



Kindergarten: Let's Learn About Cats and Dogs

In-Class Lesson Plan

Introduction

Humane education examines the relationship between animals and humans, recognizing that we share many of the same physical and emotional needs. Concepts learned through humane education promote and encourage further development of important character and life-building skills including empathy, sensitivity, responsibility, respect, compassion and kindness to all living beings. Knowledge of humane education concepts also provide individuals with the capacity for responsible and humane decision making, ultimately making our communities stronger and kinder.

Learning Objectives

The purpose of this three-part lesson plan is to increase students' knowledge about the basic care requirements of cats and dogs. By the end of the lesson:

- Students will understand that cats and dogs rely on their owners to meet their needs.
- Students will be introduced to the specific needs of both cats and dogs.

Kindergarten Program Link

All OHS humane education topics are available by grade level and are linked directly with the Ontario Curriculum. The *Let's Learn About Cats and Dogs* lesson aligns with the **Self-Regulation and Well-Being** component of the Kindergarten program. According to the overall and specific expectations identified in the program, as children progress through Kindergarten they should:

- Demonstrate independence, self-regulation, and a willingness to take responsibility in learning and other endeavours.
- Develop empathy for others, and acknowledge and respond to each other's feelings.

According to the Kindergarten program, in order to accomplish this, "educators support children's emotional development by providing them with opportunities to practice kindness towards other people and all living things, show concern for their well-being, act with empathy and sympathy towards them, and practice including others."

Lesson Plan Summary

Day One: *Let's Learn About Cats and Dogs* Lesson (Appendix 1)

- Begin teaching the lesson by facilitating the *Let's Learn About Cats and Dogs* presentation.
- We update our content regularly to ensure that it is always relevant and accurate. To ensure teachers have access to the updated content, the script and visuals are available electronically, by emailing humaneeducation@ottawahumane.ca.
- Leave time for a question and answer period at the end of the lesson. Students love to share their own stories about pets and animals – if time permits, allow them to share stories and help them draw conclusions about these experiences that relate to the lesson.

Day Two: *Cats, Dogs and People Venn Diagram* Activity (Appendix 2)

- Follow the instructions on the *Dogs and People Venn Diagram* instruction sheet.
- Students will be challenged to think about the unique needs of dogs and people.
- Students will discuss the similarities and differences between what dogs and people need to be happy and healthy.

Day Three: *What Do I Need?* Exercise (Appendix 3)

- Follow the instructions on the *What Do I Need?* instruction sheet.
- Using their creative drawing skills, students will be challenged to think about three important things that a cat needs from his/her owner to be happy and healthy.

Appendix 1: *Let's Learn About Cats and Dogs* Lesson

Introduction

This presentation is 30-40 minutes in length and links directly to the Kindergarten Program's **Self-Regulation and Well-Being** component. Students will learn about the basic care requirements of pet cats and dogs. The presentation explores the following topics:

- *An introduction to the OHS;*
- *What a dog needs from their owner to be happy and healthy;*
- *What a cat needs from their owner to be happy and healthy.*

REMINDER– The presentation script and visuals are available electronically by emailing humaneeducation@ottawahumane.ca.

Appendix 2: Cats, Dogs and People Venn Diagram Activity

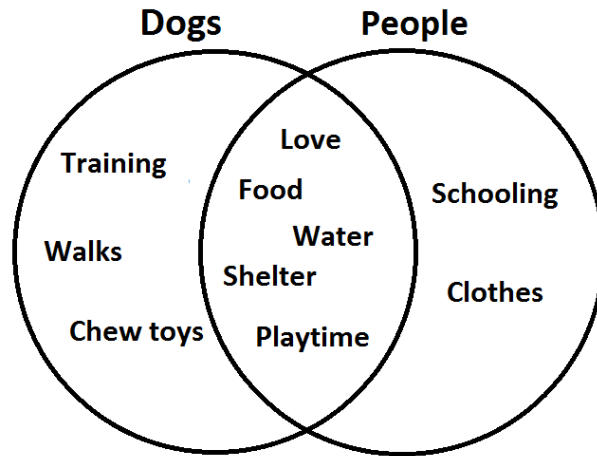
Overview

Students will work as a class to list the things that dogs and people need to live happy and healthy lives, by creating a Venn diagram.

Objective	Students will examine the similarities and differences between the needs of dogs and people.
Time Needed	20 minutes
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large white board or black board that the students can all see.

Procedure

1. On the white board or black board, draw a Venn Diagram with two overlapping circles (see example below).
2. Label the two circles “dogs” and “people.”
3. By raising their hands, ask students to provide examples of what a dog or a person needs to be happy and healthy.
4. Write their suggestions in appropriate spot on the Venn Diagram.



5. Once the Venn Diagram is populated with answers, discuss with the class how some items fit into one or both of the circles.
 - Remind students that domestic pets have similar needs to people in many ways, and that we all need certain things to ensure that we are happy and healthy.

