



SOCIAL, PERSONAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

for First to Sixth Class



www.LearnWithDogsTrust.ie

Introduction

This resource provides learning materials and activity ideas for exploring important concepts within the SPHE curriculum, and has been designed to help you to deliver the SPHE Strand Unit: Developing Citizenship.

The activities will introduce children to ideas of rights and responsibilities. Pupils will explore animal welfare issues and consider the needs of dogs and people, aspects of responsible pet ownership, and the role of Dogs Trust, as an international charity dedicated to dog welfare.

The resources are split to provide activities for use with the Junior and Senior cycles, but can easily be adapted as necessary for use with different groups.

You do not need any other resources to use these activities, but the following may be helpful and interesting:

- Internet access to www.DogsTrust.ie, for pupils to find out more about Dogs Trust
- Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals I.S.P.C.A - www.ispca.ie
- A selection of toy dogs
- Photographs of pupils' dogs
- Dog accessories: water and food bowls, lead, collar and tag, brush, toy
- Recent newspaper articles about dog welfare in your community

About Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust arrived in Ireland in 2005, and is Ireland's largest dog welfare charity.

We began our work by way of our hugely successful nationwide Education programme. We now employ an Education & Community Team of 6 who deliver free curriculum linked workshops based around safety around dogs and responsible dog ownership throughout Primary Schools in Ireland. Dogs Trust believe that by educating children, we are enabling the next generation of dog owners to behave safely around dogs and make informed decisions on owning a dog in the future.

Building work began on our state of the art rehoming centre in 2008 and we opened our doors in November 2009. We rescue dogs from a variety of sources; working closely with local authority pounds and like-minded animal welfare charities across the country.

We have hundreds of puppies and dogs of all shapes, sizes, colours and breeds in our care, looking for their special someone. All puppies and dogs in our rehoming centre are neutered, microchipped, fully vaccinated and have their temperament assessed before going to their forever home. Dogs Trust also offers a lifetime of training and behavioural support for all dogs and puppies rehomed from our centre.

For information about our range of resources and workshops for schools, please see the last

An ‘at a glance’ guide for teachers

This table provides an overview of each activity in this resource.

Detailed notes on delivery can be found on pages 3 to 4 and thematic cross curricular links on page 10.

Activity	Learning content	Learning outcomes
<p>We all have needs</p> <p>First to Second Class (Strand: Developing Citizenship)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people have needs • Dogs have needs too • Many of these needs are the same • Different people have different views about these needs • There is a difference between ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ 	<p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and describe some basic human needs • Compare these to the needs of a dog • Discuss and develop their ideas
<p>Looking after a dog</p> <p>First to Second Class (Strand: Developing Citizenship, Strand Unit: Environmental Care)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs need to be looked after • Dog owners have a responsibility to care for their dog • There is a routine in looking after a dog • Certain items are essential for good dog care 	<p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the responsibility of pet ownership • Describe a day in the life of a well cared-for dog • Describe how to care for a dog • List the basic items needed to care for a dog
<p>Who looks after dogs?</p> <p>Junior/Senior Cycle (Strand: Developing Citizenship, Strand Unit: Environmental Care)</p>	<p>Some owners fail to look after their dog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This harms the dog and the community • Dogs Trust is a charity that can care for these dogs • Dogs Trust will never put a healthy dog down • Dogs Trust carries out a range of activities to help dogs 	<p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify harmful behaviour towards dogs • Understand and describe the work of Dogs Trust in looking after dogs
<p>What is a charity?</p> <p>Senior Cycle (Strand: Developing Citizenship, Strand Unit: Living in the Local Community)</p>	<p>The role of charities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About paid staff • About volunteers • About what Dogs Trust does to help dogs and communities 	<p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the role of an animal welfare charity • Describe how Dogs Trust works to improve the lives of dogs
<p>Choose your perfect dog!</p> <p>Senior Cycle (Strand: Developing Citizenship, Strand Unit: Living in the Local Community)</p>	<p>Different dogs have varying needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different lifestyles will suit different dogs • It is vital to choose a dog that will fit in with your lifestyle • Dogs Trust carefully interview potential owners, to select the best dog for them 	<p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link lifestyle features to their impact on dog ownership • Make a responsible choice in choosing a dog • Be mindful of their welfare responsibilities as dog owners • Describe how and why Dogs Trust interviews potential dog owners

Teacher's Notes

These notes support the delivery of the SPHE Strand: Myself and the wider world Strand Unit: My school community, the Science Strand: Environmental care, and Strand Unit: Caring for my locality.

