



Educate Together



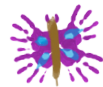
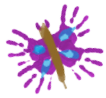
Class Level  
5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

# Lesson Plan 1

## Pet Responsibility



Curriculum Links	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living Things	Plant and Animal Life
English	Oral Language; Writing	Developing cognitive abilities through language
SPHE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myself</li> <li>Myself &amp; the Wider World</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing and Changing; Making Decisions</li> <li>Developing Citizenship</li> </ol>
Learn Together (Educate Together Schools)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moral &amp; Spiritual</li> <li>Equality &amp; Justice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring Moral Development Cultivating Spiritual Growth</li> <li>Activating Equality and Justice through Positive Action</li> </ol>



### Content objectives:

- Children understand the responsibilities involved in owning a pet.
- Children are introduced to the Five Promises and understand that they have an active role in promoting these among their own families and friends.

### Learning objectives:

- Children understand that the right to own a pet comes with responsibilities.
- Children understand that there are considerations involved before they decide on an appropriate pet.
- Children understand that animals have needs and feelings.
- Children understand that there is a routine in looking after an animal.

### Resources:

5 Promises Poster

### Differentiation:

- Follow up research – find out about the work of Dogs Trust via [www.dogstrust.ie](http://www.dogstrust.ie).
- Find out about the work of the ISPCA via [www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie)
- Find out what vets say about caring for animals at [www.lovemypet.ie](http://www.lovemypet.ie).

### Extension Exercises:

**English:** Oral Language Debate: Which of the 5 Promises is most important to an animal?

### Assessment:

Teacher questions/children's questions.



# Learning activities:



5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

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## Introduction

- This lesson will be conducted through Circle Time.
- Begin the lesson with a class discussion about animals and pets. What types of animals are generally kept as pets? Why are those animals chosen as opposed to others?
- What kind of pets do the pupils have?

## Development

- Question the pupils on the term 'responsibility'.
- Explain that owning a pet has its own responsibilities. What kind of responsibilities does a pet owner have?
- Lead the discussion to explain that we are responsible for animals in our care as they have wants, needs and feelings that they cannot provide for themselves.
- Explain that human needs/feelings and animal needs/feelings are very similar. What are our needs? Why do we need them?
- Explain that before buying a pet you need to consider the following:

### a) Lifestyle

Do you have the time and willingness to care for a pet? Are you willing to train the pet if needed? Would the pet be left alone for long periods?

### b) Environment

Is there suitable accommodation for a pet? Do you live in a flat or a house? Is there a garden? Will the pet be able to spend time/sleep inside?

### c) Budget

Pets need a nutritionally balanced diet and will have to visit the vet for vaccinations and possible emergencies. This can be costly.

Ask the children how they can be a responsible pet owner. What kind of things do we need to do to ensure our pet is healthy and happy? The children's suggestions can be written on a flip chart on white board.



# Learning activities:



5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

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Explain **Dogs Trust 5 Promises Pledge** which all pet owners should promise to their animals:

## Promise 1 - Love

I promise to: provide my pet with love and attention.

## Promise 2 - A home

I promise to: provide my pet with a suitable place to live.

## Promise 3 - Safety

I promise to: protect my pet, to keep her or him safe and healthy.

## Promise 4 - Food and water

I promise to: provide my pet with a healthy diet.

## Promise 5 - To be themselves

I promise to: provide my pet with a life that she or he will enjoy.

After explaining each Promise, the children will be questioned on a time that they felt loved, safe or free to be an individual. Lead the conversation to times when they did not feel that way, as a way of eliciting empathy for the animals.

## Conclusion

After the discussion the children will be asked to write their own charter of Pet Rights. What do they feel a pet should be entitled to and why.

