

What Does It Take to Care for a Pet?

Language Arts

Preschool and kindergarten

Objective

To become familiar with basic pet needs.

Skill

Students will be able to recite words that describe everyday pet needs.



Materials

- pet-care supplies (or felt cutouts of pet-care supplies)
- flannel board
- One of the following: *I Really Want a Dog*, by Susan Breslow & Sally Blakemore (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1990), *Love Is a Happy Cat*, by Dr. Michael W. Fox (New York: Newmarket Press, 1983), or "Sharing Sam" flannel board kit (available online at www.nahee.org/publications.asp)

Activity

Discuss pet-care supplies and their uses. Students then draw pet-care supplies and create a picture journal.

Helpful Background Information

- www.hsus.org/programs/companion/pet_care/pet_care.html
- www.healthypet.com/Library/index.html

Procedures

1. Read aloud *I Really Want a Dog*, *Love Is a Happy Cat*, or the story that accompanies "Sharing Sam," about a child who wants a pet.
2. Hand out pet-care supplies to a number of students. These may include the items in the list below, as well as food and water bowls, a pet carrier, comb, nail clippers, and a bed.
3. Discuss the pet-care supplies mentioned in the book or story. Why are they necessary? What would happen to a pet if one of those items was missing? Each time a new item is discussed, the child with that item brings it to the front of the class and places it on either the table or the flannel board.
4. Have kindergarten students draw the following pet-care supplies. Label students' drawings with the corresponding words and have them keep their drawings in a picture journal or dictionary.

license
leash

home
medicine

food
brush

water
collar

ID tag
toy