



Grade 6: Welcome to the Ottawa Humane Society

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 more enjoyable for all.

Learning Objectives

The purpose of this three-part lesson plan is to introduce students to the Ottawa Humane Society by exploring the wide range of services available for both people and animals in the community. By the end of the lesson:

- Students will understand the role of the Ottawa Humane Society in the community.
- Students will understand the concept of responsible pet ownership.
- Students will explore the *Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare*.
- Students will be able to identify the consequences of animal neglect and cruelty.
- Students will be aware of how to help animals in need (wild and domestic).
- Students will be introduced to fundraising and leveraging community support.

Curriculum Link

All OHS humane education topics are available by grade level and are linked directly with the Ontario Curriculum. The *Welcome to the Ottawa Humane Society* lesson aligns with the **Social Studies: Canada's Interactions with the Global Community** component of the Grade 6 curriculum. According to the overall expectations identified in the curriculum, by the end of Grade 6, students should be able to:

- Use the social studies inquiry process to investigate global issues of political, social, economic, and/or environmental importance, explain their impact on the community, and respond to the issues.

Lesson Plan Summary

Day One: *Welcome to the Ottawa Humane Society Lesson (Appendix 1)*

- Begin teaching the lesson by facilitating the *Welcome to the Ottawa Humane Society* presentation. Teachers can book an OHS humane educator to facilitate the presentation at <https://ottawahumane.ca/youth-programs/teacher-resources/classroom-presentations/>.
- The presentation and accompanying script are also available for distribution if teachers would like to facilitate the presentation independently. We update our content regularly to ensure that it is always up-to-date and accurate. To ensure teachers have access to the updated content, the PowerPoint presentation and script 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: *OHS Services Match-Up Activity (Appendix 2)*

- Follow the instructions provided on the *OHS Services Match-Up* instruction sheet.
- Review the worksheet as a class and discuss the impact that these services have on the Ottawa community.

Day Three: *Fun with Fundraising Service-Learning Project (Appendix 3)*

- Follow the instructions provided on the *Fun with Fundraising* instruction sheet. This service-learning project is designed to engage students experientially, teaching them that their collective actions can positively impact other members of the community (both animals and people). This activity also empowers students to think creatively.
- If the class decides to host an event, students can take pride in fundraising for the Ottawa Humane Society, while engaging in discussions with their peers, other teachers and family about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. Once the event is complete, an OHS volunteer will coordinate a time to visit the classroom with a volunteer dog to pick-up donations.

Appendix 1: *Welcome to the Ottawa Humane Society Script*

Introduction

This presentation is one-hour in length and links directly to the Grade 6 curriculum within the subject of **Social Studies: Canada's Interactions with the Global Community**. Throughout the lesson, students will learn about the role of the OHS. The presentation explores the following topics:

- *An introduction to the OHS;*
- *Reasons why animals are brought to shelters;*
- *Responsible pet ownership;*
- *Animal neglect and cruelty;*
- *Helping animals in need;*
- *The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare.*

REMINDER – Teachers can book an OHS humane educator to facilitate the presentation at <https://ottawahumane.ca/youth-programs/teacher-resources/classroom-presentations/>. Alternatively, the script and PowerPoint presentation are available electronically by emailing humaneeducation@ottawahumane.ca.

Overview

Students will use their problem-solving skills to understand the different services that the OHS has available for animals and people in the community. This activity can be completed individually or in groups.

Objective	To correctly match each animal/person in need with the appropriate OHS service.
Time Needed	30 minutes.
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>OHS Services Match-Up</i> Worksheet (page 5)• <i>OHS Services Match-Up</i> Answer Key (page 6)• Pencils

Procedure

1. Distribute one *OHS Services Match-Up* worksheet to each student.
2. Introduce students to the activity by asking them if they can recall the OHS services available for the community. Write the answers on the board. Some examples may include:
 - Adoption;
 - Low-cost spay/neuter;
 - Volunteering;
 - Lost and found;
 - Obedience training;
 - Children's programming.
3. Go through the instructions listed on the worksheet with the class.
4. Allow students to work through the activity individually or in groups.
5. After each student has completed the worksheet, review the answers using the answer key, as a class.
6. Give students an opportunity to discuss the impact that these services have for animals and people in the community.

