

### 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 will be able to articulate the need for animal rights.
- Children will be competently discuss the experience of pets in Ireland.

### Resources:

- [www.learnwithdogs.ie](http://www.learnwithdogs.ie)
- [www.dogstrust.ie](http://www.dogstrust.ie) • [www.lovemypet.ie](http://www.lovemypet.ie)
- [www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie) • 5 Promises and Poems

### Differentiation:

Children work in groups/pairs.

### Assessment:

- Teacher questions/children's questions
- Written Task
- Teacher Observation of Debate

### Learning objectives:

- Children will learn that not all animals have responsible owners.
- Children will debate the moral aspect of responsible pet ownership.
- Children will articulate their own vision of best practice for pets.

### Extension Exercise

The children could consolidate this work by inviting an animal charity or vet into their school for a talk on the subject. Alternatively, if the school is close enough, a field trip to an animal charity or vets would be an excellent way to finish the programme of lessons. Request a visit from Dogs'Trust, ISPCA or local Veterinary Surgeon.

# Learning activities:



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

Lesson Plan 10

## Introduction

- Introduce the lesson by discussing the entire topic on pet ownership. Talk about the most serious aspects of the programme.
- Children to rank the topics discussed in order of importance (In their view).

## Development

- Discuss the most important topics discussed during the programme.
- Children should be able to list, responsibilities, 5 promises, costs, medical care, diet, home charities and safety as main points covered.
- Discuss the format of a debate. Each team/ person will get to speak, everyone else will listen and if another team has a reply then they will wait to make their point.
- Give each group a position in the debate, X is most important for pets because...
- Children then to be given all resources used to date, cards, posters, their own written work. (If possible, they should also be given access to ISPCA and Dogs Trust websites).
- Give the class an appropriate amount of time to form their arguments. Remind the children that they can 'prove' their argument by giving examples of the consequences, empathetic reasoning and examples of best practice.
- During the debate, each group can state their case and reasons. Children to use this opportunity to counter-argue or disagree. Remember, in a debate a valid reason must be given for disagreeing and an example of why your opinion is the correct one.
- Remind children that all the topics raised are important.
- Children then draw up a 'Class Charter of Responsible Pet Ownership' based on the level of the class. This can be done as a list of rules, a poem or song, or alternatively as a poster displaying responsible ownership.
- Children should be given the opportunity to display this charter and to discuss it once they have finished.

## Conclusion

- Class will regroup and discuss today's debate.
- Children will display their Charter for the class/ school.

