

Learning is fun

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Animal Activities

These activities could be for an animal evening or could be used to help with an animal care badge.

Whose Baby?

Write the name below on cards (they could be the back of old birthday cards). Then ask each team to pair the adult with the baby.

Dog	Puppy
Cat	Kitten
Horse	Foal
Duck	Duckling
Swan	Cygnets
Fox	Cub
Cattle	Calf
Pig	Piglet
Sheep	Lamb

Kim's Game

Gather together items you would use to care for pets – grooming brush, water bottle, food bowl, food, collar, lead, etc and use them for a themed Kim's game.

Word Scramble

Write the name of 4 common pets on to card and cut up the word into parts. See if the team can make the 4 names. You could colour code the words to make it easier.

Collage

Gather pieces of fabric, wool, leather off cuts, felt, buttons, coloured paper, etc. Then ask each child to make a collage of a favourite animal.

Or if you are more adventurous:

Use anything you have around: sheets, clothes, phone books, brooms, mop heads, rope and ask each Six to make a large image of an animal on the floor

Cooking

Make animal shaped biscuits and decorate them.

Make bird puddings for the birds in winter.

Bake dog or cat treats – try the internet for ideas but never use chocolate in any form as it is toxic to animals and not too much salt either.

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Campfire

Have an animal themed campfire, for example:

Alice the Camel

Animal Fair

Old Macdonald/Lord Bath had a safari park

My Aunt Grete

Kookaburra

Ants Go Marching

Three little fishes

Be kind to your web-footed friend

Try to avoid some of the rather negative songs such as Worms or Baby Bumblebee, which may be fun but not quite the right message for the evening!

Lively Games

Bunny Rabbits

Get the children in a circle and name each person in turn – mummy rabbit, daddy rabbit and baby rabbit. In the middle of the circle place a ‘cabbage’ – this could be a beanbag, a hat etc. Then make up a story involving the characters. When a character is mentioned those girls must run around the outside of the circle, go under the arch made by the other two in her rabbit family and get the cabbage – the person who gets the cabbage first wins a point for their rabbit family.

An example: One morning **Mummy Rabbit** woke up and stretched.

Port and Starboard

What about changing the well-known game into an animal theme? Name each wall after a pet – dog, cat, rabbit and horse. Clean the kennel (scrub the floor), groom the horse (stroking action), etc and ‘vet’ can be to rush into the middle of the room.

If you have never played it before: tell the group what to do when you call out the word or phrase – for ‘dog’ they run to the dog side of the room. The last person to get to the wall or carry out the action is out. If you say ‘freeze’ they must stay very still immediately in whatever position they are in and must not move until you say melt.

Drama

Get each group to act out a short play about either a visit to the vets or what you should do if you find a stray animal.

Hints:

- Stray dogs should be reported to the local dog warden (contact the local authority). The warden will kennel the dog and try to identify the owner – by the tag on the collar or a microchip. If the owner does not

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come forward in 7 days then a new owner is found, if possible.

- Other stray animals can be reported to your local animal shelter.
- All sick or injured animals should be taken to a vet. If the animal is a stray the vet must at least administer first aid treatment.
- Injured wildlife can be taken to a wildlife hospital if you know where it is, otherwise they should be taken to a local vet.
- Always ring first before taking an animal to a vet or to an animal charity.
- Small animals should always be transported in a box with ventilation holes or a pet carrier. Hamsters and other very small pets can be transported in their cage. Birdcages should be covered with a towel to calm the bird.
- Dogs should always be restrained in a car either behind a dog grill or on a lead. Loose dogs can cause accidents.

Outdoor Activities

Animal safari

Cut out animal shapes – they could all be the same if you wanted. On each shape write a letter so that they spell out the name of a pet.

Each group must collect the letters (but not the shapes). On their return to their 'camp' they must rearrange the letters to spell out an animal. You might want to colour code the letters so they can collect more than one word but don't make it too difficult for the children to work out the names.

Visits

Arrange a visit to your local animal shelter. If you haven't got a local Blue Cross centre then always check the shelter yourself first to make sure it has a high standard of animal welfare.

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	At the Vets														
<i>Words To Find:</i>	N	B	B	K	C	L	W	D	E	M	J	H	R	V	Y
BANDAGE	V	S	P	B	F	Y	F	R	E	Q	C	I	G	E	P
CUT	G	O	N	B	U	N	U	K	K	V	C	S	I	N	O
EMERGENCY	D	Y	D	O	P	E	R	A	T	E	Y	R	G	I	E
EXAMINE	P	X	S	H	I	L	H	S	A	I	V	A	J	M	M
HELP	H	G	B	G	B	T	S	O	B	Y	D	P	R	A	U
INJURED	M	O	V	P	U	F	A	N	K	X	Z	D	L	X	W
NURSE	U	Y	D	C	K	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	D
OPERATE	N	O	G	T	C	S	U	B	I	R	F	H	T	I	H
SICK	F	L	W	Y	I	R	H	N	N	C	K	U	D	N	T
VACCINATION	H	R	Z	L	S	L	J	T	A	M	C	E	N	Z	T
VET	Z	H	G	E	X	U	E	G	A	D	N	A	B	E	A
XRAY	I	F	W	M	R	X	G	I	H	T	O	D	V	G	Z
	E	W	G	E	E	F	I	S	Z	G	K	Q	A	Z	M
	T	Q	D	K	H	O	B	B	J	G	U	S	Y	X	Q

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Useful websites

www.bluecross.org.uk and www.allaboutpets.org.uk - Information on the work of The Blue Cross and over 70 downloadable leaflets on pet and horse care.

www.guidedogs.org.uk - information on the work of guide dogs

www.dogsforthedisabled.org - the work of dogs that aid disabled people

www.hearing-dogs.co.uk - the work of dogs trained to help deaf people

www.nsarda.org.uk - information on search and rescue dog work

www.thamesvalley.police.uk - to find out about police dogs or the horses in the mounted section

www.petsastherapy.org.uk - the work of animals that are used to visit hospitals and nursing homes