

RE SPECT FOR ANIMALS

Objective: To raise awareness of the importance of acting responsibly.

Key Words: dependent, groom, mischievous, responsibility

Curriculum Links: Citizenship and PSHE at KS1: 1a,b,c. 2a,c. Literacy: Drama

Materials needed:

- The Manual or copy of lesson plan
- Silent sitting exercises from the 'Introduction' Manual
- CD player
- CD with music for silent sitting
- CD with music for the song
- Copies of the drama script
- Cut out pictures of animals on page 184, one for each pupil

QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK

ALL LIVING BEINGS
HAVE THE RIGHT
TO RESPECT AND
KINDNESS



Discuss what this means.

SILENT SITTING

Steps 1, 2, 4 (See pages 19/20 or page 36 in 'Introduction' Manual)

Step 5: Think of a time when you were very close to an animal that you liked ...

Imagine touching its fur or skin, feel it is warm and comforting ...

It may be frightened of you because you may be bigger than it is ...

Imagine stroking it gently ...

Think loving kind thoughts towards it ...

Imagine speaking to it quietly ...

Treat it with respect ...

Know that it has feelings just like you ...

Step 6.

STORY TELLING

ANASTASIA WANTS A RABBIT

by Camilla Noble-Warren

Anastasia and her mother were decorating the Christmas tree and speaking about all the lovely things that Christmas brings such as carol singing, Christmas decorations and Santa Claus when Anastasia said, "Mummy. I know what I would really, really like for Christmas."

"What is that, my dear?" replied Mummy.

"Well, Rebecca in my class, has a pet rabbit and she is always telling us about all the lovely things he does. He nibbles at the lettuce leaves when he is being fed and he feels lovely and soft when you hold him and stroke his fur. Rebecca says it is just like having a real live soft toy. Mummy, I would like to have a rabbit of my own."

Her mother paused for a moment looked at her and smiled. "It would be nice for you to have a pet now that you're growing up, but shall we first talk about what is involved in owning a pet? You've seen the advert on TV that says, 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas,' haven't you? And this applies to all animals, including rabbits. They may look and feel cuddly like a soft toy, but they are as alive as we are and need love, care and attention the same as we do and that cannot stop just because we may get bored because their life depends on us."

"What do you mean, Mummy?" Anastasia asked.

"Once you have the rabbit, you become totally responsible for its daily needs. You have to clean out its hutch and provide fresh straw for its bed, clean water for it to drink, and fresh food for it every day. You need to groom it and allow it to exercise and spend time playing with it so that it is healthy and happy and trusts you."

"Oh, but I would love to do all that for my rabbit, Mummy," she said excitedly. "Please, please, can I have a rabbit?"

Her mother smiled and said, "I tell you what. Tomorrow we have to return your library books and while we are there you can then ask the librarian for a book on keeping a pet rabbit, so you can get all the information that you need to know, before we make a decision."

Anastasia readily agreed to this and carried on helping her mum to decorate the Christmas tree, all the time dreaming of her pet rabbit!

At the library Anastasia got the book with the help of the librarian and sat reading it eagerly. The more she read, the more she realised how great a responsibility it would be to take care of her pet. The rabbit would be completely dependent on her to provide its food, its bed, its water and to see to its health, exercise, playing - she would be responsible for its very life. She still enjoyed playing with her friends after school and spending some weekends at her cousin's home and she realised that she would no longer have the same amount of free time. Her young life would have to be tailored around her pet if she was really going to love and care for it.

She thought about it and thought that it would be nice to have a real live pet, especially a rabbit. But then she made a very grown up decision, if she had to provide all these things for it, every day, then she felt that she was too young and didn't want such an important responsibility.

Anastasia and her mother left the library hand-in-hand in silence. After a few minutes her mother turned to her and said, "Is everything OK, dear?"

"Yes, Mum. It's just that ...well...well, after reading the book, I thought about it. And I know that you would help. But if it is my rabbit, then I should take responsibility for it . You know what. I don't think I'll have a rabbit." Then mischievously she added, "But instead, can I have an ...elephant!"

Her mum looked at her and they burst out laughing as they walked home happily.

