

# Pets Are Part of Our Family

## OBJECTIVE

To understand that pets should be considered part of our family and should be treated with the same kind of respect and kindness with which we treat the other members of our family.

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will discuss what a family is and how members of a family should treat each other, including pets. Students will read a story about a cat that was abandoned by its family and decide how that could have been prevented. They'll also do a worksheet called "This Is My Family."

## MATERIALS

- 🐾 Book: *Jasmine*, by the Humane Society of the United States
- 🐾 Worksheet: "This Is My Family"

## ACTIVITY

### Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 What's a family? Who can make up a family? Make a list of examples. Can pets be part of our families? How should you treat all members of your family? Why are families important? Why are pets an important part of our families?
- 🐾 Ask for examples of how the students treat members of their family, including pets, with kindness and respect. Was there a time when you didn't treat a member of your family nicely? How do you think they felt? Think of a time when you were treated badly - how did you feel?
- 🐾 If a pet is treated badly, how do you think it feels? Ask the students to compare their feelings to those of a pet's.
- 🐾 If some of the students don't have pets, ask them to think of someone they know that has a pet. How is the pet an important part of that person's family? How have you enjoyed getting to know that pet?

### Procedure

Students will read the book *Jasmine*, which is a true story about a cat that was abandoned in an apartment by her family, when they moved. After many months, the landlord found her and brought her to the animal shelter, where she was adopted by a loving family. Discuss how this could have been prevented, and what the family could have done if they didn't want their cat anymore or couldn't take her with them. Discuss the role of an animal shelter and how the Dumb Friends League finds new homes for pets that have lost theirs. Students will then do the worksheet, "This Is My Family."

### Post-Discussion

- 🐾 Do you think there are other pets like Jasmine that are abandoned or treated badly by their owners? Why do you think this happens? How can we change this? What have you learned from Jasmine's story?
- 🐾 Who did you include as family members on your worksheet? How do you treat these people and animals?
- 🐾 If you could change one way that you treat the members of your family, what would it be?

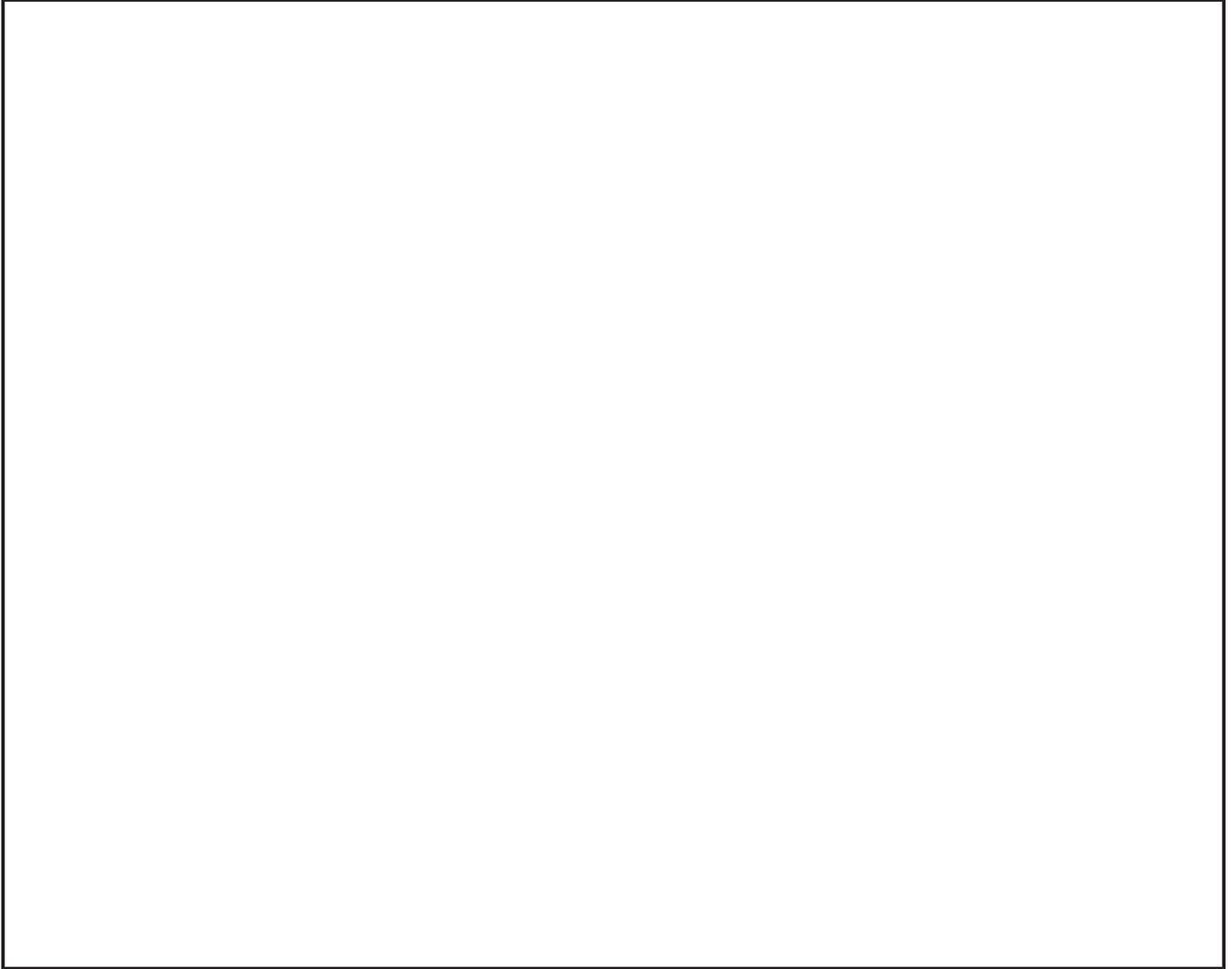
## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Make a big book about families and have the students write and draw pictures about their families. Laminate the book and keep it in your classroom for the students to read frequently.

# This is My Family

THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY. THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!

**Draw the members of your family in the box.**



1. Who are the people and animals in your family?

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2. How do you treat the people and animals in your family?

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