Help an animal

smile

Teaching students about animal welfare
Introduction

The following lesson plans will help teachers communicate to students the importance of caring for animals. The plans include objectives, student learnings, questions for discussion (with suggested responses) and references to activity sheets. Lessons 2 to 6 also include additional teaching aids, which explore the discussion topics in more detail.

The lessons explain how students can care for animals and focus on five things students can remember to 'help an animal smile'. These five things are illustrated in the accompanying posters, which can be displayed in the classroom.

The Help an animal smile program is based specifically on the ‘five freedoms’ of animal welfare and the concept of having a duty of care to animals. Duty of care is a legal obligation under Queensland’s animal welfare legislation, the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. The program converts these higher level concepts to language primary school students can understand and explores the basis of caring for animals in a fun and interactive way. The program's lessons are:

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Animals like to keep healthy

Help an animal smile is accredited by Education Queensland and is produced by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). Further information, concepts and interactive games can be found at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au (search ‘Help an animal smile’).
Objectives

- Students are introduced to the idea of animals ‘smiling’. Students become aware that animals ‘smile’ when they are happy and healthy, and that this happens when people care for the animals properly.

- Students are introduced to the Smile Clan and the idea that there are five things that they can do to help an animal smile (to be learnt in the following lessons).

Student learnings

- If we keep animals, we need to care for them properly. There are laws about how we should care for animals.

- We have to care for animals at home because there are lots of things that they can’t do for themselves.

- When students do things to care for an animal, we say they are ‘helping an animal smile’.

- The Smile Clan are eight cartoon animals that help students to understand why it’s important to care for animals properly and to treat all animals humanely.

- The Smile Clan includes animals that might be kept as pets and animals that might need caring for on a property. The clan also includes Patrick Parrot, a native animal that lives in the bush.
Discussion topics

Why are animals special?

• What types of animals can we keep as pets?
  Ask students what animals they keep at home—there is normally a wide variety of animals.

• What types of animals should we *not* keep as pets?
  We should not keep wild animals, exotic animals or dangerous animals.

• Why are animals important to us?
  Animals give companionship. Some give us food; others provide transport. Wild animals distribute seeds.

• What would the world be like without animals?
  It would be dull (e.g. no birds singing, no pets). Our environment would change.

Animals need our care

• Do you think animals can feel pain?
  Animals behave in different ways when they are in pain (e.g. dogs yelp, some animals may run away or hiss).

• If a dog runs away with its tail between its legs, what does that mean?
  The dog is scared.

• Why do you think we need to care for our native animals?
  Our native animals help us to keep our environment healthy. For example, bats, birds and skinks reduce the number of insects, and bats and birds help to pollinate our native trees.

• Is it okay to do things to deliberately hurt or frighten animals?
  No; this is cruel and is against the law.

• Is there a law in Queensland about caring properly for animals?
  The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* tells us how we can care for animals properly.

• What can animals do that people can’t do?
  Dogs can dig big holes without a spade.
  Fish can swim really well, can change direction quickly and can sleep under water.
  Cats can jump very high and walk along the tops of high walls or fences without falling off.
  Mice and rats can crawl into small spaces and find out what’s under the bed or the lounge suite.
  Some native birds can distribute seeds into places that people cannot go—this keeps our forests alive and healthy.
• What can’t the animals that live with us do for themselves?
If they are kept as pets, they can’t feed themselves or get water out of the tap.
They might not be able to run around and exercise properly.
Fish can’t clean their water (environment) and could get sick.

• How can children help to care for wild animals?
Take all rubbish home or put it in the bin.
Help to plant native trees that will provide food and shelter for our native animals and birds.

How can we help animals smile?
• What do we mean when we say we are ‘helping animals smile’?
We are caring for them so that they have all their needs met (e.g. water, food, shelter, treatment for disease and injuries, protection from fear and predators, safe handling and transport).

• Do animals smile in the same way as people?
They show their happiness in other ways: dogs wag their tails; cats purr; native birds and other types of birds might sing, chatter or flap their wings.

Classroom activities
1.1 Meet the Smile Clan
1.2 Search, find and colour in
1.3 Spot the differences
   Answers:
   1. fish’s eyebrow
   2. shade of boy’s cap
   3. boy’s middle fingernail
   4. boy’s collar
   5. bubble above tank
   6. fish’s right fin
   7. colour of rock on bottom right
   8. boy’s fringe
   9. water pattern under fish’s mouth
   10. dot below fish’s left fin

1.4 Maggie’s maze
Lesson 1

Activity 1.1

Meet the Smile Clan
The Smile Clan will help you learn why animals smile.
Match the animals with the things that help them smile.

- Smiling because my car keeps me in a comfy seat. A mirror in the car helps us see.
- Smiling because my car gives me a nice, soft bed and makes sure I can’t fall over and get hurt.
- Smiling because my car feeds me and keeps me clean and safe.
- Smiling because my car makes sure I get a nice, soft bed and keeps me safe.
- Smiling because my car keeps me warm and safe.
- Smiling because my car helps me to drive and see.
- Smiling because my car keeps me safe and happy.

Activity 1.2

Catrina Cat says:
“Now how many animals beginning with the letter S can you find in this picture! Colour them in.”