QUESTIONS:

1. What name shall we give this story?
2. Why did Anastasia want a rabbit for Christmas?
3. What did her mother tell her about owning a pet?
4. Where did she go to find out more about keeping a rabbit?
5. What did she decide to do?
6. Did she really want an elephant?
7. How did you feel when you heard the story?
8. Did the story remind you of anything in your life?

Link story: The New Kitten (*Finding Your Feet*)

GROUP SINGING

LOVE THE ANIMALS
(music and lyrics by Zita Starkie)

Love the animals. Love the animals.
The pigeons on the street,
The cats and dogs we meet.
Come on and love the animals.
Really love the animals
The pigeons on the street,
The cats and dogs we meet.

Just don't join in when people are cruel.
Remember love's the golden rule.

GROUP ACTIVITY

1. DRAMA

ANASTASIA WANTS A RABBIT

The scene is set in Anastasia's house just before Christmas

Cast: *Narrator*
 Anastasia
 Mother

Narrator: Anastasia and her mother were decorating the Christmas tree and speaking about all the lovely things that Christmas brings such as carol singing, Christmas decorations and Santa Claus.

Anastasia: Mummy, I know what I would really, really like for Christmas.

Mother: What is that, my dear?

Anastasia: Well, Rebecca in my class, has a pet rabbit and she is always telling us about all the lovely things he does. He nibbles at the lettuce leaves when he's fed and he feels lovely and soft when you hold him and stroke his fur. Rebecca says it is just like having a real live soft toy. Mummy, I would like to have a rabbit of my own.

Mother: *(smiling at her)* It would be nice for you to have a pet now that you're growing up, but shall we first talk about what is involved in owning a pet? You've seen the advert on TV that says, 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas', haven't you? Well, this applies to all animals, including rabbits. They may look and feel cuddly like a soft toy, but they are as alive as we are and need love, care and attention the same as we do and that can't stop just because we may get bored because their life depends on us.

Anastasia: What do you mean, Mummy?

Mother: Once you have a rabbit, you become totally responsible for its daily needs. You have to clean out its hutch and provide fresh straw for its bed, clean water for it to drink, and fresh food for it every day. You need to groom it and to allow it to exercise and spend time playing with it so that it is healthy and happy and trust you.

Anastasia: *(excitedly)* Oh, but I would love to do all that for my rabbit, Mummy. Please, please, can I have a rabbit?

Mother: I tell you what. Tomorrow we have to return your library books and while we are there you can ask the librarian for a book on keeping a pet rabbit, so you can get all the information that you need to know, before we make a decision.

Anastasia: Oh thanks Mum.

Narrator: Anastasia carried on helping her mum to decorate the Christmas tree. The next day, at the library Anastasia got the book with the help of the librarian and sat reading it eagerly. The more she read, the more she realised how great a responsibility it would be to take care of her pet.

Anastasia: The rabbit will be completely dependent on me to provide its food, its bed, its water and to see to its health, exercise, playing - I'll be responsible for its very life. I still enjoy playing with my friends after school and spending some weekends at my cousin's home and if I get a rabbit, I won't have the same amount of free time. Life will have to be tailored around my pet if I'm really going to love and care for it. Although it would be nice to have a real live pet, especially a rabbit, if I have to provide all these things for it, every day, then I think I'm too young and don't want to be responsible for it yet.

Narrator: Anastasia and her mother left the library hand-in-hand in silence.

Mother: Is everything OK, dear?

Anastasia: Yes, Mum. It's just that ...well...well, after reading the book, I thought about it. And I know that you would help. But if it is my rabbit, then I should take responsibility for it . You know what. I don't think I'll have a rabbit . (She pauses then adds mischievously) But instead, can I have an ...elephant!

Narrator: Her mum looked at her and they burst out laughing as they happily walked home.

QUESTION:

How did you feel when you heard the story?

2. ANIMALS GAME

Photocopy the animals on the next page and cut them into cards - one for each child.

Ask the children to sit in a circle.

Give each child a picture of one of the animals.

One at a time, the pupils stand in the middle of the circle and say three good things about themselves as the animal e.g. "My prickles stop others hurting me."

