

HOW YOU CAN SAVE ANIMALS



Part 1: 'Be an Animal's Best Friend' Activity

Introduction

For this activity, students will consider the needs, feelings, and thoughts of the animal companions they share their homes with in order to build empathy and better understand their needs.

Procedure

Students should choose a domestic animal and then list things that the animal likes and dislikes, things that they themselves like and dislike, and things that both they and the animal like and dislike on the activity sheets on the next two pages. Have students share and discuss their responses with other classmates who chose the same domestic animal.

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Use this opportunity to discuss with students why it's important to adopt from open-admission animal shelters and to be sure that the needs of the animals they bring into their homes are met. Many students buy animals like fish, mice, rats, hamsters, birds, and even cats and dogs from pet stores without realizing that they suffer in the pet trade, where they're treated like objects—rather than living beings—or that each of them has very specific needs.

Part of caring for a domestic animal is understanding the needs, likes, and dislikes of that animal. Students will consider this from an animal's perspective by using the writing prompt below to create an informative piece of writing.

Writing Prompt

Think about your chosen animal and describe the responsibilities of caring for that animal. Be sure to consider their needs, as well as their likes and dislikes. Also include how the animal might feel if any of these responsibilities were neglected.

Here are some options for mini-lessons to target specific skills and help students develop their writing:

- Gather and sort facts. (Find animal facts at PETAKids.com.)
- Organize ideas. (Show the relationships between responsible actions and their positive effects vs. neglectful actions and their negative consequences.)
- Craft a conclusion. (Explain why this matters!)

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3–5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.



Name _____ Date _____

Dogs, cats, and the other animal companions who share our homes aren't wild—they're "domestic," which means that they rely on their guardians (that's us!) to make sure that they're taken care of and have everything they need for a safe and happy life. Caring for animals is a big responsibility, and it's important to learn about their needs and pay attention to what they like and dislike.

For this activity, choose a domestic animal. Think about the things that type of animal likes, things that you like, and things that you both like, and write them in the spaces below.

A _____ LIKES:

I LIKE:

WE BOTH LIKE:



