

How To Care For Pets



Grade Level: 3-5

Time Needed: See procedures (estimates)

Overview:

This was the most requested topic from a survey posted so far on this site. There are many parts to caring for animals, including where to get pets, what kind of pets, and how they were acquired by the seller or giver. Of course, the main thing is to love them, and that means to give them what they need: food, warmth, security, and the kind of affection they understand.

Essential Questions:

- What questions do you need to be able to answer in order to acquire a pet humanely?
- What do you need to know in order to treat a pet humanely?

Standards:

- Education standards don't cover private animal care.
- American Veterinary Medical Association:
 - Animals must be provided water, food, proper handling, health care, and an environment appropriate to their care and use, with thoughtful consideration for their species-typical biology and behavior.

- Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress, and suffering.
- <https://awionline.org/content/humane-education-laws-state> Your state may have some humane standards.
- Religious Schools sometimes have standards about the care and welfare of animals. If you work in one, you may decide to look at them, but humane treatment of animals is pretty general.

Objectives:

- Examine different needs of different kinds of pets.
- Analyze ways to interpret a pet's emotional state.
- Assess reasons for wanting a pet.
- Identify the different ways pets are acquired by distributors.
- Identify the different ways families can acquire pets.
- Materials:
- Pet Survey-google form
- All of the Texas Humane Network pages are meant for parents.
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/teaching-kids-to-be-nice-to-animals/> Teaching Kids to be Kind to Animals: Texas Humane Network (more for parents)
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/petsandplants/> Plant Toxicity & Your Pet: What You Need to Know
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/introducing-your-kids-to-pets/> Introducing Kids & Pets
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/disaster-planning-for-your-pets/> Disaster Planning for Your Pet
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/pets-firework-safety/> Pets Firework Safety
 - <https://texashumanenetwork.org/you-can-help/humane-library/> Humane Library

- For parents and kids' pages
 - <https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bhf-book-lists/animal-lover-picture-books>
Picture Books, Care for Animals, Heal the Earth
 - <https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bhf-book-lists/animal-lover-picture-books>
Animal Lover Picture Books
- Caring for Pets:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppGjUDWMgIg> Look After Your Pets |
Videos for Kids (mostly for younger kids)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOLP8p0jSoA> What do pets need?
(British, but understandable. Mostly for older kids)
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGkC2_3wGbOQ9WHr6uurosquEulwIVfbzDDDYIxJMfk/edit?tab=t.0 Pledge
 - https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/PM_NosetoTail_07_18_3-5.pdf From Nose to Tail: Lessons to Inspire Care and Compassion for Dogs.
Grades: 3-5
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Pet-Research-Organizer-3506727> Pet Research Organizer
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-Circle-of-Compassion-Grades-3-5-3452573?st=59986700903350fd7e217e18ed7d6b2f> Circle of Compassion
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xO9ivEigKbKAZAcgViqcyCUOl5BdLUNM2snAkb7lEM/edit?tab=t.0> exotic animals list
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DoTD8YyHME1P4RpvuGg1bMs5J6Ow9WqnWzOoB_AxP_Y/edit?tab=t.0 research guide for exotic pets
 - <https://www.thesprucepets.com/exotic-pet-care-5268242> How to Care for Your Exotic Pet

- <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-Activity-3-Happy-Pet-Environments-Grades-K-2-2545509?st=c38866c175223e0e8a1096b8709b4367> HEART (Humane Education): Activity 3 - Happy Pet Environments
- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Rxe8owI-rokLdlABAdsPxahpcePd8f_YGqiziBTmdg/edit#slide=id.g1161c276eed_0_20 Exotic Animals As Pets
- Playing It Safe with Dogs:
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-A-Happy-Home-For-Every-Dog-Cat-Grades-3-5-Lesson-4-2531173?st=f95594e895aa6c6afe09242f6921f6e8> Lesson 3, p. 21
 - https://files.mtstatic.com/site_13160/draft_4415/0?Expires=1728332895&Signature=dXjZ9K4QCBtroBtBjZQ~8NOaQfpRsU76GQ1LVxw8W2egkW5SyH1pz~-rGaH01nbiAUZrdhjtX9xkTm5le7uXaudCLYuRkzZJy2xRrwWgfsUKn-22maroHpMceImkU0B3PPk6ykacrTN1Ei2dsT0gYOy1QJOKmRsSr5jSrW~CSOI&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJ5Y6AV4GI7A555NA
- Puppy Mills:
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-A-Happy-Home-For-Every-Dog-Cat-Grades-3-5-Lesson-4-2531173?st=30befd9011691a4a565143a55d7f160c>
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-A-Happy-Home-For-Every-Dog-Cat-Grades-3-5-Lesson-4-2531173?st=f95594e895aa6c6afe09242f6921f6e8> HEART Humane Education: A Happy Home For Every Dog & Cat (Grades 3-5 Lesson 4)
- Wild or Exotic Animals as Pets Issues
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wl6hoISISYE> Should Exotic Animals be pets?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxBFd2vDXBM> Erie Port Authority Investigates Alligator Sighting in Lake Erie

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5C71fYDF6Rw> Invasive pythons have nearly eradicated small mammals in the Florida Keys
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZnKdEsRkiA> Wild parrots find new home in Southern California after nearly going extinct in Mexico

Hook:

Ask for a show of hands: how many students have a pet or pets; ask what kinds of pets they have. Explain that you have a survey you would like them to take. If you are sure everyone has access to a computer and wifi, taking it online will give you a tally. If not, you might want to tally it yourself for future lessons. Distribute the survey.

