

Lucky Dog Humane Education Lesson 1 – Companion Animal Report

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! ELA Reading Informational Text - Standards 1, 2, 3 & 7

! ELA Speaking and Listening - Standards 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

! ELA Writing – Standards 2, 6, 7 & 8

Aligns to the following California Standards for K-5

CA.3 LS1 Life Science - Standard 2

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel empathy and compassion for animals and all living creatures through a simple follow up research activity. Children will develop research and writing skills as they research about a companion animal (pet) of their choice and create a “pet guide” for adopters of that specific pet. Students will discover the needs of a pet and the responsibility and commitment required to adopt a pet.

PREPARATION: Presenters will tell the Lucky Dog Story, about a little shelter dog learning to be part of a family. This gives students basic knowledge of being part of a responsible pet family. It will also allow for children to relate their own experiences and compare them to Lucky’s.

METHOD:

- Lucky Dog H.E. presenters will use a PowerPoint Storybook presentation, accompanied by posters, puppets, and props – The children will be introduced to (pictures) of other real shelter dogs and hear their stories. The children will participate in problem solving scenarios and are taught that the biggest way they can help shelter overpopulation is by keeping their own pets for life.

- Presenters will leave expansion activities for the classroom. These activities will help teachers promote compassion for animals and compassion in the classroom. They will also inspire children to understand that they, too, can participate in positive change for shelter animals and pet overpopulation.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After listening to the story of Lucky the Shelter Dog, the classroom teacher will read the book [Are You Ready For Me?](#), By Claire Buchwald, a follow up with a class discussion on what pet each child would like to adopt and care for. The teacher will then assign a research project (individually or in groups of children who want the same pet) Children will be given computer access to research their pet’s needs (love, attention, food, shelter, training) and create a pet guide on the computer to share with the class.

Materials: Computer, Printer, List of common pets:

- Dog, Cat, Mouse, Rat, Hamster, Bird, Rabbit, Turtle, Fish, Iguana, Snake, Other

Concepts: Teaching responsibility and commitment.

CONCLUSION: Give children an opportunity to share their pet guide with the class. Post the pet guides on a bulletin board for others to read. Save Pet Guides to share at the school wide “Kindnessfest” at the conclusion of the Lucky Dog Humane Education program.

EXPANSION: If you are able to make a lifetime commitment, consider adopting a class pet to teach commitment, kindness, responsibility, and pet care.

- After your students research pets and their needs. Decide as a class which pet is best for your classroom.
- Have class pet jobs that rotate each day or each week.