PAWS AND LEARN

LESSONS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-8 ABOUT COMPANION ANIMALS AND WAYS TO SUPPORT THEM

Lessons for Grades Pre-K - 2

Animals Have Feelings Too (Pre-K)	In this lesson, students learn about the feelings that our animal companions have and how to understand dog and cat body language, practice how to safely approach an animal companion, make sculptures of dogs and cats out of clay, and show the animals expressing certain feelings. Students also discuss the circumstances under which an animal might express each of these different emotions.
Animal Needs (Pre-K)	This lesson teaches students about some of the basic needs of dogs and cats. They compare and contrast the needs of animal companions to the needs of people and discuss how someone might feel if they did not have their needs met. Then, they apply what they learned by making a cat toy that meets an important animal need.
Appreciation for Others (K-2)	Through roleplay, discussion, and activities, students will recognize the benefits of kind social interactions in their daily lives. At the conclusion of the activity, students will have a foundation for building the basic social skills they will need to become considerate and responsible members of all their social groups (e.g., family units, school communities, and the public sphere).
Help Me Find a Home (K-2)	Students will learn that there are not always enough homes for all companion animals, but that animal adoption centers and rescue organizations will take care of homeless animals and try to find them forever homes.

Lessons for Grades Pre-K - 2 (continued)

Animal Investigators (K-2)	Through discussion and participation in a roleplay that involves investigating an animal neglect case, students will understand the concept of needs and that people must provide for the needs of dogs and cats.
Communication and Empathy (K-2)	Students will analyze how dogs communicate. Students will develop the social skill of empathy by learning how to identify dogs' nonverbal cues and how to appreciate an animal's perspective. They will engage in critical discussion, roleplay, and observation activities.
Companion Animal Advocates (K-2)	Using roleplay and engaging in pair and group discussions, students will learn that although all animals have similar general needs, companion animals need specific things in order to be happy and healthy.
Common Needs Matching Game (K-2)	This interactive game invites students to learn about the needs that humans and animals have in common. It also creates a discussion to think deeply about ways we can work to help ensure that all animals and humans are able to have their basic needs met.
Circle of Compassion (K-2)	Students will identify that which they care deeply about, while also examining the terms "empathy" and "compassion." Students will do so by creating their very own "Circle of Compassion."

Lessons for Grades 3-5

Compassion and Companion Animal Care (5-6)

This is a brand-new series of three lessons on compassion and caring for -- and making a difference in the lives of -- companion animals. It contains lesson plans, a slide deck, and an accompanying workbook.

A Day in the Life (3-5)

Students will read a brief story about an animal's life and will be asked to imagine life from that animal's perspective. They will then write a letter to communicate what a day in his or her life is like.

A Happy Home for Every Dog and Cat (3-5)

Students will learn about companion animal issues, specifically overpopulation, homelessness, and puppy mills. They will examine these topics in a variety of ways, including through a video, a math worksheet, and a discussion of an individual dog's story from homelessness to adoption.

Empathy Blockers (3-5)

In this lesson, four common empathy blockers will be discussed: a lack of information, strong feelings of fear or anger, prejudice, and denial. Students will think critically about what can prevent people from being empathetic, and how they can engage with this information to become more empathetic themselves.

How Much Is That Doggie In The Window? (3-5)

Students will consider the differences between buying animals sold for profit and adopting animals from adoption centers.

It's Raining Cats and Dogs (3-5)

Students will learn about dog and cat homelessness and uncover the mysteries behind this problem. They will read different homeless animal stories, participate in small-group and whole-class discussions, and watch a video to discover the reasons for the problem. Students will conclude the lesson by considering ways to reduce and prevent animal homelessness.

Telling Their Stories (5-6)

Students will examine some of the many ways that animals come to shelters, rescues, or sanctuaries. Students will translate this new knowledge into creating a first-person narrative.

Lessons for Grades 6-8

Compassion and Companion Animal Care (6-7)

This is a brand-new series of three lessons on compassion and caring for -- and making a difference in the lives of -- companion animals. It contains lesson plans, a slide deck, and an accompanying workbook.

The Power of Storytelling (6-8)

This activity invites empathy by telling animals' stories and making room to draw connections to how that animal may feel, and allows for critical thinking in response to a series of ethical dilemmas.

Finding Your Match (6-8)

Students will complete a questionnaire to consider what they are looking for in their perfect animal companion. They will also think about what their companion animal will need so that they can be the best guardians.