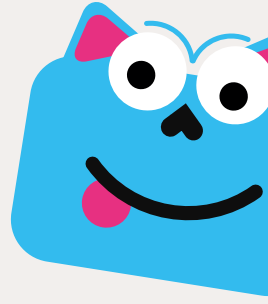


# Wellbeing, pets and me

## - pre activity



## The Smiley Face Activity

This simple activity teaches children about the basic needs that animals have and how we as humans have the same basic needs.

The Smiley Face activity is important in helping young people develop empathy for animals, and can encourage positive human and animal interactions!

### What you will need:

- A large piece of paper (A3 or A4)
- Two felt pens in different colours.

### What to do:

- Ask your pupils/young people to draw a basic smiley face in the middle of their page.
- Then discuss, with a partner, what they need (as a human) to be happy and healthy.
- Write or draw the things that you decide around the smiley face.



(You might think of food, water, a safe place to live, medical care, be able to have fun....Review the inclusion of things like Xbox, iPads, tv - as they are 'nice' to have but we do not 'need' them in the same way as we need somewhere to live for example)

- Ask the young people to share their ideas and you can make a class/group example on the whiteboard.
- Look at each suggestion and ask the young person to think how they'd feel if they had to live without it. Would it be possible for them to be happy and healthy?
- Next, ask the young people to add ears or scales or whiskers etc to their smiley face to turn it into an animal - a cat or a rabbit are easier, but any pet animal is fine.



- Look at each basic need in turn (which they wrote around the 'face' previously) and ask them to consider whether their animal needs it too.
- Use a different coloured pen to tick those the animal does need and put a cross by those the animal doesn't need.

For example, does he or she need water?

Does he or she need exercise?

- Discuss the connection between the basic needs of humans and animals.
- Did you cross out many things? What did you discover?
- What similarities are there between the basic needs of humans and animals?
- Encourage the young people to reflect on the fact that animals' basic needs are very similar to our own and that if we do not have those needs met we cannot thrive and it can even make us ill.
- Pose the question; If humans have the control over whether our pets' needs are met then shouldn't we always make sure they are met correctly to prevent suffering?