Activity 1.3

Doogal Dog says:
“When drawings are nearly the same, but there are no differences. Can you spot them all?”

Activity 1.4

Maggie Mouse says:
“Can you please help me through this maze to reach my yummy cheese?”
The first thing to remember to help an animal smile—
You can’t switch animals OFF!

Hang poster 1 on the wall.

Objectives

• Students are introduced to the idea that animals are sentient.
• Students understand that animals can suffer and feel pain just as humans do.
• Students understand that animals need to be cared for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student learnings

• Animals are not toys or electronic gadgets that can be switched off when their carers are bored.
• Owning an animal brings commitments and responsibilities.
• Before we decide to have a pet, we need to find out what these commitments and responsibilities are and be sure we can meet them. Having a pet means caring for it every day of the year.
• Choosing not to have an animal because you can’t care for one properly shows that you are a responsible animal carer.
• There are lots of opportunities for students to care for animals that they don’t own.

Discussion topics

Animals are alive and you must always remember to care for them

• What is the first thing to remember to help an animal smile?
  You can’t switch animals OFF!

• Which Smile Clan animals are in the poster?
  Catrina Cat and Sheena Sheep.

• What is the main difference between animals and computers?
  Computers are inanimate/not alive, unthinking, uncaring, without feeling. Animals are capable of caring, thinking, feeling and experiencing pain, suffering, hunger, thirst etc.

• Why can’t you switch animals OFF?
  Animals are living creatures just like people. They are not games or machines that you can turn off.

• Suppose you were just leaving to take your pet dog for a walk and a friend came with a new computer game to play. How would your dog feel if you played the game and didn’t go for the walk?
  Your dog would feel sad and disappointed after getting excited about the walk.
Your pets depend on you, so you are responsible for them every day

- What things do you have to do every day to care for animals at home?
  
  You must feed them, water them, groom them and exercise them.

- If you want to go away for the weekend, can you switch your animals OFF and forget about them?
  
  No; you must arrange to have someone to come to your house to care for your pets or take your pets to someone who can look after them.

- What could happen to animals if you did sometimes forget about them?
  
  They could get hungry or thirsty and run away to look for food or water. They could starve, get lost or be injured.

You can still care for animals even if you don’t have an animal of your own

- How can you care for wild animals?
  
  You can take care of wildlife by making your yard a safe place for them. For example, you can keep out stray dogs by keeping any gates closed, or you can plant some native trees that will provide food and homes for them.

  Always put your rubbish in a bin so that animals don’t think it is food and try to eat it. They could choke and die if they eat our rubbish.

- If you really like animals but you and your family can’t care for one properly now, should you get your own pet?
  
  No. The best way to be a responsible carer if you cannot care for a pet properly is to not get a pet.

- How can you care for pets if you don’t have one of your own?
  
  Help your friends or neighbours who have pets. You could feed or exercise the pets, or look after them when their owners are away.

Classroom activities

2.1 Colour in with the Smile Clan

2.2 Pick the presents

Answers:
Dougal Dog—bone
Catrina Cat—scratching post
Maggie Mouse—running wheel
Hamish Horse—hay
Sheena Sheep—drinking trough
Fiona Fish—bowl with water plant
Cuthbert Calf—milk

2.3 A twisting teaser
Activity 2.1

Cuthbert Calf says:

"Colour in with the Smile Class"

Five things to remember to help an animal smile!

1. You can't switch animals OFF!

Activity 2.2

Patrick Parrot says:

"Draw lines to match the Smile Class animals with the Christmas presents you could use to care for them."

Activity 2.3

Sheena Sheep says:

"What is the first thing to remember to help an animal smile? Follow the line from a letter to a shape and write the letter in that shape. Keep going till you have the answer!"
You can’t switch animals OFF!

**Animals are alive and you must always remember to care for them**

Computers, electronic games and battery-operated toys all have OFF switches.

But have you ever seen an animal with an OFF switch? No—animals are alive and **you can’t switch animals OFF!**

Animals are always ON!

It is really important to remember this. A pet can be really fun to play with and to show to friends. It can be a great companion for the family. But sometimes there are other things that we want to do, such as go to the movies or go on holidays, and we can’t because we have to look after our pets. Sometimes we might wish we could switch our pets OFF!

What would you do if your favourite TV show was just starting and you had to feed the family pet? Has that ever happened to you?

Do you think it’s fair to have a pet but then only spend time with it when you want to and do only the things that you think are the most fun at that time? How would you feel if your parents treated you like that?

Animals need you to care for them every day—not just on the days that you want to care for them! You must always remember to care for your animals every day.

**Your pets depend on you, so you are responsible for them every day**

The animals that live with you depend on you to do all of the things that they can’t do for themselves.

Before a family chooses an animal as a pet, it’s important that they find out about all of the things that need to be done to care for that pet properly. Here are some of those things:

- What things will need to be done every day to care for your pet?
- How much time will it take every day to care for your pet?
- What sort of special place will your pet need to live in and what special things will you need to buy to care for your pet?
- How many years might your pet live for? Can you care for it for that long?
- Will someone in the family have time to take your pet to the vet and look after it if it is sick or injured?
- Who will care for your pet when you all go away for the weekend or during the school holidays?
- How much will it cost every year to care for your pet?

You should never buy a pet until you have discussed all these things and you are sure that the family can care for the pet properly every day of its life.

