



Animal Care

Life Skills – Elective Step 9

Purpose

Caring for animals is a great responsibility. This Elective should help the Trailman understand how to care for pets and other animals and expose him to the great variety of animals that can become pets.

1. What are some types of pets people may have?
2. What type of pets do you, or your friends, have?
3. What do pets eat?
4. What are ways to take care of pets?
5. What do you do with a pet when you go out of town?
6. What other animals do people have and how are they cared for?




Notes to the Trail Guide

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1. The goal is not for the boys to be experts at these skills, but to gain an increased knowledge and awareness of the skills of this Step.
2. Make it relative to your patrol.
3. Remember, these lessons should build from Fox to Hawk and from Hawk to Mountain Lion.
4. See the Leaders Guide for more information on Steps.

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Skills Progression

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn about the different types of pets2. Share about your pet(s)3. Learn some of the responsibilities involved with caring for pets4. Learn about other types of animals people may have
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn about the different types of pets and how to choose the right one for you2. Share about your pet(s)3. Learn how to care for different types of pets4. Learn about other types of animals and how they are cared for5. Learn about the different types of diets pets require
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn about the different types of pets and how to choose the right one for you2. Share about your pet(s)3. Learn the responsibilities of caring for a pet and what to do in a pet emergency4. Learn other types of animals, their purposes, and how they are cared for5. Learn about the different diets pets require and how to feed them properly6. Learn about the costs involved for each pet and life expectancy

Helps

1. What are some types of pets people may have?
 - a. **Goal:** To understand the variety of options available when choosing a pet.
 - b. **Lesson:** Discuss what makes an animal a "pet", and how to choose which pet is right for you.
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. How much space do you have for your pet?
 - ii. Do you want your pet to live inside or outside?
 - iii. How much time do you have to spend with your pet each day?
 - iv. Do you want a pet you can touch and play with, or just look at?
 - v. How long does each type of pet usually live?
2. What type of pet(s) do you, or your friends, have?
 - a. **Goal:** To understand what pets the boys have and why they picked their particular pet.
 - b. **Lesson:** Discuss their pets' names, how long they have had them, and what they like best about them. Emphasize how to approach someone else's pet.
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. Is your pet big or small?
 - ii. Can your pet do any tricks?
 - iii. Do you know what breed it is?
 - iv. Who has the most unusual pet?
 - v. Activity - act like your favorite pet
 - vi. How do you approach a pet that is not yours?
 1. Ask permission before approaching a pet
 2. Go slow, and be quiet and soft
 3. Listen to the owner about how to handle their pet
 4. Do not approach animals without a parent or the owner
3. What do pets eat?
 - a. **Goal:** To understand that each type of pet has a unique diet and certain foods can be harmful to pets.
 - b. **Lesson:** Discuss the differences between carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore. Discuss what types of foods different pets eat, that it may change based on their age, and what foods can harm them.
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. What do pets eat?
 1. Puppy/kitten food, adult dog/cat food, senior dog/cat food. Do not select the cheapest food, but look on the label for food that is AAFCO recommended complete and balanced.
 2. Fish flakes (goldfish, tropical, etc.)
 3. Insects (crickets, flies, worms) for reptiles and amphibians
 4. Pellets and hay for rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, etc.
 5. Small rodents for snakes
 - ii. Feed only the specific diet intended for your pet. Diets are formulated to meet all of your pets needs and anything else may cause problems.

- iii. What foods can be harmful to your dog or cat?
 - 1. Human food/table scraps
 - 2. Chocolate
 - 3. Grapes/raisins
 - 4. Sugarless gum
 - 5. Bread Dough
 - 6. Garlic/onions
 - iv. If you think your pet has ingested something harmful contact your veterinarian immediately or the ASPCA animal poison control center (888-426-4435).
4. What are ways to take care of pets?
- a. **Goal:** To understand what each pet needs to stay happy and healthy.
 - b. **Lesson:** Discuss the responsibilities involved in caring for different types of pets at different stages of life.
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. Proverbs 12:10
 - ii. Dog
 - 1. Daily - feed, water, walk, playtime
 - 2. Monthly - give medicine for heartworms, fleas, and ticks
 - 3. Once or twice yearly - take to the veterinarian for a checkup and vaccinations (more frequently when young).
 - 4. Brush and bathe as needed
 - iii. Cat
 - 1. Daily - feed, water, playtime, clean litter box
 - 2. Monthly - give medicine for heartworms and fleas
 - 3. Once or twice yearly - take to the veterinarian for a checkup and vaccinations (more frequently when young)
 - iv. Fish - feed daily and clean tank/change water as needed
 - v. Reptiles and amphibians - water daily, feed as recommended, and clean habitat as needed.
 - vi. Rabbit/gerbil/hamster/etc. - feed, water, and playtime daily, clean cage as needed
 - vii. Activity - Create a schedule of responsibilities for the type of pets
5. What do you do with a pet when you go out of town?
- a. **Goal:** To understand the different options for caring for their pet when they are unavailable.
 - b. **Lesson:** Discuss how much care is needed while they are away and who could provide that care.
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. Friends, relatives, or neighbors
 - ii. Kennel or pet lodge
 - iii. Veterinary hospital
 - iv. In-home pet sitter
6. What other animals do people have and how are they cared for?

- a. **Goal:** To understand the types of animals people have that may have other purposes besides companionship.
- b. **Lesson:** Discuss the types of animals that are not kept inside as pets and what purposes they may serve.
- c. **Examples:**
 - i. Farm animals generally require more space and food. They also require vaccinations, shelter, constant access to water, fencing, and protection from predators.
 - ii. Cows - provide milk, meat, and hide
 - iii. Horses - used for riding, driving, and pulling
 - iv. Sheep - provide milk, meat, and wool
 - v. Goats - provide milk and meat, and used for pasture maintenance
 - vi. Chickens - provide eggs and meat

Activity ideas

- Act like your pet
- Demonstrate tricks you could teach your pet (sit, roll over, lay down, fetch, etc.) - one boy can be the owner and one boy can be the pet
- Pet charades - try to get others to guess what animal you are
- Pet feeding - look at different types of pet food (younger kids), and read daily feeding amounts from food bag and practice measuring the correct amount (older kids).
- Pet show and tell - Leader brings in a pet to show and demonstrate handling/caring for.

Game ideas

- Animal relay race - Leader calls out different pets and boys have to move like that pet to reach their teammate.
- Check the games section online for game ideas.
- Or, create a game that works for your patrol.

Scripture

Proverbs 12:10

- Fox – Take care of your pet.
- Hawk – Take care of and provide for your pet.
- Mt. Lion – Be a responsible care-giver and friend to the animals in your life. The wicked think they are kind, but are full of cruelty.

Genesis 1:28

- Fox – Take care of the pets God has given you. Be a good steward of creation.
- Hawk – God has given man authority over the animals. Be a good steward of creation.
- Mt. Lion – God has given man authority over the animals. We should protect them when possible, but also use them for work and food. Be a good steward of creation.

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