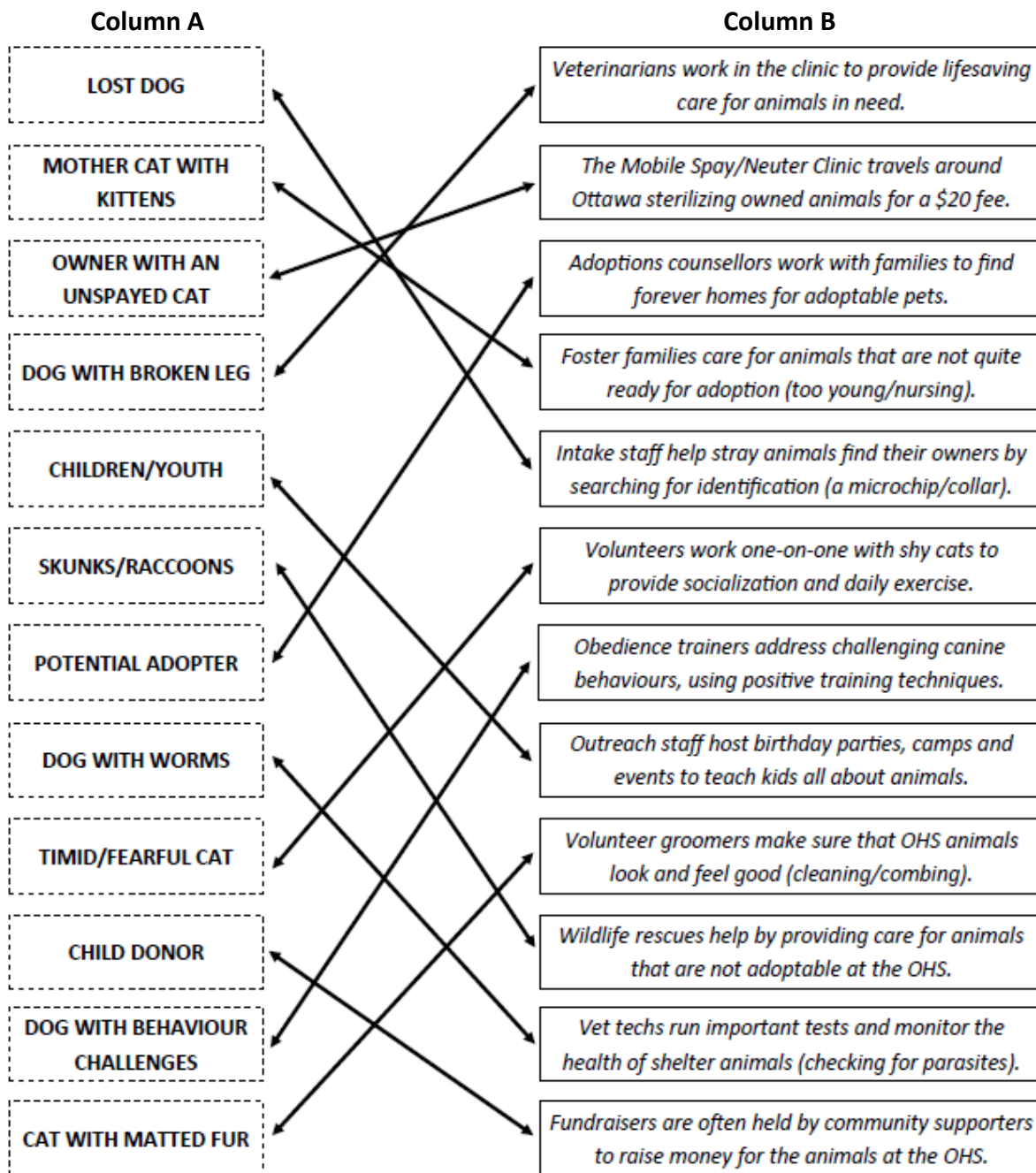
Student Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Work individually or in groups to match each animal and person listed in **Column A** with the appropriate OHS service listed in **Column B**.