Appendix 3: *What Do I Need?* Exercise

Overview

Students will complete the *What Do I Need?* worksheet, which will help reinforce concepts learned in the *Let's Learn About Cats & Dogs* lesson.

Objective	Students will recall and depict three specific care needs of a cat.
Time Needed	20 minutes.
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed copies of the <i>What Do I Need?</i> worksheet• Pencils• Colouring supplies

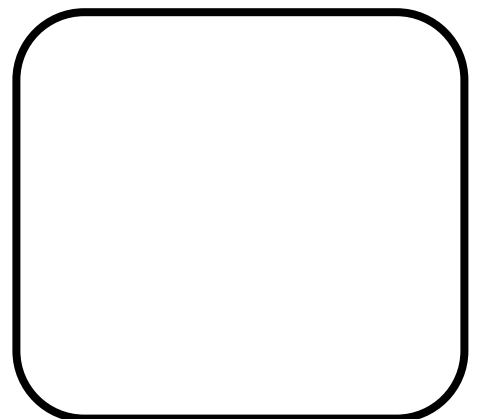
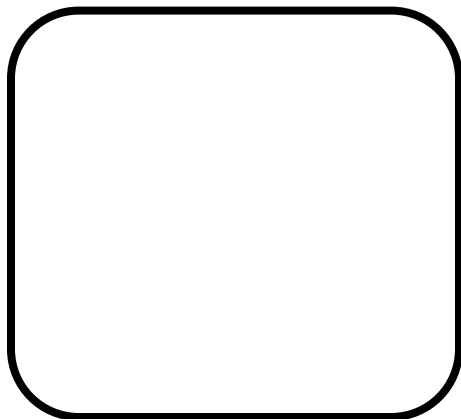
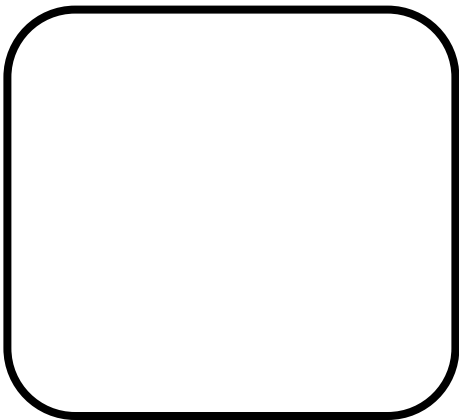
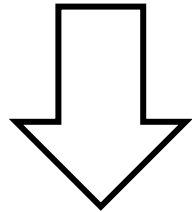
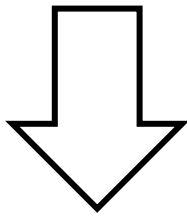
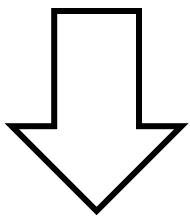
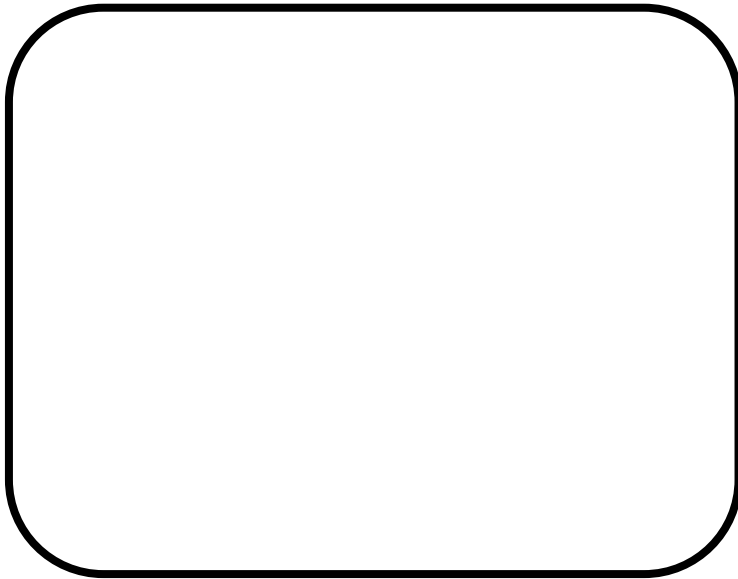
Procedure

1. Print copies of the *What Do I Need?* worksheet and distribute one to each student.
2. Instruct students to draw a picture of a cat in the first open box.
3. Instruct students to think of three things that a pet owner must provide for the cat that they drew.
 - a. If required, you can prompt the students with some examples that they learned about in the *Let's Learn About Cats & Dogs* lesson (e.g. exercise, food, love, scratching post etc.).
4. Encourage students to draw and colour a picture of each of the three things in the three open boxes provided.
5. Ask the students to share their drawings with the class.



What Do I Need?

Draw a cat in the box.



Draw three things that this cat needs from his/her owner.