Pets Are for Life

Math

Grades 5 and 6

Objective
To recognize that pet ownership is a commitment for the life of the pet.

Skill
Students will be able to graph the life spans of various animals.

Materials
- paper
- markers

Activity
Students will research the life spans of several animals and create bar graphs comparing these.

Helpful Background Information
- www.hsus.org

Procedure
1. Have students research the average life span of a human, a cat, a dog, a horse, a canary, a goldfish, and a guinea pig, then illustrate these in a bar graph.

2. As a class, discuss the long-term commitment of pet ownership. Choose one pet as an example and ask students to speculate on the changes that might take place in their families' lives over the course of the animal's life. Could they move to a new town or state? What if a new baby was born? What if a relative came to stay? All those events have a big impact on a family. How might they affect a family's ability to care for a pet? Explain that being a responsible pet owner is a commitment for the life of your pet.