Lesson 2: Companion Animal Advocates

Overview: Using role-play and engaging in pair and group discussions, students will learn that although all animals have similar general needs, companion animals need specific things in order to be happy and healthy.

Procedure:

Introduction
Introduce the lesson’s major themes of animals’ unique needs/wants and what it means to be a responsible guardian for our companion animals.

Learning Pet Facts
1. Divide students into pairs and give each pair the “Companion Animal” handout. Instruct students to discuss everything they know about each animal.
   - Animals covered in the “Companion Animal” handout: cats; dogs; parrots; rabbits; hamsters; and turtles.
2. Ask students to share with the whole group something that s/he discussed with her/his partner.
3. Offer the class a few facts about each animal that the children might not have covered or known.
   - The facts should cover topics like what the animal eats, what type of habitat the animal lives in, how social the animal is, etc.

Small Group Activity on Pet Facts
1. Divide the students into groups of four and explain that they are going to become one of the animals that we have discussed. Hand each group a “Pet Name: Companion Animal Handout.”
2. First ask the students to discuss in their groups what they know about their animal. Then fill in the back of the “Pet Name: Companion Animal Handout.”
   - Model how to answer the “Pet Name: Companion Animal Handout” for students prior to having them answer the questions on their own.

Poor Puppy Role Play
1. Tell the ‘animals’ that they are going to help you (the instructor). Explain to the students that you adopted a puppy and she’s the first companion animal you have ever had. You really love your puppy but were never taught how to take care of animals, so the ‘animals’ are going to have to help you understand what puppies need.
2. Go through the following scenarios with the students. After each scenario, ask the students if there is a better way.
Lesson 2: Companion Animal Advocates (continued)

- I love my puppy so much! I’m going to feed her 20 times a day! And I’m going to give her all my favorite foods, like pizza, candy and chocolate! This is good, right?
- I know my puppy is going to get thirsty after eating so much, so I’m going to make sure I give her water once a month! Sound good?
- My puppy and I will do everything together. I’m even going to play tennis with her, and tackle football because we’re best pals! I can be as rough as I want, right?
- Puppies need a lot of sunshine so I’m going to make sure she’s outside all the time! Plus she’s tough, so she can stay out in the rain, or snow, or storms! Puppies don’t need shelter, right?

3. Introduce a number of items to the students that you bought for your puppy (but in fact, these items are for the other companion animals). Have students identify which animal should be given the object.

When I can’t be with her, I’ll make sure she has plenty of good stuff like this… (Display to students):
- Hamster wheel
- Catnip
- Bird seed
- Carrots
- Turtle tank

Wrap Up:

1. Explain to the students that they taught you well and now you know how to be a good pet guardian.

2. Ask them to raise their hands if they learned one new thing that they did not know about a pet today. Allow students to share.

Resource Links

Dog Care & Needs

Cat Care & Needs

Turtle Care & Needs
http://petturtle.com/care.htm

Hamster Care & Needs
http://hamsterific.com/

Parrot Care & Needs
http://parrotcareguide.com/

Rabbit Care & Needs
http://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/rabbit-care/basic-rabbit-care/
What do you know about me?

Puppy

Rabbit

Turtle

Kitten

Hamster

Parrot
Tom—the turtle
Tom—the turtle

I am Tom. I am a pet __________________________.

I eat __________________________.

I live __________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________.

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Harry—the hamster
Harry—the hamster

I am Harry. I am a pet ________________________.

I eat ________________________.

I live ________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I ________________________.

________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________
Rebecca—the rabbit
I am Rebecca. I am a pet _______________________.

I eat ________________________________.

I live ________________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I ____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

______________________________________.
Patty—the parrot
Patty—the parrot

I am Patty. I am a pet ______________________.

I eat ________________________________.

I live ________________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I ___________________________________

_____________________________________

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_____________________________________.
Denise—the dog
I am Denise. I am a pet ____________________________.

I eat __________________________________________.

I live __________________________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I __________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________.

________________________________________________________
Carl—the cat
I am Carl. I am a pet ________________________.

I eat ________________________________.

I live ________________________________.

Add any facts you remember.

I ____________________________________

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