



Dear Educator:

Children and pets go together. That's why it's important for young people to know how to treat pets kindly and how to expect animals to react.

YMI, in cooperation with American Greetings, DIC Entertainment and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), is pleased to provide you and your kindergarteners and first graders with this special kit featuring Strawberry Shortcake and Friends teaching about pet care.

The ASPCA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent cruelty to animals. They offer national programs in humane education, with a large portion of their work dedicated to teaching children about pet care and safety around animals.

You may remember Strawberry Shortcake from your own childhood. She's a sweet, spunky redhead who lives in a "berry special place called Strawberryland" with her sister, Apple Dumplin'; her cat, Custard; and her puppy, Pupcake. With these materials, we're pleased to introduce Strawberry Shortcake to a whole new generation. Embodying both warmth and charm, this sweet-natured character demonstrates caring, generous, thoughtful behavior as well as shares the meaning of friendship.

Although these materials are copyrighted, you may make as many photocopies as necessary to suit the needs of your students. Or, you can download extra copies at www.youthmedia.com or at www.strawberryshortcake.com. Feel free to share these materials with fellow educators, including preschool teachers and second grade teachers.

As former teachers, we know your students will enjoy having Strawberry Shortcake as a partner as they learn about animals and how to care for them.

Sincerely,

Roberta Nusi
Roberta Nusim
Publisher and
former teacher

Joel Ehrlich
Joel Ehrlich
President and
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Program Objectives

- ☀ To familiarize children with pets' needs and how people can provide for them
- ☀ To encourage empathy and humane treatment of animals
- ☀ To introduce children to the differences between wild and domesticated animals and how to be safe around all kinds of animals
- ☀ To reinforce literacy, observation, science, and recording skills

Target Audience

This kit is designed for kindergarten and first grade students.

How To Use This Guide

Review the materials and schedule the activities into your classroom lessons. In **Activity 1**, children learn about pets' needs by creating a pictorial poem. **Activity 2** has children focusing on the difference between kind and unkind treatment of animals. **Activity 3** teaches the differences between wild and domesticated animals and involves setting up an animal feeder outside your classroom so children can observe and record the behaviors of the visiting animals.



Ginger Snap,
Strawberry
Shortcake and
Orange Blossom



A Berry Nice Pet Poem

Strawberry Shortcake takes care of her pet cat Custard and puppy Pupcake by feeding them, brushing them, and playing with them. There are other things that pets need from people, too. This activity familiarizes students with those needs.

Distribute the activity masters and crayons and explain that the class is going to talk about things that pets need to stay happy, healthy, and safe.

Part A allows children to personalize the activity by drawing a picture of their pet. Students who don't have a pet can draw the pet they might want. After they are finished coloring, ask them to write their pet's name in the space provided. For children who drew a "fantasy" pet, ask them to make up a name. Discuss the names with the children and why they chose those names. Does the name reflect a physical characteristic of the pet, or some aspect



Strawberry Shortcake
Honey Pie Pony

of their behavior? You can give the example of Huckleberry Pie from Strawberry Shortcake—his pet frog's name is Shoofly. Why do the children think that is?

Part B is a poem with spaces for children to paste pictures of the various needs of pets. Distribute safety scissors and glue to the class. Talk about each image at the bottom of the page and why pets need each item to stay happy and healthy.

Then, instruct children to cut out each image. Read the whole poem once, saying "Blank" for each empty space. Then go through the poem from the beginning and ask the class to call out the answers for each blank. Once the class has agreed on the answer, have students paste the proper graphic in its place. When the poem is finished, read it together!

Fill-in-the-blank answers: water, food, sleep, doctor, groom/brush, friend

Extended Activity

Invite a local veterinarian, a veterinary technician, or someone from the local humane society to come to class to talk about his/her job and what kids can do to keep animals happy and healthy.



