

**Teachers' guide for
THE BOOK FOR CHILDREN WHO LOVE ANIMALS**

1. A day at the shelter

adopt
strays
pet shop
friendly
years
decision
responsibility
apartment
adoption agreement
home
shelter

2. What is a stray?

The most important objective of this lesson is that the children understand the stray animal problem and feel responsibility for strays in their community. In reading each of the stories with the students, discuss the questions at the end of the lesson, encouraging them to share opinions and experiences. Guide them to the understanding that it's possible for them to help a stray by getting their parents to agree to take the animal in temporarily until they can find it a permanent home or a place in a good shelter. Try to make them understand that they can also directly help stray animals by adopting a pet from a shelter instead of from a pet store (after all, every shelter adoption ultimately saves two animals – the one adopted and the one that takes its place at the shelter!) and they can further help strays by not letting their own pets have puppies or kittens.

3. Adoption test

In each case, the C answer is the best one. Further explanation is needed in some cases to make sure the students understand why this answer is the best.

1: It's important that the students understand that a pet is not a toy, and it requires several hours of attention and care each day without exception.

2: The main point of this question is for students to comprehend that an animal feels joy, fear and pain the same as they do and should not be abandoned or thrown out for reasons of mere convenience or because the family has had to move to a smaller residence. It's extremely difficult for shelter staff to rehome older animals or even younger animals who have already bonded to their owner, not to mention the psychological suffering an abandoned animal goes through. In most cases a pet is better off in a smaller apartment with its own family, than abandoned on the street or given to a shelter.

3: A good veterinarian would never say that an animal must give birth at least once; this is an old wives' tale with no scientific validity. However adorable puppies and kittens are, it's irresponsible to let pets give birth even if new owners can be found for each of the puppies or kittens. After all, there are so many stray animals waiting for owners, it's wrong to take away potential owners from them.

4: A pet should be examined annually by a veterinarian as well as receiving required vaccinations and being dewormed. Waiting until the animal is sick to take it to the veterinarian may mean it's too late to help it.

5. Children should never take a passive attitude if their pet is missing. There are many websites and other sources for finding strays; although sometimes dogs or cats find their own way home, it often happens because the owner got the word out that the animal was missing.

4. What does a pet need?

The main point of this lesson is to help children understand that keeping a pet is a responsibility and that it's also important to ask the veterinarian's opinion if they aren't sure about something.

Fresh water

Brush

Love

Flea collar, tag

Microchip

Worm pills

Veterinarian

Bed

Registration tag

Leash

Scratching post

Litter box

Annual vaccinations

Food

What kind of food is best for my pet to eat?

How often should I have my pet examined for disease or problems?

When can we get an operation for the pet so it won't have babies?

What are some signs that my pet is sick, and where do we go if we have an emergency?

5. Seek and find

THROW BALL OUTSIDE
PLAY WITH TOY MOUSE
TAKE FOR A WALK
TALK TO THEM

BRUSH THEIR FUR
PLAY IN THE PARK
TRIM CLAWS

6. **Good owner, bad owner**

Discuss with the children which statements are good, which are bad, and why they believe this is the case.

Leaves dog in the car while doing the shopping. BAD. The dog may suffer heat stroke if it's hot outside, and if the car gets stolen the thieves would probably just throw him out somewhere. It is also not uncommon for dogs to be stolen, particularly if it's a purebred.

Feeds pet only table scraps. BAD. The pet is unlikely to get a proper diet from leftovers.

Brushes pet once a week. GOOD.

Takes pets every year to the veterinarian for a checkup, shots and worm medicine. GOOD.

Leaves dog on a short leash outside all day long. BAD. This is not only cruel, but expressly forbidden by the animal protection law.

Feeds pet the food the veterinarian recommended, with only occasional table scraps. GOOD.

Gives pets fresh water every day. GOOD.

Beats dog to teach him to obey. BAD. This is not only cruel but also ineffective, and only produces a fearful dog.

Trains cat to use litter box. GOOD.

Only cleans litter box once a month. BAD. It should be cleaned when it smells strongly, which should be every few days depending on the number of cats and whether they exclusively use the litter box or also go outside. If the litter box is not kept clean, the cats will not use it.

Teaches dog to obey by using firm commands and tapping dog's nose firmly with a rolled-up newspaper. GOOD. This is an effective way of teaching the dog to obey without hurting or frightening it.

Makes dog wear a muzzle when traveling on public transport. GOOD. This prevents other people from being afraid of the dog, and it's also a requirement.

Lets dog run in the streets without a leash. BAD. This is dangerous for the dog and possibly for other people if the dog is at all aggressive.

Lets cat have kittens 3 times a year. BAD. This is extremely hard on the cat's health and also produces a number of unwanted kittens when the shelters are already overflowing.

Gives pets away or puts them on the street because they're too much trouble. BAD. A pet should never be abandoned just because they've become inconvenient. A pet is a commitment and a member of the family.

Keeps cat confined to one small room. BAD, and also illegal according to the Animal Protection Law.

7. How many kittens and how many puppies?

Discuss with the children why it's important not to let their cat or dog have puppies or kittens. The consequences go far beyond what they might think. Why are there so many strays on the streets?

8. Animal protection Law

It should be emphasized to the children that there is an animal protection law and it's the right and duty of every citizen to help enforce the law, especially since the authorities don't do a very thorough job of it.

Question 1: It's not cruelty, the owner is just trying to teach the dog to obey. Of course it's important not to take it to excess.

Question 2: Yes, this is cruelty that the law expressly forbids. This person should be reported to the authorities!

Question 3: Yes, this is cruelty and it's against the law. It is absolutely illegal to dispose of unwanted animals in such a cruel way. This person should be reported to the authorities!