

Lucky Dog Humane Education Lesson 4 – Declawed Cat Relay

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5
(ELA = English Language Arts)

! ELA Speaking and Listening - Standards 1, 3 & 4

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 inspire children to feel compassion and empathy by experiencing the challenges a “declawed” cat faces.

PREPARATION: Teacher or Presenter will lead a prepared PowerPoint discussion that includes reading the Book *Shoo* by Hana Goldberg. This will give students basic knowledge about cats’ 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 things that make a cat feel safe and happy

- 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 cat lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on why declawing a cat is never an acceptable option. The class will learn that declawing hurts and makes doing simple “cat tasks” difficult. To gain understanding and build empathy the students will participate in a declawed cat relay game.
- Divide class into 2 teams. Have each child untie one shoe (if they don’t have laces they can use a peer’s other shoe)
- Team 1 is the cats with claws
- Team 2 is the “declawed” cats (wearing oven mitts so they cannot use their fingers)
- Now have the teams participate in a relay race by tying their shoes one at a time, (passing the cat ears so that only the cat can be tying) The “declawed” team has to tie their shoes with oven mitts on their hands (and pass the mitts to their teammate when done) **If the class is too young to tie their own shoes, modify the game and give teams a different simple task such as zipping their backpack, drawing a cat picture, or putting on a sweater

Materials: Shoes, 1 set of oven mitts, 2 cat ears (see how to make cat ears, in resource packet)

Concepts: Teaching empathy and compassion. Developing an understanding of the difficulties cats face when they are declawed. (Even simple tasks become difficult.)

CONCLUSION: Lead a discussion on how the students felt during the game. Have the declawed team share their frustrations with the other team. It is Frustrating right? Cats begin to have behavioral issues because having no claws makes life hard for them (it is hard for them to do daily cat tasks) so they may become insecure and distressed. (Allow the other team to experience being a “declawed cat” by leaving the oven mitts out for them to try tying their shoes, zipping their backpack, or drawing a picture with them on.)