Be Berry Nice to Animals

In this activity, Strawberry's friend Orange Blossom is about to get a new pet. Talk with your students about ways to prepare for a new pet—getting food and watering bowls, finding a good place for the pet to sleep, or reading books about their pet's habits. Have a discussion about where people get pets, including a local animal shelter.

Ask students if they have ever seen an animal look or act scared, sad, or happy. What made the animal feel that way? How did the animal show its feelings? Tell your students that we need to be especially gentle and careful with animals because they cannot use words to tell us when they are hurt or upset.

Discuss how it is important to treat animals in the same way we treat humans—kindly and with respect. You can use the "Golden Rule" to help children understand. Ask, for exam-

ple, "How would you feel if someone came up and pulled your hair? How do you think a guinea pig would feel if someone pulled on her fur?"

Now have children circle the images that depict kind behavior and cross through the images that depict unkind behavior. When students are finished, discuss each image and why the unkind behaviors shown are harmful. Then, ask children what they should do instead of unkind behaviors. Focus on the "nice" behaviors and how important it is to show kindness and care to pets every day.

Extended Activity

Tell students that they need to treat all creatures with care, but that wild creatures need different treatment than domesticated animals. For example, wild creatures need to be left alone. Ask students how they can care for wild animals.



Furry and Feathered Friends Forever

It's important for students to know that pet owners can help keep their pets safe. For example, tell your students that when an animal wears a collar with a tag, people can bring him home if he gets lost.

Understanding the difference between wild animals and pets is important for children of this age. Explain that wild animals take care of themselves; pets need people to take care of them. Wild animals are interesting to observe and study in their natural environment, but are NOT safe to interact with. Talk about the importance of not touching or playing with strays, even if they look friendly. Ask why animals like bears or zebras would not make good pets, and why certain animals need to be left alone in the wild.

Set up a bird or squirrel feeder outside the classroom in a place where students can observe the animals that visit. Don't forget to set up a feeder for the entire winter, so the animals won't starve. Then, have students create a "Remembering Book" page, just like Strawberry Shortcake does to record the behavior of the animals that visit her feeder. The activity sheet provides spaces to fill in the types of animals seen (through words or pictures, depending on ability level), what they look like, their behaviors, how they socialize, and how they eat.

Photocopy several pages per student so that kids can write in them every day and create a book. Give several copies to each child to take home and encourage them to do the activity with their parents. Ask students what different animals they will see at their house.

Extended Activity

Break into groups and assign each group a pet—dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, fish, birds, or even white Norway rats. Have groups report what makes their pet unique: its physical characteristics, physical abilities, food, personality, mode of play, how they should be picked up, etc.



Custard

Pupcake

Resources

www.animaland.org

"Just for Kids" section of ASPCA Web site

www.animalessons.org ASPCA Teacher Newsletter

www.aspc.org/education ASPCA Humane Education

www.strawberryshortcake.com Official Strawberry Shortcake Web site

www.youthmedia.com

Books and Videos about Pets and Pet Care:

A Kid's Best Friend, by Maya Ajmera and Alex Fisher. Washington, D.C., Shakti for Children, 2002.

Dorling Kindersley ASPCA Pet Care Guides for Kids

Heinemann Interactive Library *A Pet's Life Series* by Michaela Miller. Des Plaines, IL, 1998. Titles include:

Cats, Dogs, Goldfish, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, and Rabbits

Learn more about Strawberry Shortcake and her pets in *Best Pets Yet*, available on video and DVD.

Strawberry Shortcake's Berry Special Pets, by Megan E. Bryant. New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 2004.

Where Are Custard and Pupcake?, by Justine Fontes. New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 2003.