First and Second Class: We all have needs

Children can begin by volunteering their ideas for how they can stay healthy and happy. They can then be split into groups or pairs and make a list, which they can write around their name on the sheet. Key elements are: shelter, food, water, clothing, friendship, love, affection and good health.

Pupils could then compare their list to the needs of a dog. Pupils could use one of the dog character sheets*, photos of pupils' dogs or toy dogs as stimuli. Key elements are: shelter, food, water, affection, love and attention, exercise, good health. These can be added around the dog on the sheet. Pupils should notice that these compare almost identically to those of humans, but humans also need clothing - why don't dogs?

Some pupils may need help to distinguish between needs (e.g. clothes) and wants (e.g. branded clothes).

First and Second Class: Looking after a dog

Working on their own or in small groups, children can use their imagination and experiences to list the main events during a dog's day. Dogs need to be fed, drink fresh water, get enough exercise, enjoy attention, affection and play, and get enough rest. Pupils should try and empathise: if they were a dog, what would they like to do? Pupils should think about how the owner is responsible for the dog's welfare - dogs are unable to look after themselves and need our help and attention in order to be healthy and happy, and should be treated with respect.

Children should consider what is needed to take care of a dog. As part of the Strand Unit: Environmental care, children could consider the problems caused by dogs littering on their local environment. Dogs Trust recommends a dog requires the following equipment as a minimum: water and food bowls, lead, collar and tag, grooming brush and a toy.

Pupils might wish to add other items, such as a dog bed and a poop scoop. How could they improvise?

Children can pool their ideas as a class. Pairs could act out or role-play each item on the list, for example. This will emphasise the equipment needed for each activity, such as the need to use a collar and lead when walking a dog. Children can choose their favourite Dogs Trust dog from the dog character booklet* (see below).

Junior/Senior Cycle: Who looks after dogs?

This simple photo story can form the basis for a stand-alone discussion for pupils as well as supporting the activities. The photos tell a typical story of how a dog welfare charity cares for stray or abandoned dogs, ensuring their health and well being before matching them to a suitable family for rehoming.

When photocopying these pages, set the photocopier to 'photograph quality' to ensure good reproduction. You may also wish to cover the captions with white paper before copying. The class, or smaller groups, can discuss what they think is happening in each photo. Children can write their own caption under each photograph and create their own story. Children could create a script and act out their story, with a narrator voicing the character of the dog.

You could think about:

- Why has the dog gone astray? Owners should not let their dogs roam the streets.
- Why does the dog welfare charity care for the dog?
- What does the charity do for the dog? All dogs are screened by a vet and treated if necessary. You could discuss the issue of neutering if this is suitable for your pupils.
- Volunteer carers look after the dogs before they are rehomed.
- Why does the charity meet with the families who want a dog?

Glossary

A vaccination is a special injection that dogs need every year to protect them from certain diseases.

* Dog character booklets are available to download from www.LearnWithDogsTrust.ie

Senior Cycle: Choose your perfect dog!

Dogs can become abandoned or unwanted because their owners did not think seriously about the dog's needs or their own lifestyle. Dog welfare charities work hard to ensure that dogs go to the right homes by using a questionnaire that profiles the lifestyle and capabilities of potential new owners, and by visiting the potential new owners home. This is a simplified version of the questionnaire that they might use, and links to the dog characters on the rehoming centre side of the poster.

