

PET CARE

INSTANT MEETING
AGES: 9 - 11

GOAL: To learn the responsibilities needed for taking care of and maintaining a healthy pet.

PROGRAM AREAS COVERED:
Pet Lover Badge, Pet Care Badge

PREPARATION TIME:
20 minutes for printing 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 group the different responsibilities and duties that are conducted everyday at the shelter to ensure the animals stay happy and healthy. Ask to see if the group can take a dog for a walk or help clean out a litter box or two etc. Additionally, ask the tour guide to talk about animal abuse, why to spay/neuter pets, and/or the right way to handle a timid or angry animal. Or arrange for a local veterinarian to come to the meeting with pets to talk about caring for animals.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

FOR CRAFT

- Jars
- Scraps of craft foam
- Glue
- Scissors
- Various coloured pompoms
- Cotton balls
- Feathers
- Wiggle Eyes
- Black Pipe Cleaners
- Yarn
- Small pieces of paper to label jars

FOR GAMES

- Paper
- Pencils
- Timer
- Cut out Flashcards on pages 5 and 6



OPENING

Enjoy your usual Opening.

Talk about some of the responsibilities that people need to do when caring for pets such as the following:

- Training your pet to be gentle with humans and other animals by not biting or growling at others.
- Ensuring your pet always has enough food and water so that it does not starve or become dehydrated
- Do not hit or physically abuse your pet in any way.
- Do not leave your pet alone for long periods of time without someone coming to check on it if you are on vacation etc



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 Explain to everyone that they will each have at least one card (or two, depending on how many people are in your group) of items that are either needed to take care of a pet, or are not needed to take care of a pet.

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

5 Have each person offer suggestions for what to do for each item or tell a story/anecdote about a time where they had to deal with grooming, feeding, toileting, taking care of a sick pet etc. If it is an item that pets are not supposed to eat etc. ask that person what they would do to ensure a pet doesn't have access to the item on their card.

(Please see pages 7 and 8 for additional information on talking points.)



ANIMAL CHARADES

1 Pass around cut up pieces of paper.

2 Ask each person to write the name of an animal on the paper. Let them know they can be as imaginative as they want, but it does have to be a real animal that other people will know how to act out.

3 Shuffle up the paper and select a person to go first.

4 Have the individual choose a piece of paper. Ask them not to show it to anyone, but to look at it for 5-10 seconds and then when you say go they have to start acting it out. Let them know they will only have 20 seconds maximum to act out their animal.

5 Yell "Go!" and start the timer.

6 Play the game until each person has acted out at least one animal.





JAR PETS - CRAFT

1 Hand out the jars, craft foam, scissors, glue, pipe cleaners, cotton balls/pompoms, feathers, and wiggle eyes to the group.

4 Have everyone fill their jar with cotton balls or pompoms depending on what colour they would like their pet jar to be.

7 Have each person glue a pompom on their jar for a nose, or feathers if it is a bird, if needed.

2 Let everyone know that they will be using these supplies to create any kind of animal they want.

5 Ask everyone to screw the lid on tight and place the jar upside down.

8 Supervise everyone cutting pipe cleaners so they are short enough for whiskers and glue onto the pompom nose, if needed.

3 Explain that they should use the craft foam to cut out their pet's ears and any spots etc. they would like to glue to the jar.

6 Have each person glue on the wiggle eyes and then the foam ears etc. they cut out earlier.

9 Have everyone cut a strip of craft foam 1/4" wide and glue around the edge of their lid.



PET CARE CHART



1 Hand everyone a "Pet Care Chart" located on page 9 and a pencil.

4 Ask everyone to work together to fill in at least four things they need to do each day for their pet based off of what they already knew and what was talked about during today's meeting.

2 Ask everyone to fill in their pet's name (of if they do not own a pet, a name of a pet they would like to have).

5 Have each person and their partner sign the bottom of their "Pet Care Chart."

3 Have everyone work in pairs or in teams.

6 Explain that they check off a box each day that they complete the duties they came up with throughout the week. This will help remind them of all the various responsibilities they need to ensure they complete when caring for an animal. Let them know they can talk to their parents about other duties/chores that may need to be added to the list.



RED ROVER

- 1** To end off the meeting split the group up 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 person's name here] over!"
- 6** The person whose name is called then runs as fast as they can toward the opposing side. If he/she breaks through two team members joined hands he/she can bring one team member back with them to the other side.
- 7** If the individual does not break through he/she must then join the opposing team.
- 8** Have the group play until one team has all the players or it is time to end the meeting.



CLOSING

Make sure everyone brings home their jar pet, and Pet Care Chart and remind them to talk to their parents about the various responsibilities that come with caring for a pet. Ask them to place their Pet Care Chart on the fridge or in their room where they can see it and check off their duties each day.

Enjoy your regular Closing.

PET CARE BASICS - FLASHCARDS

Collar



Treat



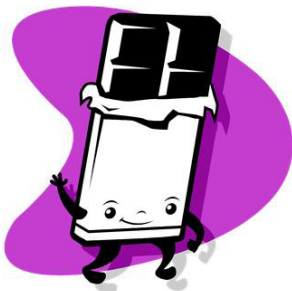
Needle



Chips



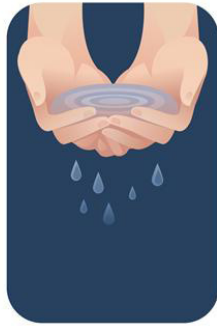
Chocolate



Veterinarian Visits



Water



Exercise



Love



Shelter



Food



Toilet



PET CARE BASICS - INFORMATION

COLLAR

- Ensuring your pet wears a collar makes it easier to identify if it gets lost. That way if your dog or cat wanders into another person's yard they will immediately have your contact information so they can return your pet faster.

TREAT

- When it comes to training a pet treats are a helpful way to reward good behaviour.
- Give treats sparingly. You don't want to give an animal too many as they'll come to expect it and the treat will just become a regular occurrence.

NEEDLE

- No one likes shots, animals included but they need to get regular inoculations as well. What are some shots your pet got when it was a puppy/kitten?

CHIPS

- People food is not meant for animals and although pets may beg for junk food such as chips it is not a good idea to feed your pet even just one.
- Use treats designated for your pets breed/species instead of people food. • Always be sure to discourage begging for human food rather than giving into "puppy dog eyes." This will only create negative behaviour in the long run.

CHOCOLATE

- Although chocolate tastes good to people, and your pet may act like they enjoy it if you give it to them, it is poisonous to animals.
- Always be sure to keep chocolate in a place where your pet cannot get it. If they do consume chocolate be sure to call your vet for further assistance.

VETERINARIAN VISITS

- Regular checkups are part of your responsibility as a pet owner. You should be sure to take your pet to the veterinarian not just when its sick but also to get inoculations and to be spayed/neutered etc.

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 pets such as 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!*

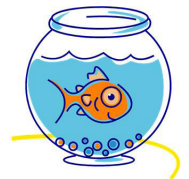


_____ 'S CARE CHART

I NEED TO...	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT



I promise to complete all of these duties each week to ensure my pet stays happy and healthy at all times.



Pet Owner Signature

Witness Signature