

## Science and art – create your own pet champion

### Main welfare aims:

To recognise how animals can help people due to their amazing senses which they use to do extraordinary things to help people. We should care for and respect animals as sentient beings.

### Curriculum links

Key stages 1 and 2 – pupils should be taught:

#### Science:

- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals, including pets. (KS1)
- Say which part of the body is associated with each sense. (KS1)
- Identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. (KS2)

#### Art:

- To use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination. (KS1)
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials. (KS2)

#### Resources needed:

- Images of different pet animals. (Use your own or the images below).
- Worksheet 1 provided below (optional).
- Pens, colouring pencils, pencils, modelling clay or plasticine.

#### Additional resources:

- You may also enjoy our key stage 1 lesson plan '[Senses](#)' .
- Worksheet 2 provided below (optional).

# Animal senses make animal champions

## Introduction: Animal senses

Discuss with the children what senses humans have, and what part of their body they use to sense things.

(Optional activity – you could ask the children to sit quietly for 30 seconds and take notice of what they can see, hear, smell, taste and feel.)

Ask them to point to the different parts of their bodies which they use to see, hear, smell, taste and feel.

Ask the children to look at the images of the animals and ask if they have the same body parts which help them to sense the world around them. Do they have anything extra? For example, some animals have whiskers.

Explain that many animals have the senses that we have. Sometimes, they are not exactly the same as ours. Some animals have better senses, like a rat has an amazing sense of smell, even better than a dog's, and dogs can see well in the dark, but can't see the same colours as us. (They are missing 'red' so see the world mainly in yellows and blues.) Some animals have the same senses as us, but they are used differently. For example, snakes smell with their tongue – that's why you see them sticking their tongue out so much.

Explain that some animals are used to do important jobs for people using their senses or their physical bodies. For example, dogs are used as sniffer dogs because their sense of smell is much better than a human's. They can detect one spoonful of sugar in 2 huge swimming pools. The part of the nose which sends messages to the brain about smells (the olfactory bulb) is 40 times bigger in a dog than it is in a human.

A dog's smell can help detect diseases in people, such as diabetes or epilepsy and are used as assistance dogs to help people who are poorly. Because they are good at smelling, and they are small, agile and fast they can help find people who are missing or have been trapped by fallen buildings.

Dogs also have excellent hearing, and can even hear sounds that humans can't, so are used as hearing dogs for people who are hard of hearing.

Cats have amazing night-time vision and can see in the dark, as well as having excellent hearing. Did you know they can move their ears in lots of different directions to detect even the quietest of sounds? In the natural world, cats are predators which catch other animals for food. Excellent hearing makes them better hunters as well as helping them avoid animals who want to eat them.

Some animals, such as horses, are big and strong and are used by people as transport. They have strong muscles which makes them strong and fast. They are also used as therapy animals to help people feel better.

### Main: Design your own animal champion

Ask the children to draw and design their own pet champion. Children can complete the optional worksheet, use a blank piece of paper, or use modelling clay. Ask them to talk about, draw or write what their animal champion is good at and how they can help people. For example, they can tell their partner or teacher about their animal, add sentences, or can add labels such as strong, fast, good at smelling, good at hearing and good eyesight.

### Plenary: Share your designs

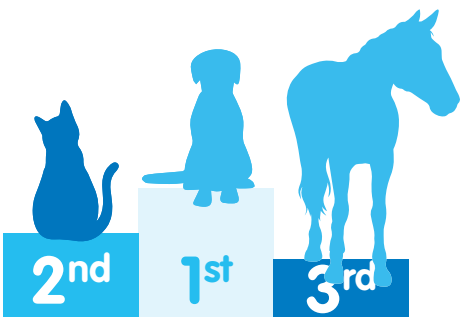
Ask the children to share their designs with their partner or the class and ask them to explain what their animal champion is good at and how it can help people.

Ask the children to reflect on how animals help people. Pets can change lives for the better. They have feelings, so it is important to care for them properly and respect them as a way of saying thank you.

### Optional:

Worksheet 2 – Print off the worksheet, or display it on the board and ask the children to match up the picture of each dog with the job that it does.

Share photos of your designs and mention **@The\_Blue\_Cross #animalchampions** . We will feature the best designs on our Twitter page.



# Worksheet 1

My pet champion

[Large empty dotted box for drawing or writing]

My pet champion is called.....

My pet champion is good at .....

.....

My pet helps people by .....

.....

.....

## Worksheet 2

### Dogs with jobs

Match the dog with the right job by drawing lines from each dog to its description



I am a working dog. I do difficult things like herding sheep.

I am an assistance dog. I help people with disabilities with jobs such as helping with their shopping, helping them get dressed and undressed and picking things up from the floor.

I am a sniffer dog for the police. I use my nose to find criminals or dangerous objects, such as guns or drugs.

I am a guide dog. I support people who have lost their sight to help them live a full, independent life.