Column A	Column B
LOST DOG	<i>Veterinarians work in the clinic to provide lifesaving care for animals in need.</i>
MOTHER CAT WITH KITTENS	<i>The Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic travels around Ottawa sterilizing owned animals for a \$20 fee.</i>
OWNER WITH AN UNSPAYED CAT	<i>Adoptions counsellors work with families to find forever homes for adoptable pets.</i>
DOG WITH BROKEN LEG	<i>Foster families care for animals that are not quite ready for adoption (too young/nursing).</i>
CHILDREN/YOUTH	<i>Intake staff help stray animals find their owners by searching for identification (a microchip/collar).</i>
SKUNKS/RACCOONS	<i>Volunteers work one-on-one with shy cats to provide socialization and daily exercise.</i>
POTENTIAL ADOPTER	<i>Obedience trainers address challenging canine behaviours, using positive training techniques.</i>
DOG WITH WORMS	<i>Outreach staff host birthday parties, camps and events to teach kids all about animals.</i>
TIMID/FEARFUL CAT	<i>Volunteer groomers make sure that OHS animals look and feel good (cleaning/combing).</i>
CHILD DONOR	<i>Wildlife rescues help by providing care for animals that are not adoptable at the OHS.</i>
DOG WITH BEHAVIOUR CHALLENGES	<i>Vet techs run important tests and monitor the health of shelter animals (checking for parasites).</i>
CAT WITH MATTED FUR	<i>Fundraisers are often held by community supporters to raise money for the animals at the OHS.</i>

**OHS Services Match-Up Activity Worksheet
Answer Key**



Appendix 3: Fun with Fundraising Service-Learning Project

Overview

Students will be introduced to fundraising, by brainstorming ideas on how to leverage support from their peers to help animals and people in the community. Students will work in groups to plan creative events or initiatives to raise money in support of the Ottawa Humane Society.

Objective	For students to plan a fundraising event in support of the OHS.
Time Needed	45 minutes.
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fun with Fundraising Worksheet</i> (page 10) • Pencils

Procedure

1. Introduce students to this activity by having them reflect on the OHS services available for the community.
2. Have students discuss the following questions as a class:
 - a. How can the OHS afford to care for close to 10,000 animals each year?
 - i. ANSWER: *The Ottawa Humane Society is a not-for-profit organization. Everything that the OHS does to help animals is made possible by generous donations from members of our community.*
 - b. What is fundraising?
3. Divide the class into four or five groups.
4. Distribute one *Fun with Fundraising* worksheet to each group.
5. Read through the worksheet as a class.
6. Allow groups to work together to complete the worksheet.
7. Have each group present their idea to the class.

Teacher Tip: Share some examples of how these events will help animals at the OHS.

Activity	Cost (per animal)
Basic Supplies for a Cat/Dog (bowls, bed, toys)	\$25.00
Health Check for Wild or Exotic Animals	\$25.00
Health Check for a Cat/Dog (with vaccinations)	\$50.00
Spay/Neuter for Cat/Dog	\$75.00
Foster Care for a Cat (one-month)	\$100.00
Care for a Senior Cat	\$150.00
Care for a Senior Dog	\$200.00
Special Surgery	\$300.00+

Make it Happen

If you would like to proceed with hosting a fundraising event for the OHS, we recommend that the class conducts a vote, selecting one idea to move forward with. If you would like support in planning and

WHAT?


Describe your event

WHO?

Who do you want to plan your event

Event Name:

Group Member Name:



Ottawa
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