

Happy and Healthy Service Project

Objective

Learn what cats need to be happy and healthy.
How can humans help animals stay happy and healthy?
What are some ways we can help animals in our community?

Note: This activity was designed as an extension for *Nobody's Cats: How One Little Black Kitty Came in from the Cold* by Valerie Ingram and Alistair Schroff, but may be adapted to any of the RedRover Readers program books.

Preparation

Before starting this project, ask:

1. Who will we be helping?
2. What can we do to help?
3. Who should we involve in this project? (i.e. parents, media, other student/classes)
4. What resources do we need to make this happen?

Materials

1. Poster or butcher paper
2. Something to draw or write with
3. Scissors

Instructions

On a large poster, draw a picture of a cat (or appropriate animal based on the book that was read). Write "What I need to be happy and healthy..." at the top of the poster. Give each student a half sheet of paper and ask them to draw a big cloud that fits the entire sheet. Ask the students to draw inside the cloud one thing a cat needs to be happy and healthy. As the students complete their drawings, ask them to paste their "thought cloud" on the poster around the cat.

Example poster board:

What I need to be happy and healthy...



At the end of the lesson

After the poster is complete, ask the class, "What can you do to help animals stay happy and healthy like the boy did in the story?" Allow the discussion to lead into a service project. Create a community cat project or any project that will benefit animals. For example, hold a blanket drive or food drive. You can do this by contacting your local shelter or search for another non-profit organization and find out what their needs are.

Make sure to follow any guidelines they might have regarding donations. As a class, set an attainable goal to collect the needed items – and ultimately help many animals in need.

Upon reaching the goal of starting the service project, have a discussion. Questions in the discussion may include:

1. How many animals will be helped using the items that the class donated? (This information might be gathered by following up with the shelter or organization)
2. How does it feel to have been involved in this project?
3. How do your feelings compare to the boy in the story, *Nobody's Cats*? Do you feel similar or different?
4. How do you feel about animals? Have your feelings changed since before reading *Nobody's Cats* and completing the service project?
5. How can you continue to help animals?



Ask students to reflect on one of these questions: "What surprised you most about this lesson?" "What would you like to learn more about?" You can do this with the whole group, in a sharing circle or related class meeting format, by having students fill out index cards or another format you choose. Consider adding additional activities or lessons based on what they say they'd like to learn more about. Please share with us student responses and stories about changes in attitude or behavior you observe by adding to your report about this reading or by emailing Readers@RedRover.org.