We All Have Feelings

OBJECTIVE

To understand that people and animals have similar feelings and to begin to develop empathy for all creatures.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will figure out which feelings both people and animals have and discuss examples. They will read a book about a dog that is trying to be good and will relate their experiences to it.

MATERIALS

❖ Book: *Can I Be Good?* by Livingston Taylor

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

❖ Do animals have some of the same feelings that people do? What are they? Ask students to give examples and make a list.

❖ Have you ever seen an animal, maybe your pet or someone else's, that was feeling happy or sad? How were they acting? Why do you think they were feeling that way? How do you act when you're happy or sad? Can people and animals be happy or sad about the same things? Give examples.

❖ Do pets make mistakes? Do people make mistakes? Give examples. How do both people and pets learn to do things? How should you treat a pet when it has made a mistake, like chewed up a shoe? How do you like to be treated when you make a mistake? Discuss that people and pets must be taught to learn how to do things, and that the best way to teach someone is with kindness and respect. When a person or an animal is hit or treated cruelly when they make a mistake, they will be hurt and scared.

Procedure

Read the book, *Can I Be Good?* How does the dog in the book feel? What happens when he makes mistakes? What would help the dog to act better? Do you ever feel the way the dog does? Give examples. How have you learned to "be good?"

Post-Discussion

❖ Now that we understand that animals and people can have some of the same feelings, it's important to treat everyone with kindness and respect. How can you do that?

❖ If you have a pet at home, how should you treat it? How do you take good care of a pet? If you don't have a pet, who do you know that has a pet? Should you still treat animals with kindness and respect?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have the students write stories and draw pictures of how animals and people are the same and how they are different.