

Dane County Citizenship Public Adventures

Example Responsible Pet Ownership 4-H Club Presentation

1. Introduction & Overview – Melissa

Pick a Family Situations.- Beth

- Count off and put people into groups of six.
- Each group picks a situation out of a hat and works together on the activities.
- Presenters pass out activity worksheets, pencils, books and resources about pets selection.

2. Should you get a pet? - Melissa

- The best pet for our family
- Kinds of pets
- Group Activity Worksheet: Family Time Activity, Pg. 10 of Pet #1

3. Where do you get a pet? - Beth

- How to adopt a pet from the Humane Society
- Tim Tynan, Humane Society
- Group Activity Worksheet: Paws to Consider: Where to Get A Dog Activity, Pg. 16 of Dog #2

4. Taking care of a pet. - Lisa

- Group Activity Worksheet: Home Alone, Pg. 20 of Pet #1

5. Small Group Reports

- What pet did you select?
- Where did you get it?
- How would you care for it?

6. More About the Humane Society - Tim

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Suggested Solutions for Responsible Pet Ownership Citizenship Scenarios

Scenario #1

Alan Smith is a computer graphics designer who lives in the country. He works at home and takes care of his five year old girl named Allina, while his wife runs a child care center. He wants to find a pet that his daughter can play with while he is working and will not need too much care. Allina enjoys watching the animals that live in the woods. It can not be a dog because she is allergic to them. What should he get?

Suggested Solution #1

Alan decided to get a rabbit. He bought it from a 4-H member who was going to college and couldn't take care of it any more. While he is working he can let Allina play with the rabbit in its pen in the family room that is right next to his office. She loved the rabbit named Hopper. He is very happy with it and it helps to keep Allina occupied while he is busy in his home office.

Scenario #2

Laura James is an 11-year-old who wants to buy a pet for her younger brother Billy who is 7 and very lonely living in the country. They wanted to get a dog, but both their mother and father are very allergic to fur. They also tried to get a mouse, but their Grandmother visits them often and hates rodents. Their mother doesn't want to get anything too expensive.

Suggested Solution #2

Laura and Billy decided to buy several goldfish and keep them in Billy's room. He fed them every day and read books about caring for fish. The next year he decided to get three more exotic fish to brighten up his new bigger aquarium. He and his sister now know a great deal about pet fish and are learning all that they can to help the fish to live longer. Even though you can't hold a fish they are still fun to watch and have.

Scenario #3

The Matthews family lives in a nice house with a big back yard. They have two kids, Jimmy age 5 and Carrie age 8. Jerry works full time, but Mary is home most of the day with Jimmy. They want a pet for their family so the kids can learn responsibility and have a loving pet. What kind of pet do you think would be good for them? (By the way Mary is allergic to cats.)

Suggested Solution #3

The Matthew's got a golden lab puppy from a farm by their grandparent's house. Carrie is taking it though obedience school and both are learning allot. Jimmy has lots of fun playing with Max in the back yard and is trying very hard to remember to feed, water and brush Max every day. Mary and Jerry like having a dog around because it keeps the rabbits out of the garden and it keeps the kids entertained. So they think that they have a great pet.

Scenario #4

Patty Johnson lives in an apartment with her two-year-old daughter Maddie and wants a cuddly pet for them to take care of. Their landlord allows pets, but no dogs. Maddie is at day care while Patty is at work. They don't come home until three o'clock, so the pet would need to take care of itself during that time. They tried a rabbit, but found out it wasn't a good idea because it bit Maddie and made the kitchen smell. What should they get?

Suggested Solution #4

Patty went to the pet store and Maddie fell in love with the kittens there. Patty said she didn't have time to train a kitten, so she decided to get a trained cat from the Humane Society. Now they have a wonderful, playful, cuddly cat named Tulip. Patty keeps the litter box and food in the bathroom with deodorizer and has a long hook on the door so Tulip can get in and out, but Maddie can't get in to mess with the cat's stuff.

