



Activity: Animals' needs

Resource: A day in the life of an inspector

Overview

Video footage of a typical day in the life of an RSPCA inspector.

Learning outcomes

- Children appreciate the responsibility involved with owning a pet.
- Children are able to describe some of the jobs that RSPCA inspectors do.
- Children can identify some of the consequences if people don't provide animals with everything they need.
- Children are able to identify how they can help animals.

Discussion points

- What do you think the term "responsible pet owner" means?
- Do you agree that people should be prosecuted if they don't give the animal they own everything it needs? Why?
- Do you think the RSPCA is a useful organisation? Why?
- What can you do to make sure that people look after their pets properly?

Did you know?

- Every 25 seconds someone somewhere in England and Wales dials 0870 55 55 999 – the **RSPCA's national cruelty and advice line** – for help.
- In 2005 the RSPCA removed 138,563 animals from **danger or abuse**.
- Inspectors and ACOs are also an **emergency service** for injured, trapped, or stranded animals and in 2005 they carried out 13,907 **rescues**.
- In 2005 inspectors **investigated** 110,841 animal cruelty complaints which resulted in 2,071 convictions.
- The RSPCA **rehomed** 69,900 animals in 2005 – mostly through the Society's network of 175 branches.
- The **symbols** that accompany the video footage and narration of the five freedoms are part of the "Know your pet" campaign. The role of this is to inform people of their responsibilities once the Animal Welfare Act becomes law in England and Wales in 2007.
- In 2007 the law relating to the welfare of pets will change. Under the **Animal Welfare Act** anyone who is responsible for a pet will have a legal responsibility to meet the five basic welfare needs of pets (the five freedoms). These are:



A proper diet (including fresh water)



Somewhere suitable to live



Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals



Allowing animals to express normal behaviour



Protection from, and treatment of, illness and injury.

- The new Animal Welfare Act will provide much greater protection for animals. Under current law, people responsible for pets can only be prosecuted for cruelty once suffering has occurred, and when it is often too late to save the animal from death or lasting injury.
- The majority of pet owners will not need to change the way they care for their animals to comply with the new law when it comes into force in 2007 - most people already provide for their pet's needs. But the new law will help to tackle cases of ongoing neglect. For example in 2005 RSPCA inspectors found that 25,784 animals did not have access to water, 34,337 were not given suitable veterinary treatment and 33,308 did not have a clean environment.
- **Prosecution** is a last resort for inspectors, who prefer to educate rather than take people to court.
- Visit: www.rspca.org.uk for more information on:
 - the needs of specific pets
 - statistics on, and examples of, animal welfare prosecution cases
 - the new Animal Welfare Act
 - how young people can make a difference to the welfare of animals (see the UNDER 8TEENZ section).

QCA Unit 3 Animals and us

Key Stage 1

We all have basic needs

How do we look after animals?

Key Stage 2

Who else looks after animals?

Taking responsibility – what can we do?

English curriculum links

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
PSHE and Citizenship	Preparing to play an active role as citizens Pupils should be taught: 2a to take part in discussions with one other person and the whole class 2e to realise that people and other living things have needs, and that they have responsibilities to meet them	Preparing to play an active role as citizens Pupils should be taught: 2a to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events 2h to recognise the role of voluntary, community and pressure groups
Science	Sc2 Life processes and living things Life processes Pupils should be taught: 1b that animals, including humans, move feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce Humans and other animals Pupils should be taught: 2b that humans and other animals need food and water to stay alive 2e how to treat animals with care and sensitivity	Sc2 Life processes and living things Life processes Pupils should be taught: 1a that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, movement, growth and reproduction

Welsh curriculum links

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
PSE	<p>Attitudes and Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show care and consideration for others • Begin to take responsibility for their actions <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to express their own views and ideas <p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know what is fair and unfair and what they believe to be right and wrong • Know about the different jobs and workplaces within the community • Understand how the environment can be made better or worse to live in and how they can make a difference 	<p>Attitudes and Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take increasing responsibility for their actions • Be honest and fair and have a respect for rules, the law and authority • Take an active interest in the life of the community and be concerned about the wider environment <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen carefully, question and respond to others • Express their views and ideas confidently, and take part in a debate <p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that their actions have consequences • Know that people differ in what they believe is right and wrong
Science	<p>Life Processes and Living Things</p> <p>1. Life Processes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. that humans and other animals have senses which enable them to be aware of the world around them 3. that animals, including humans, move, need food and water, grow and reproduce 	<p>Life Processes and Living Things</p> <p>1. Life Processes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that there are life processes, including nutrition, movement, growth and reproduction, common to animals, including humans

www.rspca-education.org.uk