Before you get a pet, remember that **you can’t switch animals OFF**—your pet will depend on you to care for it every day.
You can still care for animals even if you don’t have an animal of your own

Some families have enough time to care for a pet properly. But others just don’t have enough time for this and that’s okay.

If you know you couldn’t care for a pet properly and so you decide not to have your own pet, you are being very responsible. In fact, you are being a really good animal carer.

You’ve probably never thought of that before!

Choosing not to get a pet because you couldn’t care for it properly is a very special way of showing that you care for animals.

Even if you can’t have your own pet, you can help to care for other animals and help them to smile.

Here’s some ways to care for other animals:

• Help neighbours or friends to care for their pets. Maybe you know someone who would really appreciate some help caring for their pet—perhaps you could help bath or walk their dog or clean their fish tank.

• Make your yard a safe place for wildlife to live in by keeping out dogs and cats that might kill lizards, possums or other native wildlife.

• Ask your parents if you can plant some native trees with flowers that birds like to eat. Find out which trees are best for your area.

• Learn about caring for animals and talk to your friends who do have pets about what you have learned.

• Make sure you always put your rubbish in a bin or take it home with you. Litter dropped on the street can be washed down the drains and end up in the oceans and rivers. Fish and birds that live there might think the rubbish is something to eat and could choke or become very sick if they try to eat it.

• Be extra careful with plastic bags and containers. Never leave them at the beach or park—they can harm our native wildlife if the animals try to eat them or get tangled up in them.

Every time you remember to take your rubbish home, you are helping an animal smile.

If you don’t get your own pet because you’ve remembered that you can’t switch animals Off, you are a really good animal carer!
Hang poster 2 on the wall.

Objectives

- Students learn that keeping and caring for a pet requires a lot of time and commitment.

Student learnings

- If students want to keep animals, they must spend time caring for them.
- Some care activities are common to all animals and others are species specific.
- Spending time to learn how animals behave is an important part of animal care.
- Animals need care every day, not just when their owners are in the mood.
- Caring for animals involves both fun times and serious activities, which can sometimes be unpleasant.

Discussion topics

It’s important to learn about how to care for different kinds of animals

- What is the second thing to remember to help an animal smile?
  Spend time caring for animals.
- Which Smile Clan animal is in the poster?
  Dougal Dog.
- How is the girl in the poster helping Dougal smile?
  She is exercising him.
- Do all animals need to be cared for in exactly the same way?
  Different animals need caring for in different ways.
  Some animals can clean themselves; others need to be bathed.
  Older animals and very young animals need special care.
  Some dogs need to have their claws clipped. All dogs need to be treated for fleas and ticks.
- How can you find out about the best way to care for an animal?
  Ask a vet or vet nurse.
  Ask an animal specialist or someone who has had experience in caring for that particular type of animal.
  Look in your library for a book about your animal.
  Search the internet.
To care for animals well, you need to learn about how different animals behave

- **What things can you learn about an animal if you spend time watching it every day?**
  
  You will see whether the animal is eating and drinking properly.
  
  You will know when the animal has any injuries or is feeling sick. (Sick animals won’t want to eat properly.)
  
  You will see whether the animal has any fleas or ticks. (Dogs with fleas will scratch.)
  
  You will be able to tell when the animal is frightened.

- **Why is it important to learn how your animal normally behaves?**
  
  If you know what your animal’s normal behaviour is, you will notice when it does something different. This could mean that there is something wrong.

- **What could it mean if you notice your animal is behaving differently one day?**
  
  The animal might be sick, injured or frightened.

**Good animal carers spend time every day caring for their animals**

- **What are the three things that good animal carers do for all kinds of animals every day?**
  
  They watch them, give them food and give them water.

- **What are some fun and some ‘yukky’ things that need to be done to care for animals?**
  
  Fun things include playing, exercising and grooming.

  ‘Yukky’ things could be cleaning your animal’s home and cleaning its litter tray.

- **Is it okay to do only the caring things that are fun to do and then only if you’re in the mood to do them?**
  
  No—caring for animals means doing all the things that they need, including the unpleasant things.

**Classroom activities**

3.1 Colour in with the Smile Clan

3.2 Dougal’s word search

3.3 Care for Catrina

**Answers:**

Good things—brush, flea tablets, basket, collar, water, ball of string, vaccination, staying inside at night, scratching post, litter tray, cat food.

Things that are not good—dog food, milk.

Things not relevant to cats—car, fish bowl, hay.
Activity 3.1

Hamish Horse says:

"Colour in my Blank Class Friend."

Five things to remember to help an animal smile!

2. Spend time caring for animals

Activity 3.2

Dougal Dog says:

Here's a word search all about caring for me and other dogs.

1. Match the paragraph below and look for the words in the puzzle. The words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Find words backwards.

Every day Dougal Dog needs care; clean water, the right kind of food, exercise and a special place to sleep that is not too hot or too cold. He also needs love and people so he doesn't get bored or lonely and so someone can check that he is happy and healthy. Dougal's vet explains what to do about grooming, in vitro, vaccinations, flea, worms and neutering.

Activity 3.3

Maggie Mouse says:

"How can you care for Catina Cat and help her smile?"

Tick or colour in the things that are good for her.