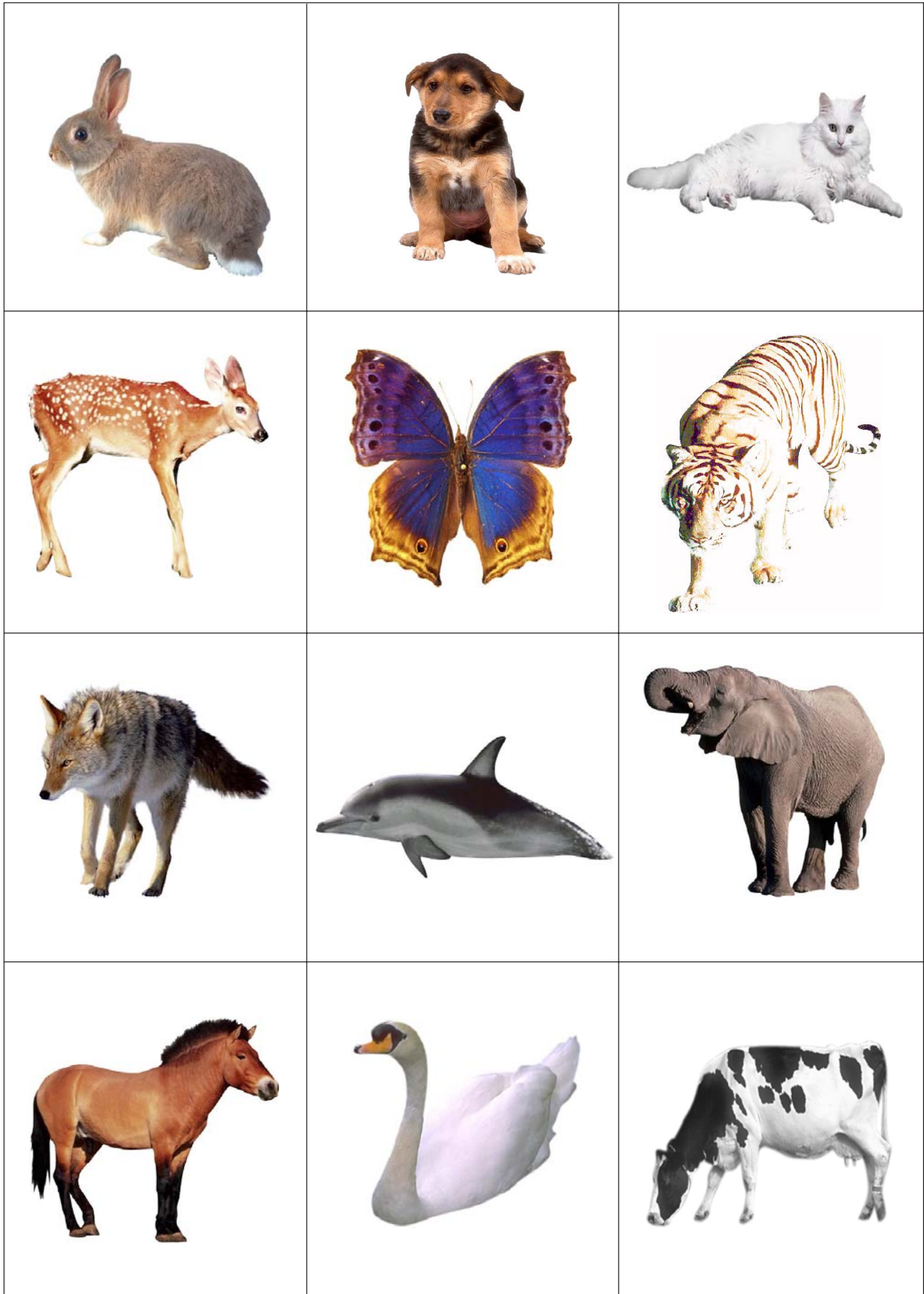
"I eat little creatures which would eat the plants in the garden."

"I work at night and sleep by day and so I don't get in your way."

The other children guess what animal it is e.g. a hedgehog.

If the pupils have any difficulties, then write some suggestions on the back of the pictures.

Close the lesson: If the teacher wishes, the lesson can be closed by asking the children to form a circle and say, "I will take care of my pets and act responsibly."



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