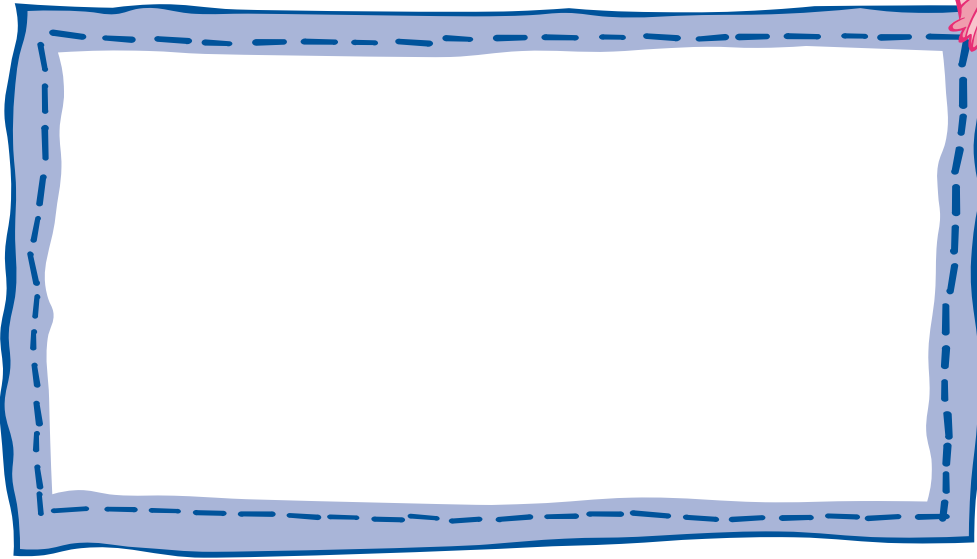


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Activity 1
Reproducible Master

A Berry Nice Pet Poem

Part A. This is a picture of my pet, or the pet I'd like to have.



My pet's name is _____

Part B. Knowing what pets need shows you love and care for them.

Pets need _____ to drink and _____ to eat.



They need you to protect them from cold and heat!



When pets are tired, they need to _____ like me and you,

And when they're sick, they need to see the _____, too!

You also need to _____ your pet to keep its coat smooth and clean.

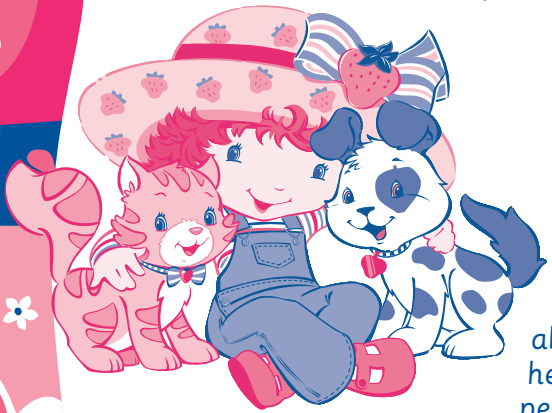
But to really show you care, be the best _____ your pet has ever seen!



Learn more about pets and pet care at www.animaland.org and www.aspc.org.

Learn more about Strawberry Shortcake and her friends at www.strawberryshortcake.com.

Be Berry Nice to Animals



Strawberry Shortcake believes that it's important to treat all creatures with care and respect.

Strawberry's friend Orange Blossom is about to get a new pet. Strawberry needs your help to show Orange Blossom how to treat her pet kindly.



Orange Blossom

Circle the pictures that show nice treatment of animals.

Place an X through pictures that do not show nice treatment.



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Activity 3
Reproducible Master

Furry and Feathered Friends Forever

Strawberry Shortcake uses the pages of her “Remembering Book” to write down what she sees and wants to remember. Show what you see at the animal feeder set up outside your classroom.

Strawberry Shortcake

Ginger Snap



Today, I saw a:



at our feeder.

It looked like this:

This is what the animal was doing:

One body part the animal has that I DON'T have is:

It was about as big as my:

The animal ate the food with its:

This is a body part the animal has that I DO have:



Pupcake

Huckleberry Pie

Dear Parent or Guardian: With the help of Strawberry Shortcake, your child has been learning about animals' needs and how to take care of them—as well as which animals we should just observe and not touch. You can do a similar activity as the one above at your home.

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