

Discussion Questions on Pet Care

Animals have needs just like people.

Food:

What kinds of food do you eat? Should you eat cat food? Or chocolate all day? What is your favorite food?

What kind of food do animals need? Are there any foods pets shouldn't eat? (chocolate, grapes, some houseplants) Is it good for animals to eat the same food as people or do they need special food?

Water:

Think about how much water your pet needs.

Will a large dog like a St. Bernard have enough water from a small cereal bowl to last all day?

How much water do you think a large dog would need?

What happens to water outside in the winter? In the summer? Can you drink very frozen or very hot water?

Try an experiment with your class: put a glass of water on the counter for a few days and taste

it. Does it taste good? Make sure your animals have fresh, cool water everyday.

Shelter:

What kind of house do you live in? How does the house protect you? (It keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer.)

Explain that shelter means home or where you live. Make sure your animal's house is the right size and the right temperature.

What if humans went outside in the summer with four or five coats on? How would we feel?

Would a dog with lots of fur feel good outside in the summer with no shade?

How would a short-haired dog feel outside in the winter with no shelter?

Clothing:

People wear clothing. Why? What do animals wear? (Fur and feathers are possible examples, but some dogs wear coats and boots in winter.)

What happens when our clothes get dirty? What about animals? Do they need baths? Hair brushes?

Protection:

How does your family help protect you?

How can you protect our pet? How can we make sure pets don't get lost or if they do that someone can bring them home to us?

How could training a dog keep him safer?

What kinds of accidents could happen to pets? How can we prevent them?

Companionship:

Who has a special friend? How do you feel about your friend? What do you do with your friend?

Do pets need friends? Are they okay being left alone every day all day? What would happen if you came to school and did nothing but sit at your desk all day and read a book? How would you feel at the end of the day? Bored? Tired? In a bad mood?

How can you make their time alone easier?

Medical Care:

Why do you go to a doctor's office? How does a doctor help you when you are sick?

Where do animals go when they are sick? Are regular checkups important for you and your pet? Why?

Exercise:

Do you need exercise? What about pets? How do they exercise? Think about hamsters, gerbils, cats and dogs.

What happens if pets don't get enough exercise? Do you think they get frustrated and chew things?