

First Aid Gives Pets a Second Chance

Science/Health

Grades 5 and 6

Objective

To learn basic first aid techniques.

Skill

Students will be able to demonstrate basic animal first-aid techniques.

Materials

- bandages
- wood for splints
- blankets
- stuffed animals

Activity

Students will practice learned first aid techniques on stuffed animals.

Procedure

1. Caution students that it is never safe to approach an animal who is sick or injured, especially when that animal is a wild animal or an unfamiliar pet. Even family pets who are hurt may bite or scratch someone who tries to handle them. Explain that the first thing to do in any emergency is to get an adult, if possible. Animal control officers, veterinarians, and wildlife rehabilitators are examples of people who are specially trained to help injured animals. However, children who are knowledgeable about animal first-aid can explain basic procedures to an adult who is not trained in the subject.
2. Develop a class list of accidents and injuries that can happen to pets, such as car accidents, heatstroke, electrocution, poison, cuts and abrasions.
3. Discuss appropriate first-aid techniques for each situation. (See *Pet First Aid: Cats and Dogs*, published by The Humane Society of the United States and the American Red Cross. To order, call 202-452-1100.) Try to arrange for a veterinarian, veterinary technician, or humane society representative to demonstrate animal first aid to the class.
4. Have students bring stuffed animals from home. Divide the class into small groups. Assign one type of accident/first aid technique to each group. Provide appropriate props for first aid practice (bandages, wood splints, blankets, etc.)
5. Allow each group to demonstrate their particular technique to the rest of the class.