Student Learning Objectives. Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. Name some types of companion animals and how they benefit humans.
2. List important characteristics of dogs.
3. Define terminology and care of cats.
4. Describe important concepts in keeping rabbits.
**Recommended Resources.** One of the following resources should be selected to accompany the lesson:


**List of Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities**

- ✓ Writing surface
- ✓ Overhead projector
- ✓ Transparencies from attached masters
- ✓ Copies of student worksheets

**Terms.** The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- Angora fur
- Bitch
- Buck
- Carnivore
- Companion animal
- Declawed
- Doe
- Hairball
- Herding dog
- Hound
- Kindling
- Kitten
- Litter
- Monogastric
- Non-sporting breed
- Normal fur
- Puppy
- Queen
- Rex fur
- Satin fur
- Sporting dog
- Stud dog
- Terrier
- Tomcat
Interest Approach. Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here.

Have an owner bring in his or her well-trained dog. Allow interested students to pet the dog and have the owner demonstrate any tricks the dog knows. Ask the owner to talk about how much time went into training the dog. Have students make a list of questions for the owner about the dog’s diet, grooming requirements, breed, and any other information they want to know about.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Name some types of companion animals and how they benefit humans.

Anticipated Problem: What are some companion animals and how do they help humans?

I. Companionship and pleasure are important to people. A companion animal is an animal that is used to provide humans with fun and friendship through close association.

A. Companion animals are often called pets.
B. Common examples of companion animals are dogs, cats, fish, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, and snakes.
C. Some companion animals also provide service, such as dogs that help people who are visually impaired. Dogs and other animals may also be used to protect property and guard or herd livestock.
D. Companion animals may be used for sporting events. Some people with horses or ponies, for example, may enjoy entering horse racing or rodeoing events.

Use TM–A to illustrate a few examples of different companion animals. Ask students to name any pets that they have and discuss what activities they like to do with their pets.
II. Dogs were kept as companion animals over 10,000 years ago. There are many facts that are important to know about dogs.

A. Even though most dogs eat processed dog food, they are carnivores by nature. A carnivore is a meat- or flesh-eating animal.

B. Dogs are monogastric mammals. Monogastric describes an animal with only one stomach compartment.

C. The scientific name for dogs is Canis familiaris. Since their family name is Canidae, they are often called canines.

D. A mature female dog is called a bitch. A mature male dog is called a sire or stud dog. The process of a bitch giving birth is called whelping. An immature dog of either sex is called a puppy. A group of puppies born to the same parents is called a litter.

E. Dogs have skeletal systems with about 320 bones. Large breeds have larger bones and small breeds have smaller bones.

F. Dogs can weigh anywhere from less than 6 to over 200 pounds at maturity depending on the breed.

G. There are approximately 300 dog breeds. In the United States, the American Kennel Club (AKC) does the classification and record keeping on dog breeds. Based on both use and characteristics, seven classes of dogs have been identified.

1. A herding dog is a dog that is easily trained to help with herding animals like sheep and cattle. It is important to give these dogs a lot of space because they need to run often. Examples: Australian Cattle Dog, Shetland Sheepdog, Collie, German Shepard.

2. A sporting dog is a dog used for sporting purposes like hunting. Sporting dogs can be used for retrieving, finding, and scaring out game animals. Examples: Spaniels, Retrievers, Setters, Pointers.

3. A working dog is a dog that is used by people to help get something done like protection of property, sled pulling, or police work. Examples: Alaskan Malamute, Doberman Pinscher, Saint Bernard, Rottweiler.

4. A hound is a dog used for tracking because it has a good ability to follow scent. Hounds are used by hunters to locate game animals and by law officials to track lost people or people who have escaped from confinement. Examples: Beagle, Greyhound, Basset, Dachshund.

5. A terrier is a dog that digs into the ground to capture its prey. There are 25 terrier breeds that are recognized by the AKC. Examples: Miniature Schnauzer, Airedale, Scottish Terrier, Bull Terrier.

