pencil Crayons
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- 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 by showing the group a photo of their pet (optional - if mentioned beforehand). Ask them what their favorite thing is about their pet, how they came up with its name, and how they keep it active everyday.

Ensure each child gets a turn to tell at least one story/anecdote about their animal. Also, talk about some of the rules/responsibilities that people need to follow when caring for animals such as the following:

- Keeping your pet on leash when it is out for a walk.
- Making sure your pet gets all its shots for rabies, leukemia (cats), parvovirus(dogs), distemper, Lyme disease (dogs) etc.
- Bringing your pet to the vet for checkups on a regular basis or when it is sick.
- Training your pet to be gentle with humans and other animals by not biting or growling at others.



PET CARE BASICS

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

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



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

4 Ask the child either what are some of the main things you might do if you had that particular animal such as for a hamster how often their cage should be cleaned out or what type of food it might eat. Or if a child has an item flashcard such as a “Love” or “Water” card ask them the significance of it in relation to pet care. How often should a pet’s water be changed, how can you show an animal you care without hurting it, is teasing a form of love and is it a good idea when you have a pet?

(Please see page 7 for additional information on talking points.)



PAPER BAG PUPPY



1 Give each child a paper bag, Paper Bag Puppy Template, glue, scissors, and markers.

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

7 Have each child glue the tongue on the inside of the flap so that it sticks out. Assist as needed.

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

5 Assist each child with cutting out the shapes from the Paper Bag Puppy Template.

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

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

6 Have each child glue on the ears, eyes, whiskers and nose on the top of the flap. Assist as needed.

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.



COLOURING CREATURES

1 Give each child his/her choice of either a dog or cat to colour.

2 Hand out pencil crayons, markers, and crayons.

3 Ask each child to not only colour in the animal they have chosen, but also think of the types of things an animal needs to survive.

4 Help them come up with a name for their pet. Let them draw additions to their pet to make it unique or even a different species if they like. But let them know they will have to add the proper pet care necessities to their picture as well.

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. Encourage them to take on more responsibilities when it comes to taking care of their own pet at home.

PET CARE BASICS - FLASHCARDS

Bunny



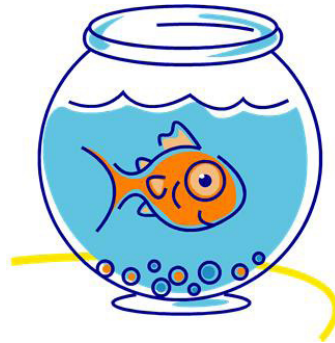
Dog



Cat



Fish



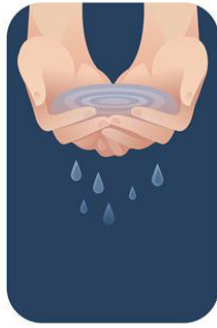
Frog



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.

