Show-Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.6, 1.10, 2.5, 3.1, 3.6, 3.7, 4.6, 4.7.
Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts – 6; Science – 3; Health-Physical Education – 5

Objective: To teach children about cats’ basic needs and to help them understand that pets and people’s needs are very similar.

Materials:
- “Pets and People Match-up” cards
- “If I had a cat…” handout
- “See if you can give a reason why…” handout
- “Design your own pet tag” handout
- Hole punch
- String

Method: Children and pets both need to be taken care of; they can’t take care of themselves. Children need their mom and dad or another adult who loves them to care for them. Pets also need a family who loves them to care for them. Pets needs are very similar to our needs. What kinds of things do we have to have in order to be healthy and happy? We need food, water, shelter, exercise, love, and medical care. Pets must have all of these things, too.

We’re going to play a game called “Pets and People Match-up.” I’ll show you a picture of something we need, then you’ll find the picture that matches for pets. As we match needs, let’s talk about why each one is so important. Match all the “Pets and People” cards until each has a mate.

Card Matches:      Need Represented:

Child/Dad playing ball - Cat playing with ball      Exercise and fun
Mother feeding baby – Mother & son feeding dog     Nutrition
Boy sleeping – Cat sleeping                        Sleep and shelter
Man hugging girl – Boy hugging pet rabbit          Love and companionship
Child at doctor – Dog at veterinarian              Medical care
Child getting bathed – Dog getting bathed          Proper hygiene, grooming
Girl drinking bottled water – Cat drinking water   Water/hydration
Boy getting dressed – Dog with collar, I.D. tag, and leash  Clothing/I.D.
                  (without a collar and nametag, pets are naked!)
What would happen if each of these needs weren’t met?

Now we’re going to sing a song to help remind us to care for our pets each day. Let’s sing the “Love Your Pets” Song. (Sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat).

Love, love, love your pets,
Love them every day.
Give them food
And water, too,
Then let them
Run and play.

To reinforce these concepts, distribute the “See if you can give a reason why…” handout and the “If I had a cat…” handout to each student.

Call to Action: Give children the opportunity to practice meeting pet’s needs. Have half your children pretend to be pet owners and let the other half pretend to be their pets. Have the owners do pretend activities such as feeding, walking, petting, and playing with their “pets.” Then let the children reverse roles.

Don’t forget to give your cat an I.D. and a special safety collar! What could happen if your cat escaped outside and didn’t have I.D.? Distribute the “Design your own pet tag” handout. Ask each student to create his own pet tag. Remind them about the type of information that should be included. Punch a hole at the top of each I.D. tag and insert string. Wear pet tags throughout the day to teach other children about the importance of having identification for their pets.

Bring your pet tag home to remind parents to I.D. dogs and cats!

Reading:
Patch the Kitten, Jenny Dale, 2000 Aladdin Books
Louise falls in love with a tiny kitten left on the doorstep of her parents animal rescue center. Once Patch is nursed to health she is put up for adoption, but Louise wants to keep her! Discusses important issues regarding animal adoption. Ages 4-8

A Home for Nathan, Claudia M. Roll, 1999 The William Snyder Foundation for Animals
The true story of a cat who is dropped off at an animal shelter, cared for by a shelter, and then adopted into a loving home. Children learn about the important role that animal shelters play in our society, and why owning a pet is a commitment that lasts a lifetime.
Ages 4-8.

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or click here to launch your browser and link directly to the list.
Pets and People Match-Up

Cut out each card. Show one "people" card to students. Talk about the need each picture represents. Place the "pet" cards individually face-up. Ask one child to come forward and find the matching "pet" card. Repeat until all cards are matched.
If I had a cat...

I would name it: ______________________

I would play ______________________

I would let it sleep in: ______________________

I would buy it: (check each thing you’d buy):

_____ a brush

_____ a stuffed mouse

_____ a food dish

_____ a water dish

_____ a collar and tag

_____ a litter box

This is a picture of my cat:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pets Need Plenty of Love</th>
<th>Pets Like To Play</th>
<th>Pets Need An ID Tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets Need Proper Food and Water</td>
<td>Pets Need To Be Groomed</td>
<td>Pets Need Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets Should Not Be Left in a Hot Car</td>
<td>Pets Need A Warm, Dry Place To Sleep</td>
<td>Pets Need Companionship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit: Walt Disney Company
Design your own pet I.D. tag here. Don’t forget to include your address and phone number.

Show your own pets how much you love them... Make sure they always wear a collar and I.D. tag!