

Curriculum Links	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living Things	Plant & Animal Life
English	Oral Language; Writing	Developing cognitive abilities through language
SPHE	1. Myself 2. Myself & the Wider World	1. Growing & Changing; Making Decisions 2. Developing Citizenship
Learn Together (Educate Together Schools)	1. Moral & Spiritual 2. Equality & Justice	1. Exploring Moral Development Cultivating Spiritual Growth 2. Activating Equality & Justice through positive Action

## Content objectives:

- Children have a clear understanding of **Promise 5**; To be themselves.
- Children are able to understand what appropriate behaviour is for an animal.

## Resources:

- See ISPCA case studies
- 5 Promises and Poems
- Dogs Trust SPHE Booklet

## Differentiation:

- Children work in groups with each child given tasks such as illustrator, fact finder or editor.
- Children ask questions of peers after each Oral Report.

## Learning objectives:

- Children learn that it is their responsibility, as a good pet owner, to provide their pet with a life that he/she will enjoy.
- Children read the story of Belle and share experiences to empathise with her.
- Use report writing to document the effect that neglect can have on animals.

## Assessment:

- Teacher questions/children's questions
- Written Task



# Learning activities:



5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

Lesson Plan 6

## Introduction

- Begin the lesson by reminding the children about the 5 Promises.
- Discuss our own behaviour: What would be considered normal behaviour for humans?
- If we were to engage in behaviour outside of this, what do you think the reasons would be for this? (Boredom, anger, hunger, illness).
- Children are guided in this exercise. If we are trying to ensure that owners do not neglect their animals, we must be careful not to lay blame or make accusations. Remind children to create empathy for the animal through use of language or headlines and also to offer guidelines to pet owners so that they do not unintentionally harm their pets.

## Development

- Introduce the story of Belle and Lucas ([www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie)).
- Ask class to explain why the animals behaved in this manner. Is this behaviour normal for the animals? If not, why are they behaving like this?
- Imagine that they are working for a newspaper. They write a newspaper article documenting an animal that has been rescued from neglect.
- Class report on the conditions the animal was discovered in, the cause of the neglect also and what behaviours the animal was engaging in.
- After this activity, the children can read out their work.

## Conclusion:

- Class regroups and discusses today's Promise.
- What guidelines should be given to pet owners in relation to their pet?
- Time permitting; look at some of the other Happy Tails on [www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie) with a view to further work on Animal Charities.



# A New Year & a New Start for Lucas



5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

Lesson Plan 6



Lucas Before the ISPCA took him in

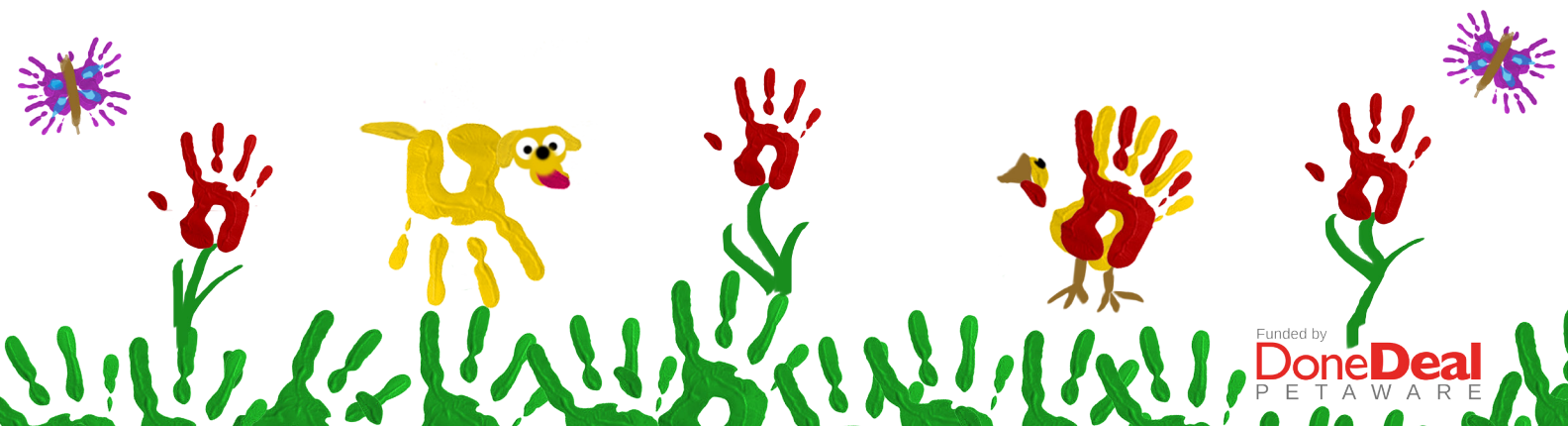
Lucas is a young cat surrendered to an ISPCA inspector. Lucas was being kept in a small, dirty cage with a number of other cats. Their constant crying and miaowing alerted neighbours and their plight was reported to the National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515.



Lucas after the ISPCA took him in

An ISPCA inspector called to the house and discovered that the owners were keeping the cats in the cage because they thought it kept them safe. But Lucas and his friends were not allowed to be themselves, they could not behave as cats should. They were also fed an unsuitable diet including chips and their coats were filthy and were covered in fleas.

All the cats were surrendered to the ISPCA National Animal Centre where they have now been responsibly rehomed. Visit [www.ispca.ie/rehoming](http://www.ispca.ie/rehoming) to see the many cats and kittens looking for new homes.







5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class

Lesson Plan 6

## Puppies living in a dirty, make-shift shelter

ISPCA Inspector Lisa O'Donovan immediately responded to a call in the North Cork area when local Gardai informed her of a situation involving very young puppies.

On arrival at the property, Lisa found an extremely thin medium sized dog with her two tiny little puppies who were only a few days old. They were living in a dirty make shift shelter with mud and faeces covering the ground outside. There was no bedding and no access to a clean area.



The elderly owner had been removed to hospital sometime previous due to long term health issues. While there was someone feeding the dog, Inspector O'Donovan was not happy with the manner in which they were being kept. "I knew immediately that the mother, Belle, and her two pups had to be removed. While I understand the circumstances behind the neglect concerning the owners health, I still find it unacceptable that others who were keeping an eye on the property did not act sooner. The fact that the two little ones survived was completely down to Belle's mothering skills.

All the odds were stacked against her and yet she kept them alive."



Belle and her two little female puppies were immediately brought to the Veterinary practice where they were admitted, examined and placed under a heat lamp. While Belle will need to be nursed back to good body condition, she and her pups are now thriving under ISPCA care. "I am so pleased with the outcome of this call for Belle and her pups," said Lisa, "she is a fantastic mother, and is extremely protective of her two. She has a wonderful mothering instinct and even though she came from a filthy environment, she keeps her bedding and the pups absolutely spotless."



Belle and her pups are now safe and warm at the National Animal Centre.