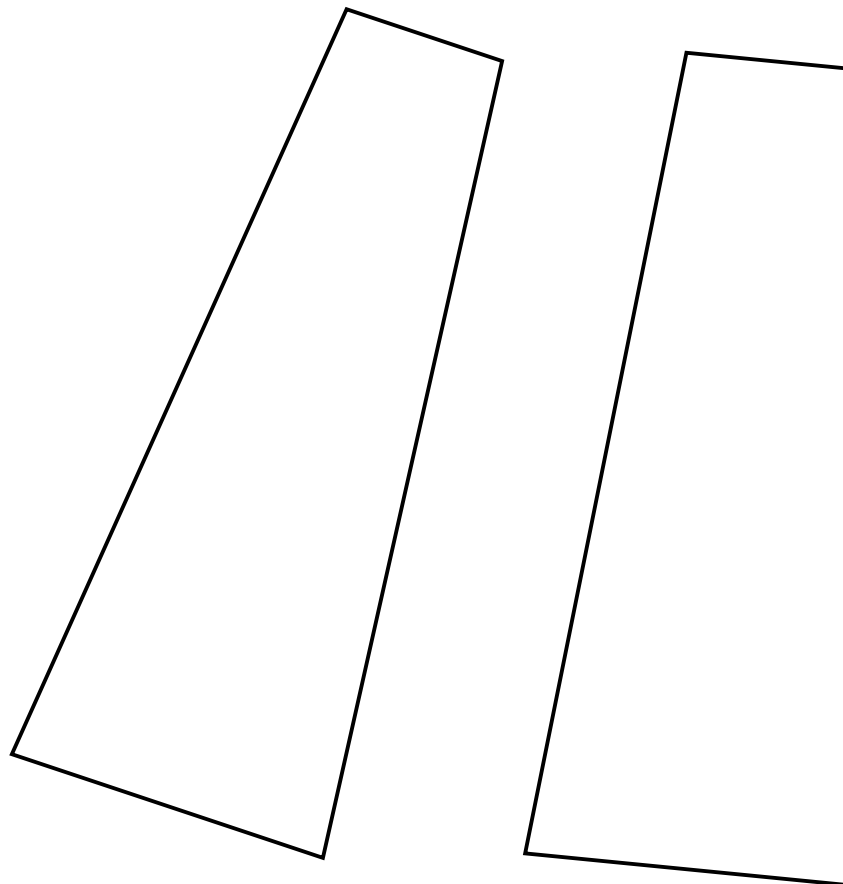
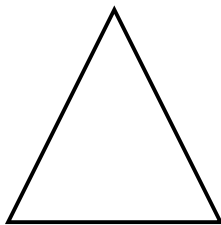
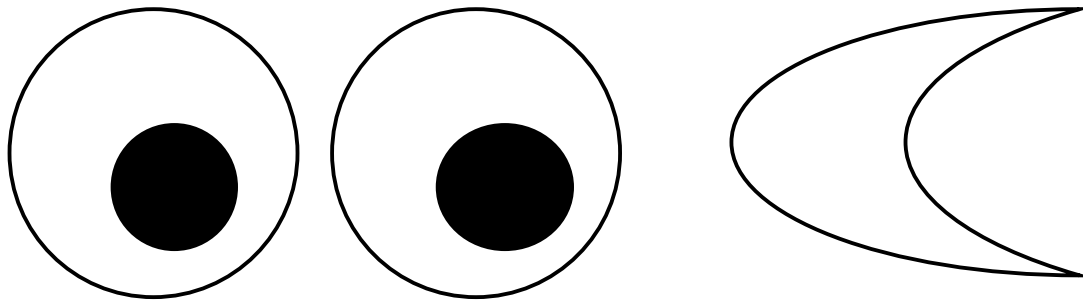
FOOD

- 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

Pet Name: _____

Your Name: _____

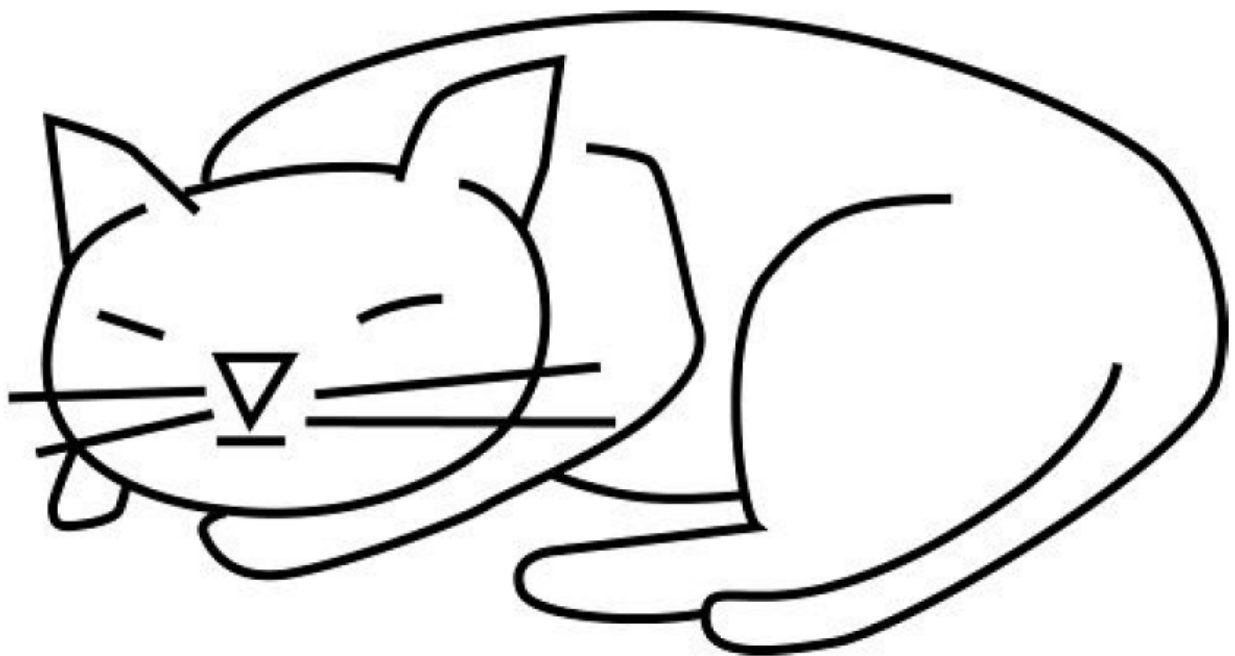


Image Source: <http://www.kids-activities-learning-games.com/support-files/animal-coloring-pages.pdf>