Cross out the things that people may let their cats have but are not good for her.

Circle the things that have nothing to do with cats.
It’s important to learn about how to care for different kinds of animals

Different kinds of animals need to be cared for in different ways.

What you have to do to care for a pet depends on the type of pet, what it can do and its age.

- Different kinds of pets (horses, birds, dogs, reptiles etc.) have different needs (e.g. different food, shelter).
- Some pets can clean and care for themselves; others need you to bath them and clip their claws.
- Very young and very old animals need lots of special care.

Remember these things:

- There are books available to help you learn how to care for different pets.
- A vet may be able to give advice on pet care or recommend a website.
- The more you learn about how to care for your pet, the more you will enjoy the time you spend caring for it.

To care for animals well, you need to learn about how different animals behave

One of the reasons people enjoy caring for animals is that animals behave in so many different and interesting ways.

- Have you studied how carefully cats clean their faces after eating? Do they always clean the same side first?
- Have you ever watched birds building a nest?
- Have you ever watched a dog deciding where to bury a bone?

The more we learn about how animals behave and why they behave the way they do, the better we will be at caring for animals.

It’s important that you can tell:

- when your pet is happy and healthy or sick (so that it can be treated or taken to the vet)
- when your pet is frightened or angry (so that you can avoid that happening again and so your pet doesn’t accidentally hurt you).

By watching your pet every day, you will learn how it normally behaves. You’ll notice straight away if your pet behaves differently one day. For example:

- Your horse may be limping.
- Your cat may be scratching its ears a lot.
- Your fish may be swimming in an odd way.
- One of your mice may be hiding away from the others.
- Your dog might not want to eat.
Different behaviour usually means there is something wrong with your pet. For instance:

- It might be sick or injured.
- It might be being picked on by another animal or scared of another animal.
- It might be upset because there is a new pet or person living in the house.

Good animal carers spend time watching their pets every day. They will be sure to notice changes in a pet’s behaviour quickly and fix the problem fast.

As well as checking whether anything is wrong, there are other good reasons to spend time watching your pets:

- You’ll learn interesting things about animals.
- You might think of a way to make your pet’s living area a better place.
- You’ll feel relaxed!!

Good animal carers spend time every day caring for their animals

We need to do three things for pets every day:

1. Spend time watching them to check they are behaving normally and are not sick or injured.
2. Give them enough cool, clean water to last all day.
3. Give them the right amount of the right pet food.

Other things that we might need to do every day are:

- grooming (especially for dogs or cats with long hair)
- exercising (e.g. taking a dog for a walk, playing with a cat)
- cleaning (e.g. cleaning their living area, washing their food and water bowls, shaking out their bed)
- picking up their faeces in the back yard or cleaning out their litter box.

For most kinds of pets, there are some caring activities that are fun and others that are not so much fun but still very important! Good pet carers do both types of activities for their pets.

Remember how important a carer is! The animal depends on you! It needs you to do all the things it can’t do for itself—the fun things and the horrible ones.

The time you spend caring for pets and the way you treat them when feeding, grooming, cleaning or exercising is really important. This is the time when pets learn to trust. If you are kind and gentle and never frighten them, they will learn to trust you. Nearly all animals, even shy animals, will learn to trust the person who feeds them.
It's okay if you don’t want to help to care for an animal. It means it is probably not the right time for you to have a pet. Try spending some time helping others care for their pets instead.

Sometimes people get a pet because all they want to do is play with it. They want to run with it, pick it up, carry it around and maybe teach it tricks. They want their pet to be awake and ready to play whenever they are.

Pets are not toys. Most pets don’t like being picked up all the time. They can get hurt if you pick them up in the wrong way or drop them.

Dogs usually enjoy spending lots of time playing (unless they are very old or sick). But it’s not fair to get a dog if you only want to play and don’t want to spend time doing the everyday caring things for it. And it’s not fair to get a dog unless that dog can spend lots of time with people.

Dogs get very sad and lonely if they are left on their own without the company of people or other dogs. They can start to do things that upset you and other people, including barking, digging up the garden, escaping from the yard and running away.

Before choosing a pet, make sure you know how much time you'll have to spend caring for it every day and what you’ll have to do. Be quite sure that you will want to spend that time with your pet and do those things every day.
Every animal needs a special place to live

Objectives

• Students learn that different animals need different sized areas and different conditions for housing and shelter.

• Students learn that these are important considerations before getting a pet.

Student learnings

• Before you get an animal, you need to find out what kind of special place it will need to live in and what special things it will need.

• Because different animals are different in size, shape and behaviour, each one has different needs for its special place.

• Animals kept in inappropriate places without those special things will not be happy—they will not ‘smile’.

Discussion topics

Different animals need different kinds of special places to live in

• What’s the third thing to remember to help an animal smile?
  Every animal needs a special place to live.

• Which Smile Clan animal is in the poster?
  Hamish Horse.

• What type of place does Hamish need to live in and why?
  Hamish Horse needs space to exercise and shade in the summer.
  Molly Mouse needs to be safe from other animals but needs toys for exercise.

• Why do different kinds of animals need different types of places to live in?
  Big animals (such as horses and cattle) need big places to be able to exercise and graze.
  Small animals (such as mice and guineas pigs) like to feel safe and cosy.
  Different animals need to run, jump, swim or climb.

