

Pets and People: Needs We Share

Science/Health

Preschool and kindergarten

Objective

To recognize that companion animals and people share many of the same needs.

Skill

Students will be able to accurately match pictures of similar human needs and pet needs.

Materials

photos or drawings representing human needs and pet needs (e.g., doctor/veterinarian, human food/pet food, comb/animal brush, bed/pet bed, person showing affection to a child/person showing affection to pet, toys or sports/exercise equipment/pet toys or exercise wheels).

Activity

Students will match pictures of similar human needs and pet needs.

Helpful Background Information

- www.hsus.org/programs/companion/pet_care/pet_care.html
- www.healthypet.com/Library/index.html

Procedure:

1. Ask students to name some of their morning activities, such as eating breakfast, washing, combing hair, stretching or exercising, getting dressed. Identify the needs represented by each activity. Why do we eat breakfast? Why should we wash and comb our hair? Why is it important to stretch and move around? Do pets share some of the same needs?
2. Group students by fours, provide them with magazine photos representing human and pet needs, and have them match pictures of similar human and pet needs.