



LESSON: Who has needs?

GRADE: K-2nd

TIME: 30—45 min.

DESCRIPTION: Through group discussion, students will identify physical and emotional needs of animals and make a connection between human needs and animal needs. Students will apply their knowledge by completing a Service Learning Project: a poster explaining the needs of a shelter animal up for adoption.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS: ELA: Literature, Writing, Speaking & Listening, Language

OBJECTIVE: Identify a dog's needs to better care for and interact with pets.

GOALS:

1. Recognize that all living things share similar needs as humans.
2. Learn about responsible pet ownership.
3. Identify at least one physical need and one emotional need of a dog.
4. Engage with the community by completing a Service Learning Project.

MATERIALS:

- Whiteboard or flipchart with markers
- Crayons and markers (enough for students to share)
- Photos of Needs
- Poster Option
 - Poster Page (1 per student)
 - Small photos and bios of shelter animals (1 per student)
- Learning materials
 - ¼ page "Want to do more with Heart of the Valley?" handout

LESSON DETAILS:

1. Introduction
 - a. Raise a silent hand if you have ever been to Heart of the Valley.
 - b. What is an animal shelter? *Build on responses.*
 1. Example: "Heart of the Valley takes care of homeless cats and dogs in our community. Sometimes people find dogs and cats with no owner and bring them to us, or they might have to give up their own pet because they are moving/developed allergies, etc. We take care of the dogs, try to find their original families if they had one, or find them a new loving family."
2. Introduction
 - a. Raise your hand if you know have a pet, help take care of a pet, etc.
 - b. Are pets living thing? How do you know it is alive?
 - c. All living things have certain needs to survive; let's explore some of those needs.

3. Human Needs

- a. Draw a table on the whiteboard/poster paper. Define the difference between physical and emotional needs and brainstorm needs for humans.

Physical Needs What do we need to be healthy?	Emotional Needs What do we need to be happy?
<i>Food/Nutrition</i> <i>Water</i> <i>Shelter</i> <i>Baths/Showers</i> <i>Medicine</i> <i>Clothes</i> <i>Exercise</i>	<i>Family</i> <i>Friends</i> <i>Love</i> <i>Playtime</i> <i>School/Learning</i>

4. Dog Needs

- a. *To help students transition from human to dog: "Close your eyes. You are now growing big ears, fur all over your body, four paws, and a long waggy tail. What are you? A dog! Now that we are dogs, what do we need to be healthy and happy?"*
- b. In a different color marker, write the students' ideas of dog needs next to the correlating human need. Give prompts if they get stuck.

Physical Needs What do we need to be healthy?	Emotional Needs What do we need to be happy?
<i>Food/nutrition</i> <i>dog food</i> <i>Water</i> <i>clean water</i> <i>Shelter</i> <i>dog house/comfy bed</i> <i>Baths/showers</i> <i>brushing/baths</i> <i>Medicine</i> <i>veterinarian visits</i> <i>Clothes</i> <i>dog collar/I.D. tags</i> <i>Exercise</i> <i>walks/playtime</i>	<i>Family</i> <i>human family</i> <i>Friends</i> <i>human/animal friends</i> <i>Love</i> <i>petting, attention</i> <i>Playtime</i> <i>dog toys, time to play with humans and/or animals</i> <i>School/learning</i> <i>tricks/rules/games</i>

Kindergarten Adaptation

- Instead of "Physical Needs" and "Emotional Needs," use the words "Healthy" and "Happy."
- As students identify needs, write the need on the board and place a laminated magnetized photo of the need next to the word. This way all students will be able to follow along.
- Use one list of needs instead of creating two similar lists. Once you have made a list for human needs and transitioned students into thinking about dog needs, just ask "do dogs also need water? Food?..." while adding another photo specific to dogs (example: dog food next to the human food).
- Use the poster layout requiring students to identify one "healthy need" and one "happy need." Students can refer to the picture/word pairings on the board as a reference to help them identify and write words.

5. Discussion
 - a. Does anyone notice anything about our two lists? *They are the same!*
 - b. Who helps you take care of your needs?
 - c. Who helps your pets take care of their needs?
 - d. Who helps the shelter animals get food, water, love, exercise, learning, etc.?
6. Extension Questions
 - a. Now that you know animals have needs just like us, how can you help homeless animals take care of their needs?
 - b. How can you better care for your pet today?
 - c. Think about your pets at home. Do they get enough of the things we listed? Would more exercise, playtime, or training make them happier/healthier?
7. Complete the poster project.
8. Conclusion
 - a. Answer questions
 - b. Explain and distribute learning materials.

POSTER PROJECT

BEFORE LESSON

- *Kindergarten*: Print and cut out small photos of an adoptable dog or cat for students to glue to their posters. Just choose one dog and/or one cat to keep it simple, and read their stories aloud to the class.
- *1st-2nd Grade*: Print slips of paper including a small photo of an adoptable dog/cat and their name, age, breed, gender, and biography from the website. You can choose to have a variety of different dogs and cats represented. Students will cut the photo out to glue on their flyer, and use the biography to get ideas for that animal's specific needs.

DURING LESSON

- *Kindergarten*: Explain why they are making a poster and read the biography of the chosen adoptable animal. Show flyer/poster page for Kindergarten and explain how to glue their photo onto the poster, fill in the animal's name, fill out the needs section and draw their own picture. Be very detailed with Kindergarteners. It works best when you tell them to complete all the writing first before starting to draw and add color. Explain everything first before passing out materials.
- *1st-2nd Grade*: Explain why they are making the poster and adoptable animal slips. Show flyer/poster page for older students and explain they can cut out and glue the photo on the flyer, draw a picture, and write sentences about the animal including at least 2 emotional needs and 2 physical needs. Explain they must not copy the biography given to them, the biography is just to help them get to know the animal a little better.
- *Sample Explanation*: "Would you like to help our shelter animals find homes? We are now going to create posters that you can hang it up in your school, your neighborhood, at your house, or I can bring some to HOV. People will see your poster, learn more about the cat/dog, and hopefully your posters will help these animals get adopted really quickly!"