• If the class was going to be given an animal to care for, and they knew absolutely nothing about it (not even what it looks like), what would they need to find out before it arrived, so they could prepare a place for the animal?
  How big/small will the animal be? Will it grow and how much?
  Can it live with other animals or does it need to live alone?
  Can it live inside or outside? Will it be safe outside?
Different kinds of animals need different kinds of things in their special places

• Why don’t cats need perches to sleep on and why don’t we give birds litter trays to use as toilets?
  
  Cats sleep lying down and prefer cozy places like boxes or baskets. Birds do not use litter trays.

• Why do some animals need somewhere to hide in their living place?
  
  Some animals are frightened by unfamiliar things or by natural predators. 
  Some animals need to hide during the day to sleep if they normally come out at night.

• What things could be dangerous for animals in the places they live?
  
  Predators (such as feral animals), nails, sharp objects, holes and poisonous plants could be dangerous for animals.

If you can’t give an animal the special place and things it needs, you shouldn’t have that animal in your care now

• Why should you find out about the special kind of place an animal needs and the special things it needs before you get that animal?
  
  You will be better prepared to look after your pet properly and you will be able to get all the things that your pet will need.
  If the space you have available is not big enough for the pet you would like, you should think about having a smaller animal as a pet.

• Is it okay to get an animal if you can’t give it the kind of place and the things it needs to stay happy and healthy?
  
  No—the animal would be unhappy and could become sick.

• What would a good animal carer do if he or she wanted an animal but couldn’t give it the special place and things it needs?

  A good carer waits until he or she has all the things the animal needs.

Classroom activities

4.1 Colour in with the Smile Clan

4.2 Mixed-up message

  Answer:
  Only get an animal if you can give it the special place and things it needs.

4.3 Special things for animals

  Answers:
  1. running wheel
  2. cat
  3. horse
  4. cat
  5. dog and cat
  6. mouse and parrot
  7. dog
Activity 4.1

Fiona Fish says:

“Krease is my smiley class friend.
Five things to remember to help an animal smile!”

3. Every animal needs a special place to live.

Activity 4.2

Sheena Sheep says:

“Follow the line from each letter to a shape and write the letter in that shape. You’ll find an important message about whether you are ready to care for an animal.”

Activity 4.3

Patrick Parrot says:

“Do you know that different animals need different kinds of special places to live in? For instance, a horse needs a paddock, but a mouse needs somewhere much smaller. How much do you know about the different kinds of things that different animals need in their special places?”

1. What is a good thing to give a mouse or rat for exercise?

2. Which animal likes to have somewhere high up to sit and keep a lookout?

3. Which animal needs a big tree or some other kind of shade?

4. Which animal needs something to help keep its claws healthy?

5. Which animal likes something hard to chew on to keep its teeth healthy?

6. Which animal needs things to build a nest to sleep in?

7. Which animal will appreciate something to play with?
Every animal needs a special place to live

Different animals need different kinds of special places to live in

Before choosing a pet, it's important to find out what kind of living area ('special place') that animal needs to stay happy, healthy and smiling.

If you already have a pet, have you thought about the place where it lives? Maybe it is a really good place or maybe it could be made better!

How do you know what a particular animal needs? What kind of information do you need about that animal to help decide which place to give it?

The more that you can learn before you get the animal, the better prepared you will be to provide the special place it needs!

The types of questions to ask are:

• Will it be happy living alone or does it need other animals for company? Pack animals, like dogs, will be happiest if they are not left alone for a lot of the time.

• Will it always live outside, always inside or some of each?

• How big will it grow? Will the place still be big enough when it is fully grown? How many animals will be living in the same place?

• Does it need to run, jump, climb, swim, fly, perch, dig or do another special behaviour? How much space does it need to do these special things?

• Does it matter what shape the space is? Does the animal need vertical space (height) as well as horizontal space (area)?

• Will the animal be sharing the space with others? Do they always get on well together? What can you do if they don’t?

• How will you stop the animal from escaping from the paddock, yard, pen, cage or house? How will you make sure other animals can’t get in and harm it?

• Will it be able to stay cool or keep warm, depending on the time of year and where it will be living? Is there shelter from rain and the wind?

• Can the space be easily cleaned and kept free from fleas, worms and other parasites?

• Can the space be designed to help you easily catch the animal without frightening or hurting it?

• Is the animal nocturnal? If so, is the space somewhere that the lights go out at night? If not, can the space be moved to a place where it’s dark?

• What kind of floor or ground will the animal be walking and lying on? Is it earth, concrete, wire mesh, grass, wood shavings, slats, rubber, deep litter, rubber matting, stones, wood, straw, tiles or carpet? Make sure the flooring will not injure the animal’s feet. Is the floor comfortable for sitting and lying on?

• Will the animal be protected from things that might frighten it, such as sudden loud noises or flashing lights, or a fierce dog or hunting cat that can get close to the area?
Different kinds of animals need different kinds of things in their special places

What things do the animals we keep need?

All animals need water and food. What other things an animal needs depends on the kind of animal and the way it behaves. Think about what the animal can and can’t do for itself.

