

Lucky Dog Humane Education Activity – Building Feral Cat Houses

Aligns to the following California Standards for K-5

- ! CA 3-5 ETS1 Engineering Design - Standards 1, 2 & 3
- ! CA.3 LS1 Life Science - Standard 2
- ! CA.CC.MP Mathematical Practices – Standards 1, 2, 3 & 7

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

- ! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values
- ! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control
- ! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-taking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity
- ! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building
- ! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To challenge children to design and build warm and safe houses for stray cats using knowledge of the cats' needs, donated supplies, directions with real picture models, mathematical reasoning, and engineering design.

PREPARATION: Students will meet PAWfessor JuneBug and learn about her experiences as a stray dog in Thailand.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After participating in PAWfessor JuneBug's lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on ways to help homeless animals feel safe, happy and warm. For this specific activity, the teacher will explain about feral/homeless cats and discuss their needs. The teacher will show the children the directions to make a stray cat shelter, then empower the students to write letters to the local hardware store asking for donations of the materials needed to make the shelter. Students can also look through their garage/closets and ask friends and family for more supplies. The teacher will then lead the children in a building activity using knowledge of stray cats' needs, mathematic principals, and engineering design. The students will be given materials and time to plan, design, and build cat houses. (direction is the resource packet)

Materials:

Printed pictures and directions to build cat houses (in resource packet)
Measuring tools
Building supplies: Rubbermaid Bins, Styrofoam, hay, yardstick, box cutter (adult use only)

Concepts: Teaching empathy and respect for feelings of others, Learning planning and design with careful consideration of the needs of stray cats

CONCLUSION: When house(s) are complete, arrange to have a cat rescue organization pick up the house(s) and send pictures of where they were placed. Save pictures to display at "Kindnessfest" at the conclusion of the Lucky Dog Humane Education Program