Children can fill in their own questionnaire, or can interview each other orally in pairs and record their answers to each question. This could be explored through 'role play' interviews. Why not have one child as a Dogs Trust Canine Carer and the other as the potential owner. Role play scenarios could be performed in pairs for the class, who could respond by voting for the most appropriate choice from the dog characters.

Children need to understand that not every home is right for a dog - discuss class responses to role play interviews. The home may be too small, have other pets that are incompatible, or be left empty for long periods of time. By choosing the right dog for their lifestyle, children should understand that both they, and the dog, will be happier.



Senior Cycle: What is a charity?

This activity has no supporting worksheet so children are free to record their information and ideas as concept maps, lists, brainstorm or illustrated diagrams in pairs, small groups or as a whole class.

Key areas for children to consider include:

Who does Dogs Trust help?

Dogs
People

How is Dogs Trust funded?

Donations
Legacies

Who works for Dogs Trust?

Paid Staff
Volunteers

What does Dogs Trust do?

Education
Neutering

Children should think about the social and community problems that led to why charities like Dogs Trust and the ISPCA were created? Why does Dogs Trust continue to campaign for responsible dog ownership? Why do children think some people mistreat dogs? Can children think of instances of mistreatment of dogs that have made the news in their area? Compare and discuss other animal charities like the ISPCA with the work of Dogs Trust.

They can find out more about Dogs Trust by:

- Using the poster
- Using the photo story
- Visiting www.DogsTrust.ie for information

We all have needs worksheet

Name:

Date:

(1) Write your name in the middle box below. You could draw a picture of yourself.
What do you need to be healthy and happy? Write them around yourself.

**Things I need
to be healthy:**

**Things I need
to be happy:**

(2) This is Digger. What does she need to be healthy and happy?
Write your ideas around Digger.

**Things Digger needs
to be healthy:**

**Things Digger needs
to be happy:**




(3) What things do you and Digger both need to be healthy and happy?

Looking after a dog worksheet

Name: Date:

Dogs need to be healthy and happy. Think about spending a day with a dog.

 What will you do together?  What things will you need?

(1) Write your ideas below. Write down what you do, and what you will need.
We've done the first one for you!

Time of Day	What we do	What we need
When I get up	Play with Digger	Dog Toy

(2) Which Dogs Trust dog is your favourite?
Choose the dog you like best.

(3) Around your dog, write down the things you do
for your dog. Then write and draw the things they need.



Who looks after dogs?



A carer welcomes a stray dog that has been brought into a rehoming centre



A vet examines the dog



Volunteer carers walk the dogs



A family discuss rehoming with charity staff



A dog is being given a vaccination



A dog has an operation



A Dogs Trust staff member gives a school talk



A dog is taken home by her new family

'Choose your perfect dog!' worksheet

Name: Date:

Dog welfare charities may use questionnaires similar to this one. It helps them to find the best new owners for each dog that they rehome. This makes sure that every dog is happy and cared for.

Can your friend choose the best dog for your family?

Is your home a: House Bungalow Flat Other

Do you have a garden?

Yes No Communal (shared)

If not, do you live close to a park or open spaces where dogs are welcome?

Yes No Don't know

Who lives at home?

..... Adults Children Children's ages.....

How long will your dog be left alone at home?

Morning. hours Afternoon hours

How many times a week? days

Do you own other dogs?

Yes No

Types Sex (M/F)

Do you own other pets? Yes No

Cat Hamster Rat Other

How much daily exercise can you give your dog?

Weekdays hours Weekends..... hours

How active are you?

Very Reasonably Not very







Additional Information

Dogs Trust provides FREE education workshops about Safety around dogs and Responsible Dog Ownership, to 95% of primary schools across Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more about the education programme, or would like to see if there is an Education and Community Officer in your area:

visit: www.LearnWithDogsTrust.ie
call: 01 879 1827
email: education@dogstrust.ie

For more information about the work of Dogs Trust, Ireland's largest Dog Welfare organisation, please visit www.DogsTrust.ie.



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