- Will your pet graze or forage or will you supply all the food? Is the food container in the best place to keep the food clean and dry? Will your pet need special food?
- Will your pet like to hide? Mice, rats and some fish need good hiding spots in their special places.
- How will it get enough exercise? Animals kept in small spaces will need to exercise. A running wheel will help exercise mice kept in a cage.
- Will it need to build a nest to sleep in? Can you provide things it will need to build a nest?
- Will it get bored? What is there for it to do all day? What can you provide to keep it busy and happy? Will it play with toys? How much time can you spend with it?
- Does it need a special toilet area such as indoor cats and housed pigs do? Remember, all cats should be kept indoors or locked up at night.

As well as making sure your animal does have the right things, you need to make sure it doesn’t have the wrong things!

If it will be living outside, make sure there are no poisonous plants or other harmful things it might eat or drink. Check that there is nothing that might injure it, such as sharp edges, barbed wire, broken glass, rusty wire or nails.

Animals confined in small spaces or left alone a lot with nothing to do sometimes start to do things that we might call ‘behaving badly’. This is because they are bored.

For example, dogs may bark or howl or dig holes in the yard and cats may scratch the furniture. Giving them things to occupy them, such as company, bones (for dogs to chew) and scratching posts (for cats) will prevent this.

These are the kinds of things that zoo keepers, wildlife carers, farmers, animal shelter staff, vets and other animal carers think about when they are designing and building places for animals to live in.

If you can’t give an animal the special place and things it needs, you shouldn’t have that animal in your care now

If you can’t provide the right place for a pet to live in and the special things it needs, don’t get a pet of your own now. Wait until you can give your animal what it needs.
Hang poster 4 on the wall.

Objectives

- Students learn that animals need the right food to sustain growth and maintain health.

Student learnings

- To keep animals happy, healthy and smiling, we need to feed them with the right amount of the right kind of food.
- Cats and dogs have different nutrient requirements and need their own special food.
- Clean, cool water is very important for all animals. The water must be in a good, sturdy container.
- Good animal carers know what animals must not eat and make sure they don’t get these things.

Discussion topics

**Different kinds of animals need different kinds of food**

- **What's the fourth thing to remember to help an animal smile?**
  Animals need the right kind of food.
- **Which Smile Clan animal is in the poster? What food does he have? Why? Why would we give Dougal Dog a bone?**
  Cuthbert Calf has milk—this helps him grow strong bones. Dougal Dog would chew a bone—this makes his teeth stay clean and strong.
- **What parts of an animal would help you work out what kind of food it eats?**
  An animal’s teeth show the type of food it eats. Meat-eating animals have long canine teeth for chewing and tearing food. Plant-eating animals have flat molar teeth for grinding food.
- **How does giving animals the right amount of the right kind of food help them?**
  It helps them grow strong bones, keep their teeth and gums healthy, and stay fit and strong.
- **When do animals need special food?**
  Animals need special food when they are very young or very old, when they are sick or weak, and when they are pregnant or feeding their young.
- **Dog food and cat food look the same. Does that mean they are the same?**
  No. Cat food contains special vitamins that are not available in dog food. Feeding dog food to cats may make them sick.
Clean, cool water is really important

- Why should we give animals water that is clean and cool?
  If animals don’t have enough clean, cool water to drink, they will get sick and could die.

- When do animals need extra water?
  Animals need extra water when it is very hot, when they have been working or exercising, and if you are feeding them dry food only.

- What are the differences between a good water container and a bad one?
  A water container should always be clean. A good one is easy to keep clean and fill, hard to knock over and doesn’t leak.

Things that animals like to eat may not be good for them

- Can animals understand that junk food is bad for them?
  No they can’t; they still like to eat it.

- What are some foods that animals like to eat but are bad for them?
  Dogs like to eat chocolate, but chocolate contains something that is poisonous to them. Humans can eat it because it doesn’t poison us.
  Too many sweets, biscuits, cakes etc. can make dogs and cats fat.
  Some plants that animals like to eat are poisonous to them.

- Why do animals sometimes eat things like plastic bags and what can happen when they do?
  They don’t know that these things are not good for them. These things might look like food (white plastic bags in the ocean can look like jellyfish). If a plastic bag gets into an animal’s stomach, it can’t be digested and the animal will die.

Classroom activities

5.1 Colour in with the Smile Clan

5.2 Find the fourth thing

5.3 Special care in summer

  Answer:
  In summer, your animals need extra cool, clean water.
Activity 5.1

Maggie Mouse says:

"Welcome to my farm. Dear friends."

Four things to remember to help an animal smile.

4. Animals need the right kind of food

Activity 5.2

Cuthbert Calf says:

"The fourth thing you need to remember to help an animal smile is:

Animals need the right kind of food

Can you find these seven words in this puzzle?
The words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards or backwards.

D K I N D T T I K A
D N E E D A S S D A
I T F N N O N G O F
S H D D F F N L H A
N E I L E O H T N N
R I G H T D F F O I
F O O D E K M D N M
O A N D H E S F A A
I R E I N D O F I L
O O D O N F R T D S
G E I F N D T G N N
L D F S T O I G M H
G H I A L H T H O T
N H F I F M D F E A
R I I S G O D H E D

Activity 5.3

Cairina Cat says:

"Follow the line from each letter to a star and write the letter in that star. You’ll find an important message about helping animals smile in summer."
Different kinds of animals need different kinds of food

Different kinds of animals have different kinds of teeth and different kinds of stomachs. This means they need different types of food to keep them healthy, happy and smiling.

