

### Treating animals and each other fairly

Lesson 3 - Fairness

Time: 45 minutes

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

*Most Powerful and Dangerous Creatures Boxes*, Mini Cat Manipulative toys/figurines, White board

#### OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

The students will be able to define fairness and overpopulation and know how it is fair to treat animals and each other.

#### ENGAGE (15 MINUTES):

Introduce the first box as the world's most dangerous creature. The boxes should have a mirror fitted into one end of the box with a small opening at the other end. Instruct students to look inside the box, very carefully. Once they see the "creature" inside, they should slowly pass the box to their neighbor and not tell anyone what they saw. Also introduce the world's most powerful creature and pass that around too. Once everyone has seen inside the box, make a T-chart on the board about why humans are the world's most dangerous creatures, and why we are also the most powerful.

Dangerous	Powerful
Destroying forests	Can save animals habitats
Pollution	Can take great care of companion animals
Building over habitats	Can help injured wild animals

#### ACTIVATE (15 MINUTES):

Introduce the word Overpopulation:

- Over = too much, too many
- Population= a group of people or animals

#### REFLECT (25 MINUTES):

Invite one student volunteer to the front of the room and give them 2 cat manipulatives. Tell the rest of the class that that student just got two cats, but was not responsible; they did not get them spayed or neutered. About 6 months down the road, they have 6 babies (the average number of kittens in a litter). They must find homes for all those kittens, but each home can only have a maximum of 2 cats. None of the new owners are responsible either, so another 6 months down the road everyone has 6 babies (the boys contribute too, so they get babies. Discuss topic appropriate for age). They must all find homes for the babies.

Depending on the class size, this may be the point where there are students who can't find homes for their cats (if not, keep playing until there are "extra" cats). Invite all of the students to come up to the front. Discuss where they could give their extra animals. Usually they will say the shelter, if that's the case, you may take the extra animals. Another 6 months has gone by and everyone is having another 6



kittens. This time there are no homes left, so dump out the remaining kittens on a table/desk and ask the students where they should go. If they mention shelter, you can take away a few, but then the shelter is full. Keep taking away small amounts for rescue groups, foster, Etc.

Eventually someone will bring up there's nowhere to put them so they have to be "put to sleep". Discuss Humane Euthanasia and why it has to be done sometimes. Bring up the original student to the front and ask the class what they should have done in the first place to prevent all of these kittens from being born (spayed and neutered them). Is it fair to them if we let them have so many babies, and then have to euthanize them?

Discuss the health and behavior benefits of getting your dog or cat spayed or neutered (i.e. reduces chance of contracting certain diseases, better for behavior, etc.).

Introduce the animal and call students over during this time to meet and greet.

#### **CLOSURE (7 MINUTES):**

Talk about fairness and ask for three ways to be fair to our planet, our pets, and to each other.

#### **MODIFICATIONS:**

If there is no animal for the presentation, teachers can contact local Animal Welfare organizations to see if they would be willing to bring in an animal for students to meet. Stuffed, plush animals will also work well to showcase pet care & interaction.

Extension activity; read *It's Raining Cats and Cats* by Jeanne Prevost.

If mini cat toys unavailable, activity can also work well with beans, buttons, or other small objects to represent animals.

*Dangerous & Powerful Creatures created by the Institute for Humane Education*