DOG COLOURING PAGE

Pet Name: _____

Your Name: _____

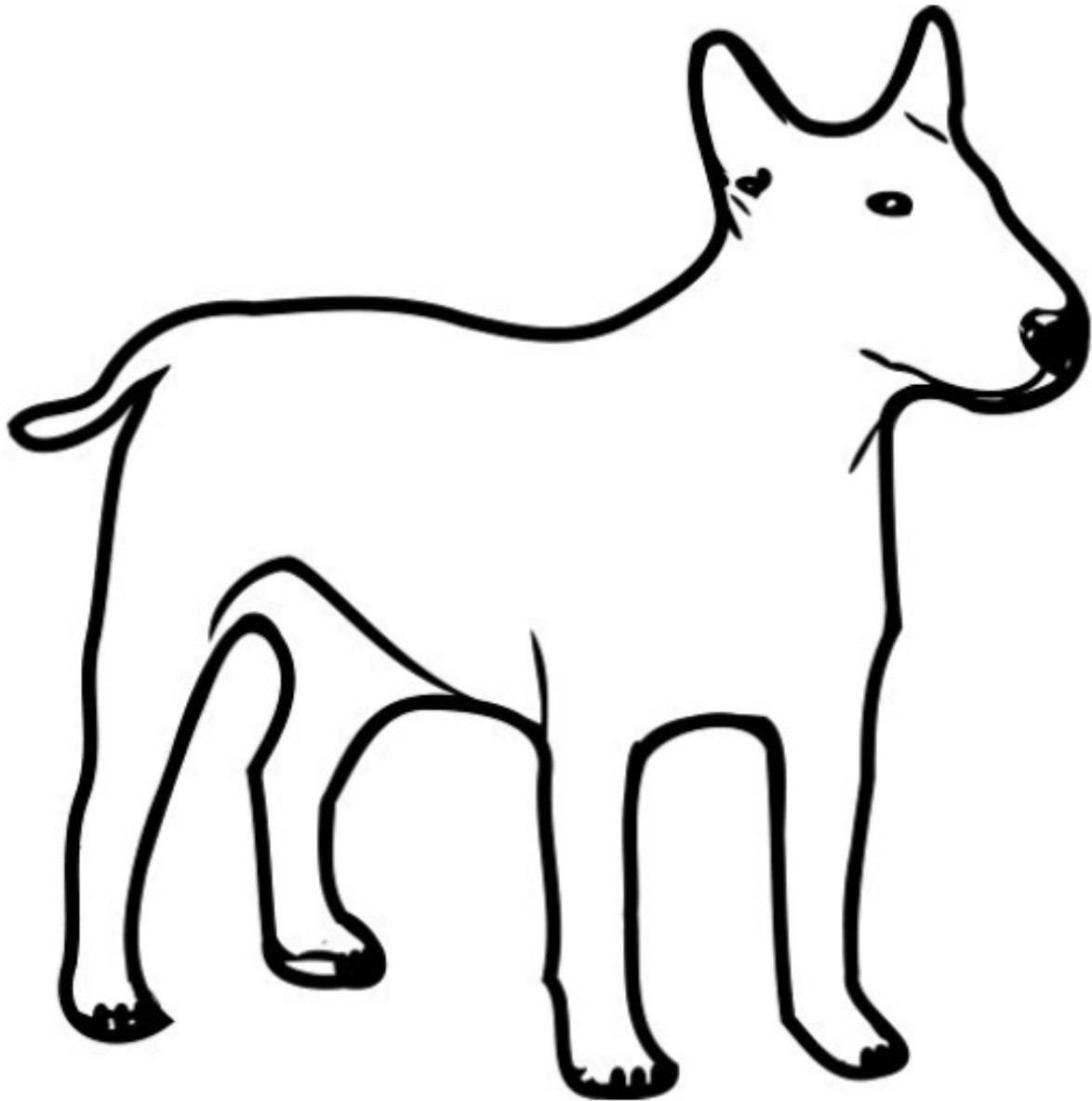


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