People for Animals

Affordable Veterinary Care For All

HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Grade 5
Making Choices

HUMANE EDUCATION

GRADE 5 MAKING CHOICES 45 Minutes

OBJECTIVE:

Upon completion of the lesson students will learn that:

- They are able to control the choices they make.
- Good choices require that they be informed and act wisely on the information learned.
- Their choices can have negative or positive consequences.
- They can make a difference in the life of an animal.
- Good, responsible choices benefit them and others, including animals and their environment.

SETUP: (7 minutes)

Ask for examples of choices they make that affect them regularly.

Ex: Self-care:

- Healthy food habits?
- Healthy sleep habits?
- Physical exercise?
- Exhibiting safe behavior?

Ask for examples of choices or behaviors that affect others, our community, animals and the environment.

Ex: Our attitude toward others, family, friends, strangers.

- Acting responsibly in our community.
- Being aware of how other living beings are treated.
- Caring for the environment.

DISCUSSION: (10 minutes)

How can we make decisions that are good for us, our family, our community, and other living beings?

1. Educate yourself. Get information before making your decision.
2. Evaluate and think about the information you have.
3. What would be the most responsible choice for you to make?
4. Think about the consequences your choice will have on you, others, animals or the environment.
5. Will you feel good about the decision you made?

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GROUP ACTIVITY: CHOOSING WHERE TO GET A DOG? (Below) (15 minutes)

SITUATIONS: CHOOSING WHERE TO GET A DOG.

You and your family have all decided to get a dog! You are very excited and want to make the best decision for all. Read the situations below and with your group decide where to go for your new companion. Tell why and then answer the questions that follow.

– 1 –

Government run animal shelters

Local shelters that take in lost, stray, or surrendered animals when people can no longer keep them. They provide food, shelter, some medical care. They usually spay or neuter (sterilize) to avoid having them add to the homeless population. They must take in ALL animals that come in. When they get full they have to make difficult decisions about which animals to keep. Adoptable animals are placed for adoption for a small fee.

– 2 –

Private shelters or rescues

They choose which animals to take. They help reduce the burden on government run shelters by taking animals from them to open space. Some have a physical building but most depend solely on the community to foster the animals (care for them in a home) until they get adopted. The shelter or rescue provides everything needed, food, spay/neutering, medical care, training, etc. Fostering allows us to see how animals behave in a home.

– 3 –

Backyard breeders

Neighbors, friends or others who *intentionally* breed their dogs or cats to sell through word of mouth, online, or other ads. They may be nice people, but they don't consider the well-being of their animals. Their motivation is to make money from them. The more they breed, the more they profit. Generally, they don't spend on medical care to reduce their costs.

– 4 –

Pet stores

They sell puppies that come from puppy mills, large, commercial breeding facilities that exploit hundreds or thousands of dogs. Dogs are kept in filthy, unsanitary conditions; often exposed to extreme weather; receive little or no medical care; and stay in crates 24/7. The parents are forced to breed until they are of no use, then destroyed. **99% of puppies in pet stores come from puppy mills!** Consumers are told that they come from legitimate, professional breeders. Puppies sell for hundreds or thousands of dollars.

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FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: (8 minutes)

With your group, answer the questions below:

1. What effect will your decision have on the dog you adopt?
2. What effect will it have on other dogs? (Dogs used for breeding, other homeless dogs).
3. Will your decision help or hurt the place or person it came from? (Animal shelter, backyard breeder, pet store)? Explain.
4. How will you feel about the decision you made?

CLOSURE: (5 minutes)

What are some things you should consider before making decisions?

1. Educate yourself. Get information before making your decision.
2. Evaluate and think about the information you have.
3. What is the most responsible choice?
4. Think about the consequences your choice will have on you, others, animals or the environment.
5. Will you be comfortable with the decision you made?

Can you be a force for good by the choices you make, for yourself, for others, for animals, and for environment? How?

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REV 11/2024

You can make a difference in the life of an animal!

Be Kind

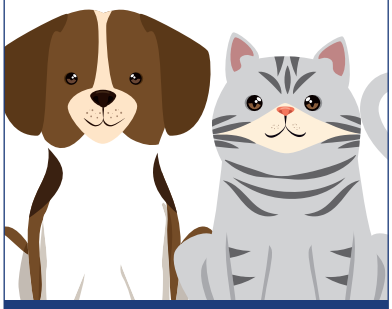
Be Patient

Be Compassionate to Animals!

People for Animals

Affordable Veterinary Care For All

People for Animals
a private non-profit
offering compassionate
and affordable veterinary
care since 1980.



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Certificate of Completion

Kindness, Patience and Compassion for Animals

AWARDED TO _____ DATE _____

Our vision is a healthy, happy life for every animal!

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