



Animal Care Lesson Plan

Life Skills Branch

Lesson Plans are designed to accompany the related Helps documents for each Step. Please refer to the resources in the appropriate Helps document found in the Leader Pages while you prepare your lesson.

The six "F"s are presented in a suggested order, but you are not required to complete them in that order. You may rearrange them as fits your troop's particular needs.

Necessary Resources



- Ball
- Someone with a different pet
- Old Clothes or Towels

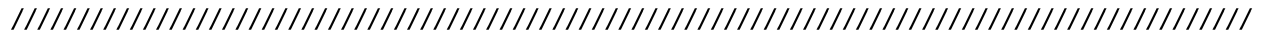


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FUN



Captain Ball

Divide the Trailmen into two teams and tell them to line up with the captain of each team standing about three feet away from the first person on the team. To start the game, the captain throws the ball to the first player in the line, who then throws the ball back and sits down. The captain throws the ball to the next player, who throws the ball back and sits down. The player continues in this way until all players have had a turn. The last player catches the ball and runs to the captain to replace him. The new captain now repeats the throwing of the ball to each player. The first team to finish wins.

FOCUS



Different Pets

Find someone who owns a tame pet rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, turtle, or bird. Or if someone has a non-poisonous snake, ask if he or she will bring the snake to the Fox Patrol meeting.

If the animal will tolerate it and it is fine with the owner, allow the boys to pet the rabbit or touch the turtle or bird or whatever animal is brought. Ask the owner to tell about his pet. Have the Trailman wash their hands afterward.

- How did he get the animal?
- Why does he keep it?
- What is its name?
- How old is it?
- What interesting story can he or she tell about their animal?



Care

Pets are so much fun to have and take care of, but sometimes it is a hassle. Learn about care needed for different kinds of pets. Make sure to learn about the different foods each animal eats. You can't take care of a dog while feeding it cat food!



Life Expectancy and Cost

Review the care of different types of animals. Learn about the cost of keeping a pet. How does the cost differ between different animals? What is the life expectancy of pets? Talk about how some pets, like fish, have a short life expectancy, while others, like parrots, have a really long life expectancy, sometimes even longer than yours!

FINGERS



Make Toys for an Animal Shelter

Use recycled clothing or towels make some animal toys to be delivered to your local animal shelter (perhaps as your Hit the Trail! activity this month!).

- Braided chew toy: Have the boys rip old fabric into strips. Use strips of denim, T-shirts, or towels. Hold three strips together and make a knot at the one end. Braid the strips and then knot the second end. If this proves too difficult, have the boys make three knots on a bundle of strips.
- Crinkly chew toy: Use an old sock and an empty plastic water bottle. Put the water bottle in the sock and knot the end. Use a marker to make a face on the bottle.

Or

Share about Your Pets

Go around the room. Everyone who has pets tell the rest of the Trailmen about your pet. What kind of pet are they? What is their name? Everyone who does not have a pet, tell the Trailmen what kind of pet you would like to have.

FAITH (TRAIL GUIDE THOUGHTS)



God Made the Animals

God made the animals, and in Proverbs 12:10, He tells us to take care of them. Be thankful that God gave us some many wonderful, interesting and different animals to enjoy. If you own a pet thank God for your special little pet. Remember that just as you provide everything that your pet needs your Heavenly Father provides everything that you need.



Be kind and gentle with your pet. Speak kindly to it. You can even pray for your animal. God loves to answer prayer and will take care of you and help you to take care of your pet.

Pray with the Trailmen.



Interactions with Animals

Read and discuss Genesis 1:26-28. Pray that the Trailmen and their families would have good interactions with the animals in their lives. Ask God to give them wisdom to remember what they have learned in order to enjoy his gift of animals.

Pray with the Trailmen.

FAMILY



Pet Care

Take time this week to talk about the animals that you would see in your neighborhood or at the homes of friends and family. If your family has a pet, encourage your Trailman to be responsible for feeding, watering, and caring for your pet this week.

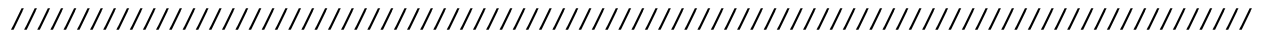


Pets

Do one of the following options:

- Draw a picture of your pet or make up a fictitious animal. What color is its fur? What color are its eyes? Does it have long fur or short? Is its tail long or short?
- Ask your parent or guardian if he or she had a pet as a child. Ask your parent or guardian to tell you some stories about the pet.
- Feed your pet for a week.
- Watch a movie about an animal with your family.

FOREST BADGE



By actively participating in this meeting, each Trailman earned the Animal Care Step on the Life Skills Branch.



*Note: It is up to the Trail Guide to determine whether or not a Trailman was an active in the meeting. Even if he attended the meeting, you are not required to award him the Step if he did not participate.

