

PET CARE

INSTANT MEETING
AGES: 12 - 17

GOAL: To create a gift to be given to pet owners and/or the local SPCA/ Humane Society and learn about why pets are needed in our lives.

PREPARATION TIME:

20-30 minutes for gathering supplies
Ask group to bring in photos of their current/past pet at the previous meeting

(Optional) Arrange a short tour at your SPCA/Humane Society during this meeting to donate the pet puffs to the facility. Ask the tour guide to discuss the different volunteer opportunities available at the shelter and how the group can get further involved. Ask about different fund raising events they hold that the group may be able to participate in. Additionally as 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 BAKING ACTIVITY

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1-1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- 1 cup non-fat dry milk powder
- 1/4 cup corn oil
- 1 Egg
- 1 can pet food--(6 to 8oz)
- 1/4 cup water

FOR GAME

- Paper
- Pencils
- Timer



OPENING

Enjoy your usual Opening.

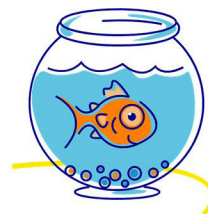
Ask everyone to bring out their photos of their pet/past pet. Have each person talk about their favorite thing about their animal, how it made them feel, and what positive aspects it brought to their life. Let everyone know that people with pets not only live longer but they are usually happier as well. However, remind them that it is a huge responsibility and pets are often a lot more work than people think.

Talk about what people should consider before acquiring a pet such as the following:

- *How much time will you need to spend with this animal?*
- *Do you have that much free time?*
- *Who will care for the animal when you are away on holidays?*
- *Can you afford the food, shelter and vet bills etc. for the animal?*
- *Have you researched how to care for the animal such as what type of food/treats it eats, how often and where it sleeps, what kind of brush to use, when it needs inoculations etc.?*
- *Do you know how to tell if your animal is severely ill?*
- *Am I allergic to this 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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Depending on the size of the jars each person may have to make more than one to hold all the treats being made in the following activity.



PET PUFFS - BAKING

(Source: <http://www.bullwrinkle.com/Assets/Recipes/Pet%20Puffs.htm>)

- 1** You will need to hold your meeting at a place where an oven and other baking supplies are available.
- 2** Preheat oven to 300 F.
- 3** Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water.
- 4** Mix all dry ingredients.
- 5** Add yeast/water mixture and dry ingredients together in one bowl.
- 6** As dough will become very stiff have everyone take turns using their hands to mix it.
- 7** Have everyone take turns dropping dough by level half-teaspoons onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
- 8** Set timer for 25 minutes.
- 9** Bake in a preheated oven checking pet puffs every few minutes to ensure they are not burning.
- 10** Have one person designated to put on oven mitts and remove pet puffs from oven.
- 11** Place pet puffs on a towel or rack to cool.
- 12** Once cooled, fill jars with pet puffs.
- 13** (Optional) Donate jars of pet puffs to local SPCA/Humane Society.



ANIMAL CHARADES



- 1** Pass around cut up pieces of paper and pencils.
- 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.



PET CARE CHART

1 Hand everyone a “Pet Care Chart” located on page 6 and a pencil.

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).

3 Have everyone work in pairs or in teams.

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.

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

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.

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!



CLOSING

Thank everyone for doing such a great job on the jar pets and pet puff treats. Ensure there are enough treats for your group to bring home to their own pets as well.

Enjoy your regular Closing.



_____ '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