

Pets as Good Neighbors

Social Studies

Grades 1 and 2

Objective

To recognize the training and behavior necessary for a pet to be a good neighbor.

Skill

Students will be able to compile a list of ways in which pets can be good or bad neighbors.

Materials

- light-colored construction paper, cut to 8 ½" x 11"
- markers and pens

Activity

Students will create “Good Neighbor” awards.

Helpful Background Information

- www.clickandtreat.com/webart03.htm
- www.doggiedoor.com

Procedure

1. Discuss with students what it means to be a good neighbor (e.g., helping others, respecting neighbors’ rights and property, being considerate of people’s need for quiet, safety, and privacy)
2. Help students compile a list of ways in which pets are good or bad neighbors. (For ideas, visit www.clickandtreat.com/webart03.htm.) Is it okay for a dog to growl, snarl, or jump up on visitors or to dig or go to the bathroom in a neighbor’s yard? Is it okay for a cat to wander the street and hunt at neighbors’ bird feeders? Wouldn’t it be nicer if a dog behaved in a friendly way toward visitors and was walked on a leash and kept in a fenced yard? Wouldn’t it be better if a cat was kept indoors with plenty of food, water, toys, and attention? Who is responsible for a pet’s actions—the pet or the owner?
3. Have students create a “Good Neighbor” award, listing qualifications for owners and their pets. Ask them to design a certificate and explain what a pet owner would do to qualify for the award.
4. Suggest to students that they present their awards to pet owners and pets in their neighborhood who are “Good Neighbors.”