

Pets and Their Homes: A Perfect Fit

Math

Preschool and kindergarten

Objective

To practice working with the concepts of big/little and more/less as they apply to pets' need for adequate space.

Skill

Students will be able to accurately distinguish between pictures of big and small pets and tell the difference between more space and less space.

Materials

Photos or drawings of a variety of large and small companion animals. These may include a mouse, bird, gerbil, hamster, ferret, fish, guinea pig, rabbit, cat, dog, and horse.

Activity

Students will identify large and small pets and state which pets need more space or less space.

Helpful Background Information

- www.hsus.org/programs/companion/pet_care/pet_care.html
- www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/html/safe_home.htm

Procedure

1. Hold up pairs of pictures—for example, a rabbit and a horse—and have students identify which pet is bigger and which is smaller, as well as which needs more or less space.
2. Discuss why some pets need certain types of environments. Why can't a dog sleep in a rabbit hutch? Could a horse live in an apartment?
3. Discuss pet owners' responsibility to provide their pets with adequate shelter and space. Guide students in identifying the possible consequences of having inadequate space for pets (e.g., unhappy or aggressive animals, damage to home or property, animal health problems).