Pet Care Pluses
Adapted by Amelia Saris

Grade Level: 1-2

Objective: Upon completion of the lesson, the students will become familiar with the responsibilities of proper pet care. Students will be able to complete word equations, using the symbols + or −, to express proper and improper pet care and training. This lesson reinforces the concepts of addition, subtraction, and equality.

Standards Addressed:

Language Arts
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.1 or CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1 (Comprehension and Collaboration)

Health
NPH-H.K-4.5 (Using Communication Skills to Promote Health)

Math
CCSS.Math.Content.1.OA.D.7 or CCSS.Math.Content.2.OA.A.1 (Working with addition and subtraction equations)

Character Concepts: Caring for others is important, and pets are dependent beings that require responsibility.

Materials Needed:

• One set of Pet Care Pluses Game Cards (Equation Components and Equation Answers) included at the end of the lesson (laminate for re-use if desired)

• A list of the following “equations” for your reference during the lesson:

  o dog (+) leash = safe dog
  o dog (−) leash = traffic danger
  o pet (−) fresh food and water = sick pet
  o canary (+) open window = lost bird
  o cat (−) scratching post = torn furniture
  o pet (+) house training = clean floors

[ Humane Society Academy ]

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dog (+) obedience training = good dog
guinea pig (+) brushing = clean guinea pig
pet (−) attention = lonely pet
pet (+) veterinary checkups = healthy pet
dog (−) toys and exercise = bored dog
lost cat (+) ID tags = found cat
dog (+) responsible owner = friends for life

Helpful Background Information:
http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/pets

Teacher Preparation:
1. Prepare a class set of cards and gather cards in a pile at the front of the room. Color code the Equation Answers cards so that they are all the same.
2. Draw the beginning of a word web as illustrated below; there will be three word webs:

Lesson Procedure:

Opening Activity:
1. Gather students in a semi-circle, seated.
2. Review the concept of addition. Ask students to share their understanding of addition. (You may wish to do steps 2-4 as a think-pair-share.)
3. Record responses in the word web. Possible responses: putting together, making more, getting a bigger number.
4. Repeat step 2 and 3 with the concept of subtraction and equals in a similar manner. Responses for the subtraction web might include: taking away, getting a smaller number.
5. Tell students that today they will use all of these components of Math to discuss how to take care of a pet. Explain that they be
making equations with pet care phrases. Write the following examples of equations on the board or projector:

\[2 + 3 = 5 \quad 4 - 1 = 3\]

6. Explain that instead of using numbers to make the equation, students will use pet care words and phrases.

**Lesson Body:**

1. Distribute one *Pet Care Pluses Game Card* to each student. If there are more cards than there are students in the class, you may wish to give more than one card to students whose first card is only used once in the equations listed above.
2. Ask the students who have +, -, and = to come to the front of the semi-circle. Place the student with the = on the side facing the right of the students in the circle.
3. Call two students with Equation Component cards to the front as well as the student with the corresponding Equation Answer card using the above list. Here is an example equation:
   - Call up students who have the ‘dog’, ‘leash’, and ‘safe dog’ cards and ask them to stand in that order from your left to right.
   - Ask the student with the “=” sign to stand between ‘leash’ and ‘safe dog’.
   - Ask students if they think we should add ‘dog’ and ‘leash’ to make ‘safe dog’, or subtract ‘leash’ from ‘dog’ to make ‘safe dog’.
   - Explain that the ‘adders’ are correct and we would use the “+” sign for this equation because dogs who are on a leash outside the home are safe dogs.
   - Instruct the student with the “+” sign to stand between ‘leash’ and ‘safe dog’ to complete the equation.
   - Ask students to say the equation out loud as you point to corresponding word or symbol: “Dog plus leash equals safe dog”.
4. Continue calling students up by their equations until all equations have been created. You may also wish to have students combine two Equation Component cards and use their critical thinking to decide which Equation Answer is best.

**Closure:**

1. Collect cards from students and put them in a pile next to you. Gather students in a place where they can all see the board.
2. Write “Pet Care Responsibilities” on the top of the board or projector.
3. Say to students, “We created those equations today so that we could learn about the important responsibilities pet owners have.”
4. Draw a card. Ask students to tell you what responsibility it reminds them of. Jot down the responsibility.
5. Repeat this process with several other cards. You will end up with a list of responsibilities similar to the following.

1. Keep your dog on a leash when outside.
2. Always give your pet fresh food and water.
3. Pay attention to your pet.
4. Make sure your pet has toys to play with.
5. Train your dog to be obedient.
6. House train your dog.
7. Give your cat a scratching post.
8. Brush your guinea pig.
9. Take your pet to the vet.
10. Get your pet an ID tag.
11. Keep windows closed for your bird.
12. Take your pet to the vet.

Extension:
1. Have students make “Be Responsible!” posters. They can choose one responsibility to draw and write a descriptive sentence below their picture.
2. Have students act out the “Dos and Don’ts of Pet Owners” in small groups. Each group could choose one responsibility to act out. For example, if the responsibility “Get your pet an ID tag”, students could act out one scenario where the pet gets lost and is returned to his or her owner because of the ID tag, and one scenario where the pet has no ID tag and the owner cannot be found.
FRESH FOOD AND WATER

CANARY
SCRATCHING POST

HOUSE TRAINING
OBEDIENCE TRAINING

GUINEA PIG
BRUSHING

PET
ATTENTION

VET CHECK-UPS
TOYS AND EXERCISE

LOST CAT
ID TAGS

RESPONSIBLE OWNER

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SAFE DOG

TRAFFIC DANGER
TORN FURNITURE

CLEAN FLOORS
GOOD DOG

CLEAN GUINEA PIG
LONELY PET

HEALTHY PET
FRIENDS FOR LIFE