Scenario #5

Carla Bennings is the assistant manager of a 4-H summer camp. There are no pets at this camp and Carla thinks it would be a great idea to get one, because it could be a friend to the homesick campers and it would be useful to have around. It might even be a good idea to get two.

Suggested Solution #5

Carla found an ad in the paper about an elderly couple who couldn't take care of their two golden retriever/collie mix dogs anymore. She called and bought the two dogs after finding out that they had terrific dispositions. All the kids at camp love the dogs and help to take care of them. Carla taught the dogs' Elmer and Crayola, to remain inside the camp boundaries. The dogs fit in very

nically and everyone enjoys having them around.

Scenario #6

Mr. Robert Gregory is a bachelor who lives in a condo. He is a very lonely man and wants a pet to keep him company. His mother is a frequent visitor and is allergic to dogs and cats. He does not like rodents. He is not at all interested in an aquarium. He wants to know if he should continue to consider a pet and what kind of pet would work for him.

Solution #6

Mr. Gregory went to a friend's house one day and saw that they were breeding canaries. The cheerful attitude of the birds interested him. He was fascinated as he watched them swing and jump and enjoyed hearing the male bird sing. The breeders were happy to sell him a pair of their birds, knowing they were going to a home where they would receive the attention they deserved. Mr. Gregory chose a modest sized cage that would fit in his dinette. His friends gave him advice on how to care for the birds and whenever his mother comes over she always exclaims that he made a great choice for pets.



Dane County Citizenship Public Adventures - Activity 1

Introduction

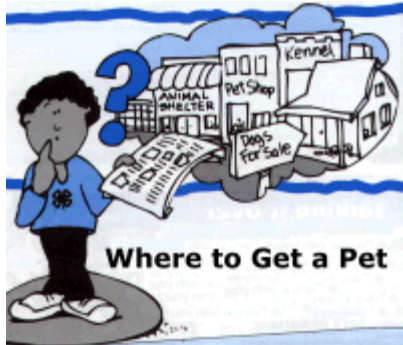
People choose pets for many different reasons. Some reasons include: cost, space required and the time needed to care for a pet. How will the pet fit into the family? Do family members have allergies, fears or just not like certain types of pets? In this activity you and your group will pretend to be the family from your scenario.

Directions:

1. Read your scenario out loud to your group. Then discuss the questions below. Write your answers in the space provided.
2. At the end of your discussion decide what would be the best pet for your family situation.

What would a pet add to their family?	
What are our favorite pets?	
Who would be willing to help care for a pet?	
Where would be the best place to keep a pet?	
What are some other things to think about?	

The best pet for our family scenario is:



Dane County Citizenship Public Adventures - Activity 2

Introduction

Decisions are not always easy to make. Sometimes there are no easy answers, or a simple right or wrong answer. One of these times is when people are trying to decide where to find a good pet.

Directions:

1. Here's list of places to get a pet. In your group, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of getting a pet at each of the various places.
2. Fill in the worksheet grid below.
3. Then decide where is the best place to get a pet for your family situation.

Source	Advantages	Disadvantages
Local Animal Shelters		
Neighbors, friends, or acquaintances		
Purebred breeders		
Pet shops		
Newspaper ads		
Backyard breeders		



Dane County Citizenship Public Adventures - Activity 3

Introduction

Before you buy a pet you need to know how to care for it. Researching what the animal needs is very important for the welfare of your pet. Check out things like exercise, feeding, grooming, living area, and how much time it will need. You should make sure that you can afford caring for your pet and that you will have enough time to spend with the animal. You should also know if animals are allowed where you live as well as any place else that you will be taking it.

Directions:

1. In the blank below, fill in the kind of pet your family has selected.
2. In your group, discuss food, water, exercise and grooming/cleaning needed for your pet.
3. Then fill in how much, how often, who will do it and why it is important.

4. Discuss will happen if everyone does not follow through on their responsibilities.

Pet Instructions for: _____

	How much?	How often?	Who?	Why do it?
Food				
Water				
Exercise				
Grooming/ Cleaning				

What happens if people don't do their job? _____