



## Lesson 3: Help Me Find a Home

**Overview:** Students will learn that there are not always enough homes for all companion animals, but that animal adoption centers and rescue organizations will take care of homeless animals and try to find them forever homes.

### Procedure:

#### Introduction

1. Tell the students what an animal shelter is.
  - a. An animal shelter, or animal adoption center, is a place that takes care of animals.
  - b. The animals come to them because the guardian (or pet parent) can no longer care for them.
  - c. The animal shelter tries to find families or individuals who can adopt them and love them forever.
  - d. Animal rescue groups do similar work and sometimes they specialize in caring for specific breeds of cats or dogs.

Note: You may need to explain what “adopt” means to your students. Also write the words “animal shelter” and “animal rescue groups” on the board or have them already written on a poster.

2. Ask the students if they have ever been to an animal shelter or an animal rescue group. Allow students to respond and share if they have ever adopted an animal from a shelter or rescue group.

#### Homeless Animals

1. Pass out the Help Me Find a Home worksheet. Ask the students to complete the worksheet and then let them know you will go over the questions together.

Answers:

- *Did all of the animals find a home?* No
  - *How many cats found a home?* 3
  - *How many dogs found a home?* 3
  - *How many cats did not find a home?* 2
  - *How many dogs did not find a home?* 2
  - *Where can the animals who did not find a home be taken care of until they find a home?* An animal shelter or animal rescue organization
2. Ask the students how many animals at the shelter need a home. (Answer: 4)
  3. What will happen if someone’s dog or cat has puppies or kittens and the person cannot find homes for them? (Answer: The puppies and kittens will be brought to the animal shelter and even more dogs and cats will need homes.)

### Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Define animal shelter.
- Identify at least one reason for animal homelessness and one way to help reduce animal homelessness.
- Add up to ten.

### Time Needed

45–60 minutes  
1 class period

### Materials

- “Help Me Find a Home” worksheet
- Poster board paper or construction paper
- Markers
- Optional: pictures of adoptable animals

### Insider Tips

- If the students are having difficulty with the math on the Help Me Find a Home worksheet you may need the class to do the activity together as a whole group, instead of individually.
- If there is time the students can color the Help Me Find a Home worksheet.
- For the PSA, instead of, or in addition to, using illustrations, you can print out pictures of animals who are up for adoption at local animal adoption centers or rescue groups. You can also have the students include the name and phone number of the adoption center/rescue group so that people would know where to go if they wanted to adopt.
- You can also create PSAs about local organizations that offer low-cost spay/neuter services.
- Given the young age of these children, avoid discussing the topic of euthanasia of homeless animals.

### Classroom Teachers

- This activity aligns to Common Core Speaking & Listening Standards SL.K.1b, SL.K.5, SL.1.1b, and SL.2.1b.

### Outside Humane Educators

- If you are not able to post the PSAs at a school, you can contact local businesses in the area to see if they will post them.

### Resource Links

#### Animal Homelessness:

<http://www.asPCA.org/about-us/faq/pet-statistics.aspx>

#### Finding Adoptable Animals:

<http://www.petfinder.com/>

## Lesson 3: Help Me Find a Home (continued)

4. Ask the students if they have ever heard the words “spay” or “neuter” and write the words on the board. Allow time to discuss.
5. Explain to the students that spaying is a surgery for female dogs or cats and neutering is a simple operation for male dogs or cats to prevent them from having more puppies and kittens. Ask the students why people would not want their dogs or cats to have puppies or kittens. (Possible answers: they do not want more animals to be homeless; they do not want to take a home away from an animal already at the animal shelter.)
6. Ask the students on the count of three to say “Spay and Neuter” out loud and then count, one, two, three, and the whole class will say, “Spay and Neuter.”

### Service Project

1. Explain to the students that sometimes non-profit organizations or the government create public service announcements (PSAs), which are messages to help make people aware of important problems. Explain that we might see the messages on a billboard, TV, or hear them on the radio.
2. Show a few PSAs as examples.
3. Review what the class has learned about animal homelessness and animal adoption centers.
4. Ask the students to think of sentences that help people understand the need to adopt an animal and/or the importance of spaying and neutering.
 

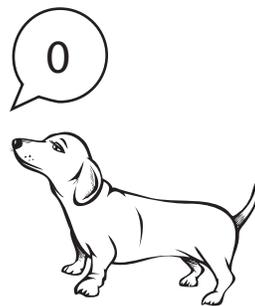
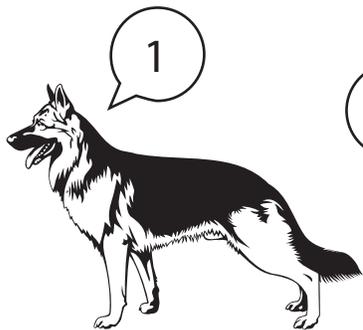
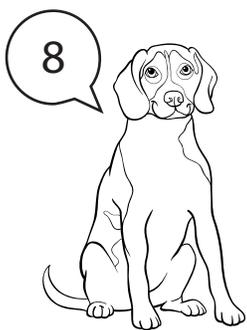
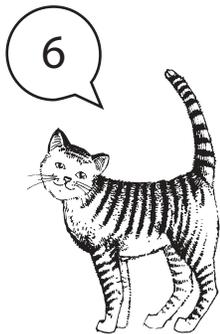
**Note:** Students may have difficulty thinking of PSA messages, so you might want to give them a few suggestions to start like, “Adopt, Don’t Shop,” “Pets are for Life,” and “Every Animal Needs a Home.”
5. Ask them to write their messages on a poster board along with pictures that illustrate what the sentences are asking people to do.
6. Post the PSAs around the school.

### Wrap Up:

1. Ask students what they learned today. Possible answers:
  - There are too many homeless animals.
  - People can help animals by adopting them from an animal shelter or rescue group and giving them a good home.
  - If people spay/neuter their animals, it can reduce the number of homeless animals.
  - When there is an important problem, people can make a difference by educating others about the issue and letting them know what they can do.

# Help Me Find a Home

Match the animal to the house so that the two numbers sum to 10.



10



5



7



3



6



2

Did all the animals find a home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many cats found a home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many cats did not find a home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many dogs found a home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many dogs did not find a home? \_\_\_\_\_

Where can the animals who did not find a home be taken care of until they find a home?

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