A Forever Home

Preschoolers love pets! Help your youngsters learn how they can help their furry friends with the following fun activities.

Where Can You Get a Pet?

Graphing, using comparison words

In advance, prepare a floor graph with two columns labeled "Dogs" and "Cats." Also gather a supply of linking cubes or another manipulative. Ask youngsters, "Where can you get a pet?" Explain to students that the most important place to get a pet is at a pet shelter or a humane breeder. Pet shelters have many dogs and cats that weren't able to stay with their owners or didn't have owners to begin with. These are good pets that need a forever home. Plus, by adopting a pet from a shelter they'll be saving one of the 3 million to 4 million animals that end up in shelters each year. Ask students, "If you were to get a pet at a shelter, would you want a dog or a cat?" Next, have each child take a linking cube and place it on the graph to show which pet he would choose. Have little ones count the cubes in each column and compare the totals using words like *more, less,* and *equal.*

Be Prepared

Speaking, participating in a song

Pets need several items to stay safe and healthy, such as fresh food and water. Ask students, "What do you need to buy for your kitty or puppy before you pick it up at the shelter?" Ask a volunteer to name the pet she would want and something her pet will need. Then lead students in singing the song shown, substituting the appropriate information. Continue with other volunteers.

(sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

What does my [kitty] need?
What does my [kitty] need?
It will need some [cat food]!
That's what my [kitty] will need!

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Five Little Pets

Ordinal numbers

Lead youngsters in reciting this rhyme while holding up each appropriate finger on one hand. (For extra fun, attach five cat pictures to your board and then point to each cat!) Then have little ones change the word *kitties* to *doggies* and recite the rhyme again!

Five little kitties are as happy as can be.
The first one said, "There's an owner for me!"
The second one said, "I am fluffy and sweet!"
The third one said, "Will you give me a treat?"
The fourth one said, "I just love to play!"
And the fifth one said, "I can leave today!"
And the five little kitties found homes so nice.
Please adopt from a shelter and don't think twice!

Crazy for Kibble!

Developing fine-motor skills

Youngsters develop fine-motor skills when they feed this little puppy and kitty! Give each child a copy of the page provided. Then have them color the page. Explain that a wonderful family got this puppy and kitty at a shelter. Remind little ones that a shelter is a place where dogs and cats stay when they don't have any owners. They need to be adopted so they can get lots of love at forever homes. Next, have them feed the puppy and kitty by crumpling pieces of brown paper and gluing them to the bowls. Prompt little ones to take their finished papers home, show them to their families, and explain how it's important to adopt pets from a shelter!

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Name _____

Sweeties From a Shelter

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