Dogs have sharp teeth and strong jaws that can cut meat and crunch bones.

Horses, cattle and sheep have stomachs that can digest grass and other plants to give them the nutrition they need.

Scientists have studied what animals will eat and we know exactly what animals need to eat to:
- help them to grow strong bones
- keep their teeth and gums healthy
- make sure they don’t get overweight
- keep their fur or feathers shiny
- help them keep fit and healthy.

It’s important to buy food that has been made especially for the animal that you are going to feed.

For instance, cats and dogs need different food. Cat food and dog food may look the same, but cat food has special vitamins that cats need to stay healthy. Feeding dog food to a cat could make it sick!

Read the label on the food to find out how much food your pet needs. To work this out, you’ll probably need to know your pet’s weight.

Be especially careful feeding dogs and fish. If there is food there, they will usually eat it, even if they’ve already had enough to keep them healthy. If they eat extra food, they can get overweight very easily.

To most people, all grass or hay looks much the same. But if you are feeding a horse, it’s important to know that some types of grass and hay are of better quality than others. It might be difficult to tell the difference. A farmer or produce seller will be able to tell good horse food from bad horse food.

Animals that are very young, very old or sick need special food.

Your vet can give you advice about feeding your animal.

Clean, cool water is really important

All animals must always have lots of clean, cool water to drink. Why?

If animals don’t have enough water to drink, they will very quickly get sick and die. If water is not clean, it could make animals sick. Remember that if the water container is dirty, the water can’t be clean.
If the water is very warm, animals may not drink enough of it. Clean, cool water is particularly important for all animals, and especially:

- when the weather is hot
- for animals that spend a lot of time out in the sun
- for animals that have been working or exercising
- for animals that eat mainly dried food like cat or dog biscuits or mouse or guinea pig pellets
- for mothers that are nursing young animals.

Some people think they should give cats milk to drink instead of water. This is not good advice. Cats must always have clean, cool water. Cats don’t need milk, even though they may like to drink it. Some cats get upset tummies if they drink milk.

A good water container:

- is easy to drink from
- is easy to keep clean
- is easy to fill up
- is hard to knock over
- is big enough to hold more than enough water needed in one day
- doesn’t leak.

Put the water container:

- where it is easy to get to
- where dirt won’t get in it
- where it won’t get hot
- where the water won’t spill onto dry food.

**Things that animals like to eat may not be good for them**

Animals also like to eat things that are not good for them.

Chocolate can make dogs very ill.

Sweets, sugar lumps, cakes, biscuits (made for humans) and pizza can make dogs overweight.

Some plants animals like to eat are poisonous to them.

Sometimes animals will eat plastic bags, polystyrene or other litter. This can kill them.

Animals sometimes don’t know that these things are not good for them to eat. Make sure your pets can’t eat things that aren’t good for them. You can do this by not feeding them these things or by putting these things where the animals can’t get them.

Good animal carers try to make sure their animals can’t eat litter or things that are poisonous.
Hang poster 5 on the wall.

**Objectives**

- Students learn that animals need to stay healthy and that if students do all the things covered in the previous lessons, they can help to keep their pets healthy and smiling.
- Students learn that regular visits to the vet will help to keep their pets healthy.

**Student learnings**

- Regular vaccinations and parasite prevention are an essential part of owning animals.
- Vets are the best people to tell you how to keep your animals healthy.
- If you have an animal, you should know how to contact a vet at any time.

**Discussion topics**

There are lots of things we can do to keep our animals healthy

- What’s the fifth thing to remember to help an animal smile?
  Animals like to keep healthy.
- Which Smile Clan animals are in the poster?
  Catrina Cat and Patrick Parrot.
- Is it okay to let your animals have fleas because ‘animals always have fleas’?
  No; fleas are pests and can make your pet sick and unhappy.
- Why should we try to prevent animals from getting sick?
  When animals get sick, they get sad like people do.
  If they have young to look after, the young will suffer as well because they can’t be fed or looked after properly.
- What can we do to keep animals healthy?
  Take them to the vet for regular check-ups.
  Make sure they have all the vaccinations (needles/injections) that they need.
  Give them the right food and plenty of cool drinking water.
  Make sure that they cannot hurt or injure themselves.
  Make sure they are secure and cannot escape onto the road.
  Wash and/or replace any bedding regularly.
It’s important to learn how to help your animals stay healthy

• What sorts of things can vets advise you about to help you keep your animals healthy?

Vets will tell you the types of diseases, worms and other parasites (fleas, ticks etc.) that your pet can get.

They will also tell you which vaccinations and other treatments will keep your pet healthy, and which routine things you can do to keep your pet healthy (e.g. bathing, exercising, ear cleaning, grooming, nail clipping).

• Why do all dogs, cats and horses need to visit a vet every year?

They need vaccinations every year to protect them from diseases.

• Do animals understand that getting worm tablets and flea baths is helping them to stay healthy?

No, but if you give them a treat after the treatment, they will begin to understand that there is always a good thing to come after, and they will be more willing to do whatever needs to be done.

If your animals are sick or injured, treat them properly at home or take them to a vet straight away

• Why is it important to take sick animals to see a vet?

