

# Lesson 1: Choose with Care

## Big Idea

The commitment involved in the adoption or purchase of a pet is significant and should be considered carefully. Pets can become very attached to their owners and friends. It can be difficult for pets if a person or a family is unable or unprepared to look after them on a long-term basis.

## Learning Goal

Students will identify and describe the importance of commitment to pets.

## Links to Ontario Curriculum

### Grade 1

#### Language (Oral Language)

2.3	Communicate ideas and information orally in a clear, coherent manner
2.4	Choose a variety of appropriate words and phrases to communicate their meaning accurately and engage the interest of their audience

#### Language (Media Literacy)

1.3	Express personal thoughts and feelings about some simple media works
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#### Language (Writing)

2.1	Write short texts using several simple forms
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#### Science (Understanding Life Systems Needs and Characteristics of Living Things)

1.1	Identify personal action that they themselves can take to help maintain a healthy environment for living things, including humans
2.2	Investigate and compare the basic needs of humans and other living things, including the need for air, water, food, warmth, and space, using a variety of methods and resources
3.6	Identify what living things provide for other living things

# ONTARIO SPCA HUMANE EDUCATION SERIES

## STRAND 1 • CARE AND COMMITMENT

### Grade 2

Language (Oral Language)	
2.3	Communicate ideas, opinions, and information orally in a clear, coherent manner using simple but appropriate organizational patterns
2.4	Choose a variety of appropriate words and phrases to communicate their meaning accurately and engage the interest of their audience
Language (Media Literacy)	
1.3	Express personal thoughts and feelings about simple media works and explain their responses
Language (Writing)	
2.1	Write short texts using several simple forms
Science (Understanding Life Systems Needs and Characteristics of Living Things)	
1.1	Identify positive and negative impacts that animals have on humans (society) and the environment, form an opinion about one of them, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized or enhanced
1.2	Identify positive and negative impacts that different kinds of human activity have on animals and where they live, form an opinion about one of them, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized or enhanced

### Grade 3

Language (Oral Language)	
2.3	communicate orally in a clear, coherent manner, presenting ideas, opinions, and information in a logical sequence
2.4	Choose a variety of appropriate words and phrases to communicate their meaning accurately and engage the interest of their audience
Language (Media Literacy)	
1.3	Express personal opinions about ideas presented in media texts
Language (Writing)	
2.1	Write short texts using several simple forms

# ONTARIO SPCA HUMANE EDUCATION SERIES

## STRAND 1 • CARE AND COMMITMENT

### Organization

Approximate Total Lesson Time: **30 – 40 minutes**.



Note: The times listed are intended to be used as a guideline. Teachers may make adjustments to time as needed to suit the needs and size of their class.

Materials	Quantity
Tablets, computer projector and/ or whiteboard technology to display The Cat Came Back video	Varies depending on technology
Chart paper	2
Writing utensil for instruction	1
Writing utensils for students	1 per student

### Required Background Knowledge

Students need a general understanding of the concepts of basic needs and commitment. If required, start a class discussion asking students, “What do we as people need to be healthy and happy?” and “What does commitment mean?” Consider starting a word wall and add the terms “basic needs” and “commitment”. See the appendix for word wall cards.

### Engagement & Making Connections

Pose the following question: “What kind of care do pets need from their owners?”. Write students’ answers down on a chart paper and keep it posted to refer back to during this and other lessons.

**Tech Tip:** A great app to use for brainstorming is Popplet! Check your provider for availability (Available on the App Store for iPads (<https://popplet.com/>))

### Introduction

Address the concept of commitment by sharing a video clip:

#### **The Cat Came Back**

Camp Songs - Kids Songs - Children’s Songs by the Learning Station [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjMffHG1V\\_Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjMffHG1V_Q)

**Tech Tip:** To display the lyrics on the video, click the CC button to the right of the volume slider.

Activate students’ thinking using an introduction such as:

Today, we are going to watch a short video about a man, a cat and a girl.  
As you watch, keep in mind what we know about the kind of care pets need.

Invite students to share their initial reactions to the video with the large group.

# ONTARIO SPCA HUMANE EDUCATION SERIES

## STRAND 1 • CARE AND COMMITMENT

### Challenge & Collaboration

Organize the class into small groups. Invite each group to focus on one of the three characters in the song and story: the man, the cat or the girl. Watch the video a second time; challenge them to consider the actions of their specific character and imagine how he or she might be feeling. After a few minutes of small group discussion time, invite a volunteer from each group to share their group's thinking with the class.

Invite students to respond to one or more of the following questions (orally, using pictures, or in written words):

- What else could the man have done if he couldn't care for his cat?
- Why do you think the cat kept coming back?
- How might the cat respond to being adopted by the little girl?
- If this was a real situation, what could we do to help the cat?

### Reflection & Response

Place a large paper on a table or post chart paper on a wall. Use the template, **Things to Think About Before You Chose a Pet**, (provided at the end of this lesson) as a guide. Invite students to extend their thinking and learning by adding to the chart.

**Reserve 5 minutes at the end of the lesson to have a whole-group discussion about their answers.**



Note: The chart can become an ongoing record of students' learning and thinking.

### Optional Extension

Read the book *How Do Dinosaurs Love their Dogs?* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague as read aloud. Have students write a story about another pet (cat, fish, dog hamster, etc.) using the format and structure of *How Do Dinosaurs Love their Dogs?*

### Additional Resources

#### Videos

1. "A Pet Is a Lifetime Commitment" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6S51hbyhSk>  
In this short video with no dialogue, two children consider what is needed to make a lifetime commitment to a pet.
2. "Pet Care Basics" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yzv0gXqoCkc>  
Miami-Dade County Schools and Animal Services Department informational video about the basics of animal care.

#### Books

1. "A Happy Tale of Two Cats" by Cathy M. Rosenthal, illustrated by Jessica Warrick  
Two cats on the same street have very different lives until one day the unhappy cat finds a new and happy home.
2. "Are You Ready For Me?" by Claire Buchwald, illustrated by Amelia Hansen  
This book presents the commitment needed and all the things kids and parents need to consider when adopting a dog.



Note: We recommend that teachers preview all materials before sharing with the class to ensure that the material is suitable. While resources are listed for each lesson, resources may be suitable for many of the lessons. Please visit the AnimalSmart website for more resources.

# Things to Think About Before You Choose a Pet



Write it



Draw it

**Considerations:** Size of pet, lifespan, allergies, grooming needs, cost of food, shots, exercise needs