

Activity 14



ANIMAL HEALTH CARE



STUDY QUESTION:

How do farmers keep their animals healthy?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity children identify a few principles of health care for farm animals.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Communicate orally: reports.

Demonstrate growth in thought processes by dictating explanations.

SCIENCE

Plants and animals: develop respect for living things; appreciate the importance of providing necessary care for living things.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS: Animal health: health care.

PURPOSE

To introduce the children to the concept of health not only for people but also for animals.

To give children the opportunity to further develop language skills while learning how to care for animals.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Data sheet for listing health routines. Supplied in this activity.

TIME REQUIRED:

1 to 2 class periods.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

To introduce the topic of animal health, briefly discuss children's own health care - how often they see the school nurse or a doctor; why? - how they look after their own health through eating, sleeping, brushing teeth, cleaning and bandaging cuts.

Reporting

Have the children list their health care practices on the data sheet.

Part Two

Dictating

Relate all of these experiences to the role of a farmer and a veterinarian. Make an experience chart about care of farm animals, noting that the farmer must provide the animals with appropriate food and shelter, carry out routine maintenance such as removing horns off goats or cows, clipping hooves of ranging animals or shearing sheep; also that the farmer must arrange for routine inoculations and for medical treatment when necessary - e.g. difficult births, infections, broken bones.

Part Three

Conclusion

Read the chart, emphasizing the comparison between health care of animals and people's health care and noting key words related to farm animals and health.

FOR DISCUSSION

Who do farmer's consult when an animal is sick?

How do farmer's care for their animals?

What kind of special care do dogs and cats need?

Do other animals need similar care?

Does diet play a big role in health care?

EVALUATION STRATEGIES

Have children write a story about an animal going to the veterinarian.

Have children pick an animal and then write down the steps of caring for this animal as an instruction guide to others.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Have the children write and illustrate simple instructions for the care of an animal. Some children may have pets; others may choose to discuss a farm animal. Encourage the use of numbers to help organize the sequence of care activities. Share the individual tips on care of animals.
2. Have a pet in the classroom; make a poster that gives simple instructions for the care of a pet.





STUDENT RESOURCE

What Do You Do To Stay Healthy?

Explain how you and your parents look after your health.

1. Eat: _____

2. Sleep: _____

3. Visit school nurse, doctor, dentist: _____

4. What else? _____
