

# Cooperation



May 2003

A lesson in Character Education  
Humane Society of Broward County  
2070 Griffin Road  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

**Cooperation:** A working together toward a common end.

**Cooperate:** To work together for a common objective

## **DESCRIPTION:**

- During this lesson, divide students into groups of four or more to work together to find solutions to the “animal welfare” problems listed below.
- You may wish to assign all of the problems to each group or assign one problem to each group.
- Time Frame: One to two hours

### **Problem #1: PET OVERPOPULATION**

Every week in Broward County, more than 1,000 dogs and cats become either homeless in animal shelters or left to die on the streets. Only 1/3 of these animals will ever find new responsible homes. Discuss among your group solutions to end the homeless animal problem. What could we do to prevent this problem from occurring in the first place? What could the community do to help more of these animals find homes?

Have your group report a specific plan to help end the pet overpopulation problem.

### **Problem #2: ADULT DOGS AND CATS ARE UNWANTED**

At the Humane Society of Broward County, we house up to 400 homeless dogs and cats each week. Seventy Five percent of the animals we receive are beautiful adult dogs and

cats. A good majority of the time when patrons come to adopt a pet they overlook the adult animals and are only interested in adopting the cute puppies or kittens.

Many people are under the assumption that you can't bond with an adult animal or that they cannot be trusted. The fact is adult animals are eager and ready to bond and often times make the best pets of all. As a group come up with a convincing "Marketing Campaign" or "Public Service Announcement" to convince the general public to adopt an adult pet.

Present your commercial and/or campaign to the class. The Humane Society would love for you to share your project with them too!

### **Problem #3: CHILDREN ARE THE NUMBER ONE VICTIMS OF DOG BITES**

Dogs bite more than one million children each year. Most of these dog bites are avoidable if children learn important safety information about behaving around animals.

As a group, research the internet to discover how children can avoid dog bites. Include dog body language tips, when to leave a dog alone and how to approach a dog properly.

Share your information with other classrooms by presenting your information as a lesson.

### **Problem #4: MILLIONS OF DOGS SUFFER EVERY YEAR IN PUPPY MILL FACTORIES**

Over 90% of pet stores get their puppies from puppy mills or factories. The breeding mothers spend their entire lives in filthy small cages just to mass produce puppies so stores can sell them. Many times these poor mothers are very ill mentally and / or physically and pass this on to their pups. If the general public keeps buying puppies this cruel practice will never end.

As a group brainstorm ideas on how we can stop this cruel suffering. Make posters or signs stating your case. Share with the class and post around your school.

**Call the Humane Society of Broward County to schedule a free Humane Education program for your classroom  
(954) 266-6848**



