

FOR THE DOGS

In this lesson, students will consider all the things that pets need before reading about a kid who started a group to support his local animal shelter.

Grade Levels 3–6

Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels.

Standards

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SOCIAL AWARENESS
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Social Studies Standards (NCSS)

Individual Development and Identity

Essential Question(s)

- What do pets need?
- Why do animals end up in shelters? How can you help?

Learning Objectives

- I can list what people provide to their pets.
- I can summarize tips for taking care of a pet.
- I can follow steps to make a dog toy.

What You'll Need

"Pals with Paws" article from TIME for Kids; "Playtime" worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduce It

Have students turn and talk about what they'd need to consider before getting a pet. Which pets require the most preparation? Which require the least? Make a list on the board of the things that a cat or a dog would need (food, vet visits, grooming, etc.). Take a class poll. Ask: Do you think all pet owners consider the full responsibility of owning a pet before getting one? Let volunteers share. Then tell students they'll be reading about a kid who helped support his local animal shelter. How do students think shelters get all the things they need?

Read About It

Have students read the article ["Pals with Paws."](#) As they do, have them identify how Hayden Roland helps animals in shelters.

Discuss It

Ask students to share their summary with the class and discuss the ideas in the article together.

- Describe Hayden Roland's experience with pets. How do you think this influenced his volunteer group?
- Why might animals end up in a shelter?
- What does Wagging Tails do?
- What do you predict Hayden will do next as an animal advocate?

Act on It

Have a class discussion about why there are so many animals in shelters. Students may use details from the article or share their own ideas. Point out that some people might not be properly prepared for their animal's behavior, and might not know what to do. Invite students to create tip sheets for prospective pet parents, using the guidelines from the Animal Care Centers of NYC at ti.me/PetBehavior.

Do students know of any animal shelters in their area? If so, ask them where. If not, invite kids to do research to identify one or more. Tell them they'll be making toys to donate to a local shelter. Ask them to bring in old T-shirts or scrap fabric. Have them follow the steps on the "Playtime" worksheet (ti.me/Playtime) to make the toys. Then take the completed toys and tip sheets to a shelter you've found. When you do, take pictures to share with the class.