Compassionate Humans

Becoming a Pet Guardian is a Big Responsibility

Helen Woodward Animal Center 2014

Throughout the daily program, children should focus on, and be continually guided back to thinking about, the daily question, as well as learning about potential animal careers and volunteer opportunities.

Daily Question

Why *must* we take care of our pets? (Answer: When we obtain an animal we make a promise to it that we will do anything we need to keep it safe, healthy, and happy. We do this because we understand that animals have feelings too and deserve health and happiness just like we do.)

Careers and volunteer Opportunities

Anything to do with taking care of pets: Vet, groomer, walker, babysitter, trainer, and specialty pet product companies (food, toy, clothing).

Curriculum

<u>Introduction (10min):</u> Welcome, recap from yesterday, answer questions, today's agenda.

<u>Community Service (50min):</u> Clean bird cages and feed lizards. (Paying attention to all the hard daily work of having a pet).

Perform a Check-up on a dog (20min): Led by a veterinarian at Companion Animal Hospital

<u>Meet Sadie, Parrot (15min):</u> Discuss differing needs for each type of animal/pet. Most animals don't need *only* food, water, shelter. Focus on enrichment needs for parrot's because they are so smart. Explain Sadie's boredom and plucking in her previous home. Discuss life spans of animals. Make the connection between how the animal must feel and what we feel.

<u>Groom a Mini (20min):</u> Continue discussing pet/animal needs. Focus on grooming, different diets, and what to do with a sick animal.

<u>Tour the Equine Hospital (20min):</u> Focus on specialty hospital (not your typical, everyday animal hospital), mention price.

Tour Adoptions (15min): Focus on pet overpopulation, spay/neuter.

Discussion, Journal Time (30min)

Materials:

- Dog
- Mini horse grooming tools