

Lucky Dog Humane Education – 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: Students will meet Lala and/or other Live Love Animal rescue dogs that were saved from the Long Beach Animal Shelter, they will be inspired to think about being a shelter dog and learning to trust and 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 Lala’s.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After meeting Lala and friends the classroom teacher will read the book *Are You Ready For Me?*, By Claire Buchwald, and follow up with a class discussion on reasons pets are surrendered to the animal shelter, and ways families can solve problems and keep their commitment for life.

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: Field trip to the animal shelter or plan a family day on a weekend at the local animal shelter.