

All Pets Need a Good Home

OBJECTIVE

To understand that pets depend on people to provide them with a safe and happy home. Students will also learn that some pets are abandoned or born on the streets and that this is a dangerous place for them.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will discuss why all pets should live with people, as opposed to living on the streets, and will decide what makes a "good" home for a pet. They'll read a story about two dogs - one that lived on the streets and one that lived in a good home, and the differences between them.

MATERIALS

- 🐾 Book: *Bentley and Blueberry*, by the Humane Society of the United States
- 🐾 Worksheet: "What Kind of Home Does Brandy Dream About?"

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 Why is it important for pets to live in homes? What kind of home should a pet live in? What do you need to provide for a pet in your home?
- 🐾 Why is it dangerous for pets to live outside? Give examples of what could happen to them.
- 🐾 How do pets end up living on the streets? If a person doesn't want their pet or can't take care of their pet, what should they do with it? Discuss the role that the Dumb Friends League plays and how animal shelters help animals that lose their homes.

Procedure

After the discussion, read the story *Bentley and Blueberry*. Discuss the differences between the dog that lived on the streets and the dog that lived in a home. Which dog had a better life? What types of problems did the dog that lived on the streets have?

How did the story end in a positive way? Have the students fill out the worksheet about what Brandy wants. After everyone's finished, have each student share their ideas.

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 What can you do if you see a dog or cat that's outside without a person? Discuss that the students should not go near the animal or try to bring it into their home, but should tell an adult about it. If the pet has a collar and tags, the adult should call the owner. If the pet doesn't have tags, they should call the local Animal Control agency. If the pet is friendly, they should take it to the closest animal shelter.
- 🐾 How can we make sure that our pets don't get lost? If our pets do get lost, a collar and tags can be their ticket home. It's very important that all cats and dogs wear these.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Call the Humane Education Program at 303.696.4941 Ext. 398 to set up a tour of the Dumb Friends League to see all the pets that still need homes or schedule a presentation at your school.

