

**LESSON:** Pet Care

**PROGRAM:** Online Presentation

**AGE GROUP/GRADE LEVEL:** K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach proper pet care and answer any questions that students may have about pet care.

**PURPOSE:**

To educate students on how to responsibly care for pets with the hopes of having them use the information in the future.

**TIME FRAME:** 20-30 minutes

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Computer
- Projector
- Extension cord

**OPENING:**

- To begin the lesson on pet care, start by asking students a few of the following questions:
  - What type of pets do you have at home?
  - What is your favorite part about having a pet?
  - What is your least favorite part about having a pet?
  - Who takes care of your pet?

**PROCEDURE:**

- Set up Power Point and projector.
- Explain the nature of presentation.
- The presentation is organized by the needs of pets.

**Individual Slide Explanations**

- Slide 5 & 6
  - It is very important for pet owners to know what their pets should and should not eat. Pet owners should consult with their veterinarian to discuss their pet's dietary needs.
  - Many people believe that cats should drink milk. Cats are actually lactose intolerant, and can get an upset stomach if given milk products. Many movies and cartoons are responsible for this myth.

The only milk cats and kittens should have is special formula sold at pet stores.

- Most candy products, including gum, can be very harmful to any pet. The likelihood of a pet becoming very sick from the product depends on the size of the animal and how much is ingested.
- Another animal myth perpetuated by movies and cartoons is that carrots are good for rabbits. Rabbits digest food differently than humans. Carrots are high in sugar and are not healthy for rabbits to have all the time. Carrot tops, however are good for rabbits.
- Slide 7
  - The safest place for pets to live is indoors. When outside, pets can face a variety of dangers. Below are a few examples:
    - Smaller animals can be taken by bigger predators, like coyotes.
    - Pets can become very sick if left out in the rain, snow or heat.
    - Outdoor cats or other pets that are not kept in the yard can wander into traffic.
- Slide 8 & 9
  - Most all mammals shed their fur. There are a few dogs, however, that grow hair rather than fur. These breeds of dogs are typically good for people who have allergies. A few examples of these dog breeds are:
    - Poodles
    - Terriers
    - Shih Tzu
  - When bathing a pet, it is very important to use species-specific shampoo.
  - Grooming facilities are also available for owners to bring their pet in for a bath, haircut or nail trim.
  - Keeping a pet's nails short is very important. When nails grow too long, it affects the way the animal walks. Having nails that have grown too long can also cause the animal to scratch people accidentally.
  - If pets such as rats, hamsters, guinea pigs and rabbits do not have appropriate items to chew on, their teeth can grow very long. This can affect what they are able to eat, and it can cause serious injuries.
- Slide 12
  - A microchip is not a tracking device; it is mainly a permanent form of identification. When a veterinarian or an animal control staff member scans for a microchip and one is found, a number appears on the scanner. This identification number is then typed into a

microchip database. If the microchip is properly registered, then the owner's contact information will appear.

- Slide 16
  - For more information about overpopulation, please view our overpopulation power point.

**CLOSING:**

- Having a pet can be a wonderful thing, but it is also a lot of responsibility! Encourage students to make sure they (and their families) are ready to fulfill these responsibilities when they decide to include a pet in their family.

**OPTIONAL INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE):**

- Additional information on caring for pets can be found on our website under "Resources" at [www.spcala.com](http://www.spcala.com)