

Dogs Trust Youth Education

Dogs Trust aims to make 'a dog's life' synonymous with happiness rather than distress. Our education resources focus on increasing children's awareness of the responsibilities involved in dog ownership.

They aim to lay the foundation for developing an understanding of canine behaviour and the importance of responsible dog care, therefore reducing the numbers of dogs that are mistreated or abandoned.

Contact us

To order copies of Dogs Trust Assembly or Literacy & Numeracy resources call the Education Helpline on

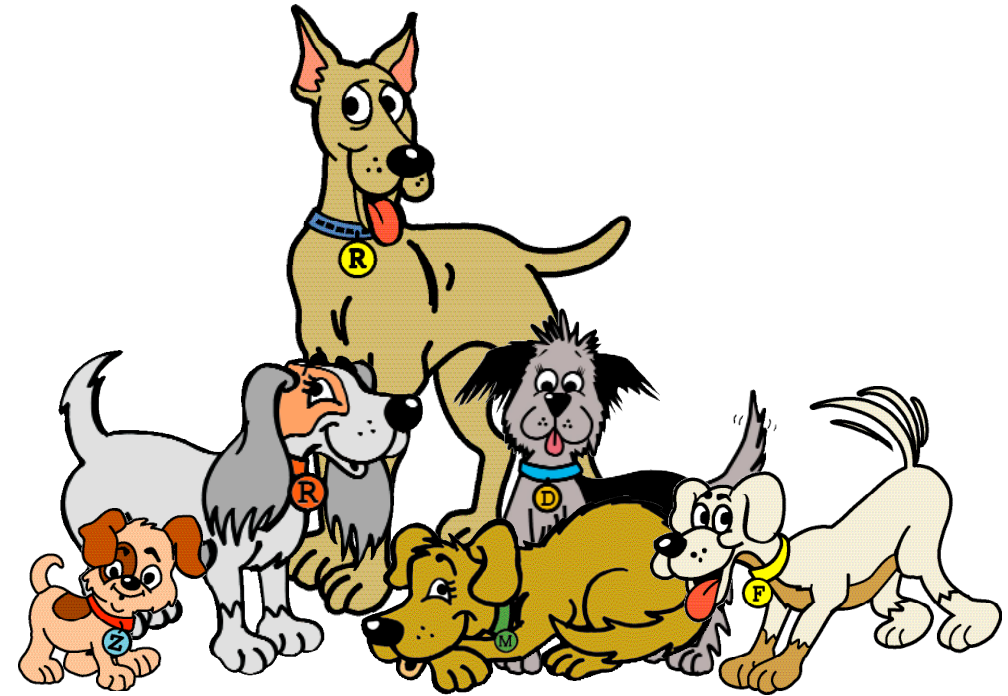
0870 333 0432

To find out more about Dogs Trust and our work visit

www.dogstrust.org.uk

For more online activities visit

www.learnwithdogs.co.uk



A Dog's Tale

Teacher's Guide

Introduction

This lively and engaging 10-minute film from Dogs Trust can be used in a number of ways – as a stand alone teaching resource, as an introduction to the overall theme of taking responsibility for our pets or to complement the free Dogs Trust Key Stage 1 and 2 Assembly and Literacy & Numeracy resources.

Whilst primarily about responsible dog ownership, the video also allows teachers to raise a variety of issues, such as our responsibilities as human beings, caring for others and dependency.

Contents

The content, as listed below, indicates where:

- i) natural break of 'pause points' occur within the film, followed by
- ii) possible discussion topics

- **Teenage Jamie tries to persuade mum to allow him to have a dog.**
Wanting something badly – how does it feel? Should mum give in?
- **Where they might get a dog?**
Pet shop? Breeder?
Rehoming Centre?
- **People can look after themselves as they grow up. Dogs can't.**
Different ages, different needs
How do dogs ask for help?
Dependence on owner
- **The dog in the poster in the dream sequence tells Jamie what is involved in caring for a dog.**
How could Jamie have found out for himself?
Do all dogs/pets have similar needs?
What are the cost implications?

- **Facts and figures about Dogs Trust and our aims**

Long-term commitment. A dog is for life. Should anyone be able to have a dog?

Possible activities linked to the film

Literacy orientated

- Make an entry for Mum's/Jamie's diary for the day that he comes home with the request. The children should demonstrate empathy with the feelings of the characters.
- Re-tell the dream sequence from the dog's perspective.
- Using a series of cards with missing letters, ask pupils to identify a dog's needs (for reinforcement).
- Use 'TALE' (as in the film title) and 'other dog related words e.g. collar, breeder, lead as a starting point for a homonym exercise.
- Re-tell the story in cartoon form or narrative, or as a device for getting the message across to a different audience (e.g. Pre-school children).
- After the film – pupils explain what they think happened next. What advice would they give to Jamie and his mum to help them make a decision?
- Follow up research – find out about local Dogs Trust Rehoming Centres via www.dogstrust.org.uk
Findings could be used to create a classroom display.

PSHE/Citizenship orientated

- Pose a fundamental question: 'Why do we have dogs as pets?' For whose benefit? If we choose them, what follows from that in terms of responsibilities? Argue the case in pairs from a dog's and a person's perspective.
- In pairs – one pupil to explain his/her needs as a young person; the other to explain the dog's needs. Compare.
- Pupils to identify what they need to be healthy and happy on cards to be fixed to the board or wall. They do the same with a dog. Compare, noting similarities, overlaps and differences.
- Create, in poster or leaflet form, a dog's Charter of Rights, using hot seating to elect these rights with pupils acting as dogs.
- Through brainstorming, each pupil to identify one further item or sequence they would like included in the film, with reasons.

Cross references to Dogs Trust resources

The Assembly resource

- Use the video to reinforce some of the messages in 'That's my bowl' – e.g. how could you make your dog feel loved/happy?
- Both 'Goodbye' and the film contain important references on acquiring a dog, especially the benefits of using a Rehoming Centre.
- The dream sequence in the film could be retold to constitute a sixth assembly story.

The Literacy & Numeracy resource

The film complements the following activities in the resource pack:

Literacy Activities	3 & 7 - a dog's needs 4 - the danger/risks of letting anyone acquire a dog
Numeracy Activities	1,5 & 6 - a dog's needs 3 - grooming 8 - costs

To order a resource above please call 0870 333 0432 or email dogstrust@educationconnections.co.uk

