

Lucky Dog Humane Education Lesson 4 – 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-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 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: Teacher or Presenter will lead a prepared PowerPoint discussion that includes reading *Shoo*, by Hana Goldberg This will give students basic knowledge about stray cats and their needs.

METHOD:

- Lucky Dog H.E. presenters (or classroom teacher) will use a combined PowerPoint and Storybook presentation, accompanied by posters, puppets, and props – The children will be introduced to ways to help stray cats in their community
- 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, stray animals, and pet overpopulation.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After participating in the CATS lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on ways to help stray cats feel safe, happy and warm. The teacher will show the children the directions to make a stray cat shelter and the materials that have been donated from local hardware stores (see donation request letter in resource packet), the teacher will encourage children to look through their garage/closets and ask friends and family for more supplies to make more shelters as well. 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. (Modification: Have children make cat toys for shelter cats. Directions in 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)
- Modification: Cat toys – baby socks, catnip, yarn, feathers

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

CONCLUSION: Activity will end 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