

What do dogs need?

Objective

Identify what dogs need to be happy, healthy and safe. Have a discussion about common dog items.

Preparation

Cut out materials before you enter the classroom to allow more time for the activity. Gather common dog items that can be shared with the class.

Think of questions to ask the class:

What might a dog need every day?

Where might we be able to find the things that dogs need?

Materials

1. Large pieces of construction paper
2. Pictures of dogs of different shapes
3. Cut out shapes of things dogs need or the actual items themselves: collar, tag, toys, treats, food bowl, water bowl, leash, soft bed, people to teach him and play with him, friends, ribbon, cotton balls, sparkles, markers and other decorations and glue.

Instructions

Have students choose a "house" and a "dog" and create a collage of "their" dog in a home with a family. Allow time for students to describe their collages aloud as a story. Have students explain who each character is and what they like to do. Or have students write a poem starting each line alternately with "In this house lives..." and "She (or he) needs..."

At the End of the Lesson

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. We recommend that you ask different questions and have a variety of formats for the different books. 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.