Procedure 1. Caring for Pets

- Begin the lesson with:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGkC2_3wGbOQ9WHr6uurosquEulwIVfbzDDDYIxJMfk/edit?tab=t.0 Pledge
 - Explain that such a pledge needs to be shown to the adults at home, too. Take it home, discuss it with your chosen adult, and bring it back whether they agree to sign it or not.
- <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-Circle-of-Compassion-Grades-3-5-3452573?st=59986700903350fd7e217e18ed7d6b2f> Circle of Compassion
 - After the discussion questions in the lesson, ask if anyone would like to share something from their own circle of compassion. Do not collect them and do not make anyone share who does not wish to.
- Ask what students think about what pets need. Write their answers on the board.
- Show one of the two videos:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppGjUDWMgIg> Look After Your Pets | Videos for Kids (mostly for younger kids)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOLP8p0jSoA> What do pets need? (British, but understandable. Mostly for older kids)
- Do Lesson 1 of:
https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/PM_NosetoTail_07_18_3-5.pdf From Nose to Tail: Lessons to Inspire Care and Compassion for Dogs. Grades: 3-5
 - You can skip the Word Search, or use it as a reward. They apparently don't have much educational value.

Procedure 2. Playing It Safe with Dogs

- Explain that children who don't know how to treat dogs, especially strange dogs, are often in danger of being bitten. It is good to know the correct ways to behave around dogs that don't know you.
- Do lesson 3, p.21.
https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/PM_NosetoTail_07_18_3-5.pdf From Nose to Tail: Lessons to Inspire Care and Compassion for Dogs. Grades: 3-5
- Distribute and discuss:
https://files.mtstatic.com/site_13160/draft_4415/0?Expires=1728332895&Signature=dXjZ9K4QCBtroBtBjZQ~8NOaQfpRsU76GQ1LVxw8W2egkW5SyH1pz~-rGaH01nbiAUZrdhjtx9xkTm5le7uXaudCLYuRkzZJy2xRrwWgfsUKn-22maroHpMceImkU0B3PPk6ykacrTN1Ei2dsT0gYOy1QJOKmRsSr5jSrW~CSol_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJ5Y6AV4GI7A555NA

Procedure 3. Puppy Mills (optional-use only if you feel comfortable introducing this topic)

- Explain that you are going to talk about a sad topic called puppy mills. It is about how many puppies are born and why it's important to understand this before buying a dog. (You may have students who already have dogs bought from pet stores. Just reassure

them that if they are taking good care of their dog now, they have done a very good thing for their pet.)

- Choose one of the following:
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-A-Happy-Home-For-Every-Dog-Cat-Grades-3-5-Lesson-4-2531173?st=30befd9011691a4a565143a55d7f160c>
 - <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HEART-Humane-Education-A-Happy-Home-For-Every-Dog-Cat-Grades-3-5-Lesson-4-2531173?st=f95594e895aa6c6afe09242f6921f6e8> HEART Humane Education: A Happy Home For Every Dog & Cat (Grades 3-5 Lesson 4)

Procedure 4. Pet Fair

- Ask students how many have toy animals at home? (Probably all) Explain that you would like to hold a pet fair (for the whole school if you are permitted).
- To do so, the class will need to bring in toy animals to represent different kinds of pets. Arrange who will bring in what. (you only need one cat & dog, but it would be fun if students can bring in toy snakes, turtles, lizards, fish, tarantulas, parrots, etc. Small rodents might be a problem, but ask for ideas of how to represent them at the fair (photos, cat toys, etc.)
 - If not everyone can bring in a toy, give them a special job, like supervising an activity, and/or bring in some extras of your own.
- Brainstorm things the fair should include such as: let them use their imaginations, and volunteer for creating the products they create
 - The dioramas made for exotic animals in Procedure 4.
 - Dioramas of the other animals
 - Handouts about how to approach strange dogs

- Handouts about how to care for pets
 - Skits, jingles, posters, dances
 - A pet parade as all students in the school bring in toy animals
- Assessments: here are some ideas: of course, you are free to make up quizzes or products to evaluate any part of this lesson. Here are a few examples.
- Class participation is always useful, especially for the final fair.
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/browse/free?search=participation%20rubrics>
- Self evaluation of class discussion rubric:
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Discussion-Self-Evaluation-RubricChecklist-6721849?st=b44edf840102e8b62ebca83566855f48>
- Product evaluation:
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/TPT-Product-Rubric-1923991?st=8316261336ba5bad28a83b5d111d0ab7>