Teacher's notes

Session: Dog scenarios

Session aim: For students to assess the welfare needs of four different dogs and explain who they would help first and why. Challenge the group according to ability using the tips below.

Useful tips
When the students are reading/listening to the scenarios try to encourage them to pick out the important facts. These are going to help them when deciding who needs help first.

When discussing facts with the students try to encourage views from all angles including the dog, the owner and the charity's point of view. Students will need to think about not only the dog's current welfare but also future welfare.

Encourage the students to consider the five welfare needs when reading the scenarios. To be:

- free from hunger and thirst
- free to express normal behaviour
- free from pain, injury and disease
- free from discomfort
- free from fear and distress

When the students have decided who they would like to help first, discuss what advice they could offer scenarios two, three and four while they are waiting for our help.

Session extension
Prioritising which pets to help first is never easy. Get the students to discuss factors that may alter which dogs you take in first. How would it impact the centre if the dog will take a long time to retrain/rehabilitate before they can be rehomed?

Ask the students to decide which case has the best rehoming potential. Where does this dog come on their list of priority?

Can the students come up with any way they could help prevent the dog needing our help in the first place?

Ask the students to list the costs that may occur when a dog stays at Blue Cross for six months.

Blue Cross receives no government or lottery funding. Ask the students to come up with two ways in which the charity could raise funds to care for pets.