6. Toy breed is a name describing a class of dogs that weigh between 4 and 16 pounds. They live longer than larger breeds and are easier to keep in a smaller area because of their size. Examples: Chihuahua, Toy Poodle, Yorkshire Terrier, English Toy Spaniel.
7. The final class is the non-sporting breed of dogs. This class includes dogs that were developed for purposes other than sport. Examples: Dalmatian, Bulldog, Poodle.

Use TM–B to show the major external parts of a dog. Use TM–C to illustrate some examples of different dog breeds. Ask students what breed of dog they have, if any. Have them describe some characteristics of the dog. Also have them list some of the things they do to help care for the dog.

Objective 3: Define terminology and care of cats.

Anticipated Problem: What are some important facts to know about cats?

III. Cats are very common in the United States. Around 60 million cats are kept as companion animals. There are many facts to learn about cats’ biology, anatomy, and terms associated with them.

A. Cats can live up to 30 years, but most only live between 12 and 18 years.

B. A mature male cat is called a tomcat. A mature female cat is called a queen. A baby cat of either sex is called a kitten. A group of kittens born to the same parents is called a litter.

C. Typically, cats weigh between 6 and 15 pounds at maturity. They have approximately 250 bones and 500 muscles. Their life processes are similar to other mammals.

D. Even though most cats are fed cat food designed especially for their needs, by nature they are carnivores that can feed on mice and rats.

E. Cats differ from other animals because they have extra sensitive ears, noses, and paws. They also have extra taste organs and can therefore distinguish between foods. Cats have three-dimensional vision and their whiskers are attached to nerves that help cats to find their way in the dark.

F. Other animals in the cat family include lions and tigers. Cats are similar to these wild animals because their foot structures are closely designed.

G. Since cats are domesticated, their owners often have them declawed so they don’t damage carpeting, furniture, and curtains. Declawed means that the cat’s claws are surgically removed by a veterinarian. It is important to keep cats that are declawed inside because they no longer have their most important defense mechanism.

H. The skeletal system of a cat is very complex. This complex system allows cats to be quick and agile in order to survive outside a house.

I. There are many different classes and breeds of cats. The main choices are purebred or the common house cat that is not purebred. There are two classes of purebred cats—short-haired and long-haired. There are 36 breeds found in the U.S.

1. Short-haired breeds are popular because they are less work than long-haired breeds. They require little to no brushing and have less hair to shed. Examples: Rex, Siamese, American Shorthair, Japanese, Burmese, Japanese Bobtail, Manx, Russian Blue, Korat, Egyptian Mau.
2. Long-haired breeds require more work because they need to be brushed frequently. They often get hairballs because they lick themselves. A **hairball** is a wad of hair that collects inside the digestive tract and blocks the digestion of food. Examples: Turkish Angora, Himalayan, Persian, Balinese, Maine Coon.

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**Objective 4:** Describe important concepts in keeping rabbits.

**Anticipated Problem:** What are some important concepts in keeping rabbits?

IV. All domestic rabbits are descendants of wild rabbits. They are found throughout the world and can become nuisances because of their eating habits and rapid reproductive ability. There are many facts that are important to know about rabbits.

A. The anatomy of wild and domesticated rabbits is the same.

B. A male rabbit is called a **buck**. A female rabbit is called a **doe**. When a female rabbit gives birth, it is called **kindling**. A group of young rabbits born at one time is called a litter.

C. The American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) recognizes 42 different breeds of rabbits. The breeds are broken down into four different fur types.
   1. The first breed type based on fur is called normal. **Normal fur** has long guard hairs that protect a dense undercoat.
   2. The second type is satin. **Satin fur** has luster, is composed of transparent hair, and is finer than normal fur.
   3. **Rex fur** has a very soft feel because it is very dense and the undercoat and guard hairs are the same length.
   4. The final fur type is angora. **Angora fur** is used to manufacture clothing because of its long wool-like fiber.

D. Many people raise rabbits for 4-H and FFA projects. These rabbits may be shown at local and state events. Shows are an opportunity to compete and also to learn more about other breeds and management options. It is also interesting to see how your rabbits compare to those raised by other people.

