

British values and the five welfare needs for small animals



Length: 45 mins to 1 hour

Suggested ages: KS2

Learning objectives

Pupils can:

- name and describe the five welfare needs for a pet
- describe how an animal is feeling in different situations
- describe how Woodgreen, The Animals Charity, helps people and pets.

SMSC links

- Pupils have a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about others and the world around them.
- Pupils understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions on the welfare of their pet.

British Values links

Pupils understand how they can contribute positively to society.

Key words

- Welfare needs
- Home
- Diet
- Companionship
- Vet care
- Normal behaviour

Equipment

- Small whiteboards and pens to share in pairs.



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Helping pets and their people

About the session

Your presenter, Anna, will take your class through a fun and interactive lesson. The children will discover how they can each make a difference to small animals living in their homes and neighbourhoods.

The guide below summarises the presentation, and highlights when to press pause so the class can take part in an activity.

To pause the presentation, press 'S' on your keyboard, to unpause press 'S' again

Introduction

Slide 1. Anna will ask the class what pets they think might be staying at Woodgreen.

Pause the presentation to give the children a minute to discuss it with a partner and share their answers with you.

Slide 3. Anna will introduce the class to an alien who has landed on Earth. **Pause** the presentation for children to discuss, with a partner, any questions they would ask the alien to make sure it's healthy and happy.

Slide 4. **Pause** the presentation and give the class two minutes to see if their questions fall into the groupings shown on the screen.

Slide 5. Anna will introduce Bubble and Squeak, a pair of poorly guinea pigs. **Pause** the presentation and give the class 30 seconds to work out which welfare needs the guinea pigs are missing. Start a discussion about how Bubble and Squeak might be feeling.

Main session

The main session works through the five welfare needs and how these relate to small pets.

Home: the bigger the better

Slide 7. Anna will introduce Harriet, a Syrian hamster. **Pause** the presentation to allow

the class to discuss, in pairs, which cage on the screen they feel is best for Harriet. Ask the children to record S, M or L on their whiteboards and share their answers with the group.

The children discover it's the bigger the better for all small pet homes.

Diet: a heap of hay a day

Slide 12. **Pause** the presentation and give the class two minutes to work in pairs and scribe on their whiteboards a great menu for rabbits. When it comes to the last ten seconds, ask the children to circle the food they think rabbits would like to eat the most of. Ask some pairs to share their thoughts.

The children discover rabbits need a heap of hay a day to stay happy and healthy.

Slide 14. **Pause** the presentation and give the class 30 seconds to think of another pet that needs a heap of hay a day to be happy and healthy. After listening to some of their thoughts, press play to reveal the answer.

Companionship: most small pets need friends the same as them

Slide 16 & 17. Anna will play two rabbit videos and ask the class to draw a smiley or sad face to describe how the two different

rabbits are feeling. After the second video, **pause** the presentation and ask the class to explain their answers.

The children discover most small pets need friends the same as them.

Vet care: visit the vet and dump the damp!

Slide 24. Anna will introduce an itchy hamster. **Pause** the presentation for the children to discuss how the hamster might be feeling and why.

The children discover small pets need to visit the vet to stay healthy and happy.

Slide 27. Anna will reintroduce the itchy hamster. **Pause** the presentation and discuss, as a class, possible reasons why the hamster might be itchy.

Slide 28. **Pause** the presentation for children to decide which bedding might have made the hamster itchy. They can write their answers on their whiteboards. Press play when you are ready to find out the answer.

The children discover we need to dump the damp for happy, healthy small pets.

Normal behaviour: toy time!

Slide 33. **Pause** the presentation and give the class a minute or two to discuss the picture on the screen, and how it might help a small pet.

Slide 36. **Pause** the presentation for children to vote on their preferred cage for the hamster. Discuss how a hamster might feel living in each cage.

The children discover toy time is important for all small pets.

Spot the missing welfare needs / plenary

Slide 38 & 39. Anna will introduce the class to a rabbit. **Pause** the presentation for the class to discuss which welfare needs the rabbit is missing.

Slide 40. **Pause** the presentation for the class to work out what bedding an itchy guinea pig was living on.

Pause the presentation and help the class to each think of one thing they could share with family or friends about the five welfare needs.

Extension ideas

Children can try their hand at our 'Rabbit activity sheet'. Or you could print a page from our 'Let's talk about pets' activity booklet for them to fill in.

Have a look at our 'Rabbit fact sheet' to find out more about healthy and happy rabbits. Then challenge your class to make their own version for a different pet.

Plan and prepare a class assembly for the school community so the children can share everything they've learnt about pets.

Write a set of instructions on how to be a good pet owner that covers the five welfare needs.