

Pet Care Professions

Social Studies

Grades 3 and 4

Objective

To recognize how people in several occupations play important roles in a pet's care.

Skill

Students will be able to accurately identify people whose occupations meet the needs of pets.

Materials

Pet care literature (including books), available from local humane agencies, veterinary offices, bookstores, libraries, and pet-related Web sites, such as,

- www.avma.org/care4pets/avmaanim.htm
- www.geocities.com/heartland/estates/1210
- www.healthypet.com/Library/index.html

Activity

Students will write job descriptions for a pet-care occupation.

Procedures

1. Have students name some common pets and list these on the board. With this list in mind, brainstorm a number of things that pets need and list these in a separate column.
2. Guide students in identifying jobs that help meet pets' needs. These include: veterinarian, groomer, kennel operator, pet-supply-store clerk, obedience trainer, blacksmith, pet sitter, animal control officer, and animal shelter manager.
3. Ask students to choose one of those occupations, research it, and write a job description for it. Their research may involve reading books and magazines or interviewing someone in the trade or profession they chose. Students should be prepared to describe the basic functions of the job they choose as well as any special skills, training, or education the job requires. As a follow-up, have them write a letter of application, explaining why they believe they would be suitable for the job.