E. It is important to keep pet rabbits tame and clean so they can be handled without injury to the animal or owner.

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Use **TM–F** to show the major external parts of a rabbit. Have an owner bring in his or her rabbit. Allow interested students to pet the rabbit. Ask the owner to talk about how much time is required to care for the rabbit. Have students make a list of questions for the owner about the rabbit’s diet, grooming requirements, breed, and any other information they want to know about.
**Review/Summary.** Use the student learning objectives to summarize the lesson. Have students explain the content associated with each objective. Student responses can be used in determining which objectives need to be reviewed or taught from a different angle. Use observations as the basis for reteaching areas where student mastery may need improvement.

**Application.** Have students complete WS–A to explore further information about an animal of their choice.

**Evaluation.** Focus the evaluation of student achievement on mastery of the objectives as stated in the lesson. A written test can also be used to assess student achievement of the objectives. A sample written test is attached.

**Answers to Sample Test:**

**Matching**

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. a
5. b
6. f

**Fill-in-the-Blank**

1. working dog
2. kindling
3. hairball
4. Monogastric

**Short Answer**

1. The seven classes of dogs are herding dog, sporting dog, working dog, hound, terrier, toy breed, and non-sporting breed. Examples will vary. See Objective 2 for examples of dogs in each class.
EXPLORING COMPANION ANIMALS

Matching

Instructions. Match the word with the correct definition.

a. carnivore  d. doe
b. tomcat      e. puppy
c. companion animal  f. whelping

1. An animal that is used to provide humans with fun and friendship through close association.
2. A female rabbit.
3. An immature dog.
4. A meat- or flesh-eating animal.
5. A mature male cat.
6. The process of a dog giving birth.

Fill-in-the-Blank

Instructions. Complete the following statements.

1. A _______________ _______________ is a dog that is used by people to help get something done like protection of property, sled pulling, or police work.
2. When a female rabbit gives birth, it is called _______________.
3. A _______________ is a wad of hair that collects inside the digestive tract and blocks the digestion of food.
4. _______________ describes an animal with only one stomach compartment.

Short Answer

Instructions. Answer the following questions.

Name the seven classes of dogs and give an example of each.
MAJOR EXTERNAL PARTS OF A DOG

- Eye
- Crest
- Muzzle
- Withers
- Shoulder
- Croup or Rump
- Thigh
- Tail
- Stifle
- Hock Joint
- Loin Flank
- Brisket
- Elbow
- Forearm
- Chest
- Cheek
- Jaw
- Neck
- Chest
- Pastern
- Pad
- Foot
- Jaw
- Cheek
- Neck
- Croup or Rump
- Withers
- Shoulder
- Thigh
- Tail
- Stifle
- Hock Joint
- Loin Flank
- Brisket
- Elbow
- Forearm
- Chest
- Cheek
- Jaw
- Neck
- Chest
- Pastern
- Pad
- Foot
SOME DOG BREEDS

Welsh Corgi  Shetland Sheepdog  Basset Hound
Scottish Terrier  Golden Retriever  Beagle
Akita  Pekingese  Dalmation
SOME CAT BREEDS

Abyssinian

Manx

Persian

Main Coon
MAJOR EXTERNAL PARTS OF A RABBIT

- Ear
- Eye
- Nose
- Mouth
- Chest
- Toe
- Foot
- Rib
- Flank
- Hock
- Leg
- Tail
- Rump
- Hip
- Loin
- Neck
- Shoulder
PET PROJECT

Directions
1. Choose a companion animal that you are interested in.
2. Research the animal and gather all the information you can find about it.
3. Fill in the information below about the pet.

Information
1. The scientific name of the animal is: _______________________________________________________________
2. The common name of the animal is: _______________________________________________________________
3. Is there a particular breed of this animal that interests you? If so, write it below.
4. List the supplies and equipment needed to care for and keep this animal.
5. What is the vaccination schedule for this animal?
6. Find a picture of the animal and paste it here.