



What do dogs and cats need to be happy and healthy?

Lesson Title: What do dogs and cats need to be happy and healthy?

Grade Level(s): K-2nd grade

Objective: Students will learn the simple things they can do to ensure their pets are happy and healthy.

Character Concepts Taught: Empathy, Kindness, Compassion

Texas Reading/Comprehension Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten – Grade 2

English Language Arts and Reading §110.11

(21) Listening and Speaking/Listening. Students use comprehension skills to listen attentively to others in formal and informal settings. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity.

English Language Arts and Reading §110.11

Reading/Vocabulary Development. Students understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing.

Science §112.13. Within the living environment, students explore patterns, systems, and cycles by investigating characteristics of organisms, life cycles, and interactions among all the components within their habitat.

Common Core State Standards Initiative

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.9 Compare/contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.

Subject	Grade Level	Domain (3.3)	Standard	Benchmark
English Language Arts and Reading	K	TEKS 110.11.21	Students use comprehension skills to listen attentively to others in formal and informal settings	Listen and ask questions and follow oral directions that involve a short-related of actions
English Language Arts and Reading	1	TEKS 110.12.6	Identify and sort words into conceptual categories (e.g., opposites, living things).	Understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing
Science	2	TEKS 112.13.09	The student knows that living organisms have basic needs that must be met for them to survive within their environment.	Describe basic needs of plants and animals
English	2	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.9	Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.	Describe the differences between two things.

Materials Needed:

- Copy of *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* or *The Happy Tale of Two Cats* (ages 4-8, Pet Pundit Publishing)
- Markers and dry erase board
- Critical thinking questions (see below)
- Direct teaching example of a Venn Diagram (shows answers)
- Student independent Venn Diagram worksheet

Preparations:

- Draw two overlapping circles on the dry erase board (Venn Diagram).
- Print out the Student Independent Venn Diagram Worksheet.
- Have a copy of the critical thinking questions handy.
- Write vocabulary words on blackboard, if needed.

Lesson Procedure:

- Read aloud from *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* or *The Happy Tale of Two Cats*.
- Use the list of critical thinking questions to open discussion about the book (see below).
- Show how the Venn Diagram works. (A Venn Diagram is a graphic organizer that is made up of two or three overlapping circles.)
- Use the Venn Diagram on the board to ask students to compare and contrast what the lucky dog/unlucky dog or happy/unhappy cat got from their families.
- Ask students to use their copy of their Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the things the lucky dog got from his family with what the unlucky got from the animal shelter on their own. Kindergarten and first grade students can draw the items or select the words from a vocabulary list on the dry erase board (shelter, food, water, ID tag, baths, visits to veterinarian, play time, exercise).

Opening Activity or Activating Strategy:

- Read aloud the book, *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs* or *The Happy Tale of Two Cats*.
- Open discussion with critical thinking questions:
 - Compare and contrast the lives of the lucky dog/unlucky dog and happy/unhappy cat. How are their lives different? What is missing most from the unlucky dog's/unhappy cat's life?
 - What might have happened if the unlucky dog or unhappy had not been rescued by someone who works at an animal shelter?
 - What kinds of things do animal shelters provide? How are they similar or different from what a family can provide?

Body:

- Using the Venn Diagram on the board, explain how it works by showing kids a red marker and a blue marker. Ask them to tell you what the two markers have in common and put on Venn Diagram. Shared: marker caps, logo on the marker, both are long and slender. Differences: color. Explain that the ways they are different go in the outer sections, and the ways they are the same go inside the overlap of the circle. Erase the words and turn to the book.
- On the board, use the Venn Diagram to ask students to compare and contrast the things the lucky/unlucky dog and happy/unhappy cat got from his family. Shared: food/water; Different: Shelter, playtime, grooming, exercise, collar and ID tag, trip to the vet, friendship. Ask them if feeding and providing water for an outdoor dog is enough to make a dog happy and healthy.

- Next, ask the students to use their copy of their Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the things the lucky dog got from his family with what the unlucky got from the animal shelter. Allow them to work in groups so their shared memory of the book and discussion will help them remember the things every dog needs. (Shared: shelter, playtime, food, grooming, collar and tag; Different: living with family versus living in shelter.) For youngster students, it might be helpful to have a list of these vocabulary words on the dry erase board ahead of time or, depending on the group, brainstorm with the students and create a list of your own. Then encourage students to copy these words into the right place on the Venn Diagram. Since the students may come up with additional ideas, be sure to wrap up this activity by letting kids share their different responses.

Closure or Wrap-up:

- While students are doing their Venn Diagrams, erase the answers from the previous activity off the Venn Diagram on the dry erase board. Give students a few minutes to complete their Venn Diagrams.

- Ask students:
 - o To present the things a “family” and an “animal shelter” have in common. Write these answers on the Venn Diagram on the dry erase board. What things does an animal shelter and family not have in common? Write on Venn Diagram.
 - o If dogs and cats get most everything they need at the shelter why would they need to be adopted?
 - o Ask students what role an animal shelter plays in helping a homeless pet? Explain how the shelter is a temporary place for animals and the role of the shelter is to not only care for homeless pets, but help them find a family to love who will love them back.

Extension:

- Ask students to observe a habitat, either at home, at an animal shelter or in their backyard. Ask them to list all the things they see in that environment that can ensure an animal is happy and healthy, using a compare and contrast model or Venn Diagram.

- Use the Venn Diagram and compare and contrast model to encourage students to compare and contrast other animal situations, such as :

- A shelter dog and a stray dog
- A shelter dog and a puppy mill dog
- A trained dog and an untrained dog
- A leashed dog and an unleashed dog
- A shelter cat and a stray cat
- An owned indoor and outdoor pet
- An indoor family cat and a feral cat