The animals can be diagnosed straight away and be treated properly so that they will get well sooner.

A vet is the best person to diagnose what is wrong with an animal.

• How can you make sure you’ll always know where to find a vet that’s open outside normal business hours?

Keep an emergency number handy for a vet that you can ring and talk to. They might be able to tell you what to do to help your pet over the telephone or they may advise you to bring it in to the surgery.

Classroom activities

6.1 Colour in with the Smile Clan

6.2 Spot the differences

Answers:
1. star above Catrina 2. Dougal’s tail 3. Fiona’s eyes 4. sleigh reins 5. moon’s smile 6. fence on left side 7. tree beside left house 8. street lamp 9. chimney on right house 10. windows on right house

6.3 Smiling in summer

Answers:
1. extra water 2. less than 5 minutes 3. mosquito 4. yes 5. difficult 6. yes 7. all correct
**Activity 6.1**

Sheena Sheep says:

"Hello! I’m Sheena Sheep. Can friends in five things to remember to help an animal smile!"

5. Animals like to keep healthy

**Activity 6.2**

Dougal Dog says:

"These drawings are nearly the same. Can you find them?"

*Clue* Look for things that are missing as well as things that are different.

**Activity 6.3**

Fiona Fish says:

"How much do you know about helping animals smile in summer? Try answering these questions about animal care in summer.

Fish the boxes for answers you think are correct. Some questions have more than one correct answer.

1. What do animals need in summer?
   - water
   - plenty of food
   - exercise

2. How quickly might a dog die if it was locked in a car in summer?
   - more than half an hour
   - less than half an hour

3. Insects are very active in summer. Which insects can give dogs and cats heartburn?
   - mosquito
   - flea
   - none

4. Can animals get skin cancer from too much sun?
   - yes
   - no

5. Is it easy or difficult for an overweight animal to keep cool in summer?
   - easy
   - difficult

6. Does your pet’s fur or remove loose hair in for help them keep cool in summer?
   - yes
   - no

7. Fleas love summer. What might cats and dogs while fleas get?
   - skin infections from scratching and biting themselves
   - weakness because the fleas live on their blood
   - heatwave
Animals like to keep healthy

There are lots of things we can do to keep our animals healthy

Vets and scientists have done lots of research to find out:

- what makes animals sick
- what happens to animals when they get sick
- whether we can help animals get better if they get sick, and most important of all
- what to do to _keep animals healthy_.

It is not always possible to cure animals once they get sick.

So it’s important to give our pets the vaccinations and other treatments needed to keep them healthy and to prevent them from getting sick.

Other ways to help keep pets healthy are:

- Give them clean water at all times.
- Make sure they don’t eat anything that is rotten or poisonous.
- Check the coat of your dog or cat every day if you are in an area where there are ticks.
- Make sure they can’t get injured on barbed wire, rusty nails or broken wood.
- Never let them out onto the road unless they are in your direct control, for example when you have a dog on a lead or are riding a horse.
- Make sure the food you provide will keep their teeth and gums healthy and not make them overweight.
- Make sure their living areas are clean at all times. This could include cleaning litter trays, washing or replacing bedding and removing uneaten food before it goes rotten or mouldy.

It’s important to learn how to help your animals stay healthy

Different animals get different diseases, including different kinds of worms as well as parasites that live in their fur or feathers and bite them.

Find out what vaccinations and treatments your pet needs to protect it from worms and other parasites.

Your vet is the best person to ask about the vaccinations and treatments and will tell you how often to give them.

Dogs, cats and horses need vaccinations _every_ year.

Some treatments can be done at home, for example:

- baths to control ticks and fleas
- preventative treatments every month for fleas and worms
- worm tablets
- shampoo washes.
Other things that should be done regularly to help keep your animal healthy and smiling include:

- foot treatment
- teeth cleaning
- ear cleaning
- toenail clipping
- coat clipping
- exercising
- grooming.

Sometimes pets don’t like these treatments. Lots of cats and dogs don’t like taking tablets and some don’t like being groomed or bathed.

When you are doing something to an animal that it doesn’t like, it’s a good idea if you can do something it really loves straight after.

So take your dog for a walk or give it a bone as soon as it has had a bath, or give your cat some of her favourite food as soon as you’ve given her a tablet. They will soon be smiling again!

In summer you need to take special care to keep your animals healthy. For instance, you need to make extra sure they always have plenty of cool, clean water and can always get into a cool, shady place. Protect them from the diseases they could get if fleas, mosquitoes or ticks bite them.

If your animals are sick or injured, treat them properly at home or take them to a vet straight away

Sometimes animals will get sick or injured, no matter how careful you are and how hard you try to prevent it. Some diseases can’t be prevented.

However, if your pet does get sick or injured, it’s very important to make sure it gets help quickly so that it doesn’t get any worse. You must either:

- treat your pet properly at home, if you know what to do, or
- take your pet to a vet straight away.

In an emergency, you don’t want to waste time looking for the vet’s phone number, checking if they are open on Sunday or finding out how to get to the surgery. So keep this important information in a safe place.

If friends or neighbours care for your pet when you go on holidays, make sure you give them the telephone number and address of the vet that usually treats your pet!
For more information about animal welfare visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23