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- Dogs Trust, UK
- Bulgarian Society for Animal Protection & Preservation (BSAPP)



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SOS Dogs Education Booklet

A stray dog education project for schools





Добре дошли!

*Споделих хляба си с един човек и едно куче. Човекът вече не ме познава, но кучето все още ме помни

"I shared my loaf with a man and a dog; the man does not know me anymore, but the dog still recognises me".

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- This international booklet has been created to help countries with a street dog problem. Packed with fascinating information and enjoyable activities, we hope that this booklet will not only persuade you to have your dogs neutered, yet also encourage you to persuade others to do the same.
- "In the long term, control of reproduction (that is neutering) is by far and away the most effective strategy of dealing with a problem of surplus dogs."
(*THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION – www.who.dk*)
- This booklet aims to help communities who have street dogs – and has been devised for young people.
- The aim of this project is to benefit dogs and your community by eventually having fewer dogs living on the streets.
- How will we do this? By a method known as 'catch, neuter and return'.
- A national programme is planned where each municipality will be responsible for introducing an ongoing catch, neuter, return programme in their area.
- In order to help meet this challenge an education programme has been developed for use by teachers in schools, to support and encourage an understanding of the need and values of such work to the whole community.
- This booklet has been written by the Dogs Trust in the UK and The Bulgarian Society for Animal Protection and Preservation (BSAPP), in conjunction with Romanian teachers based on their experiences in Oradea, Romania.

Everyone (people and animals) need food and water to live, but we also have needs such as love and kindness.

People should be caring and compassionate to all living things. All animals deserve respect.

Why should we care?

Think about these questions:

- Would you like to live on the street with no shelter?
- How would it feel not to be able to find enough food or water?
- Would you prefer people to be nice to you or chase you and shout at you?

Now you can begin to see why it is so important that we care about the dogs that live on the streets.

Dogs have feelings too and they can bring a lot of good things to our lives such as encouraging us to take some exercise. Did you know that experts have shown that people who have a dog tend to live longer?!

By reading this booklet, you will understand that dogs can help us in many ways. Isn't it only right that we help them too?

Background Information



These activities require reflection, opinions and discussion. It is important that they are overseen by adults in order to ensure that the appropriate conclusions are achieved. They have been devised for young people so they can be used in English lessons, yet could also form a basis for any activities or discussions in Citizenship classes. All worksheets are photocopiable and packed with information and enjoyable activities.

What is 'catch, neuter and return'?

This method has long been recognised by the WHO (World Health Organisation) and animal welfare organisations as the ONLY effective and humane method of controlling street dog populations.

It is the long term solution to the problem of there being too many dogs on the street. Having so many street dogs means not only that there may be a danger of people being hurt, but also that the dogs can suffer from lack of food, water and shelter. Some people who do not like dogs may try to hurt them.



Why does 'catch, neuter and return' (CNR) work?

'Catch, neuter and return' is successful as it prevents existing street dogs from reproducing. Removing dogs from an area only allows other dogs to move in to the space they have left behind. Preventing dogs from reproducing means the population will not grow and, over time, it will reduce.

The CNR Programme

This will be set up with the co-operation of your Mayor and in conjunction with an international animal welfare charity. The dogs will be caught, taken to the clinic or mobile unit, neutered, given a health check and any sickness treated. Neutered dogs will have their ear 'tipped' and will be given a coloured collar so we know they have been neutered. We will then give them time to recover before returning them to the area they came from – this could be as many as 5 - 10 dogs a day.

In this way, we hope to reduce the number of puppies and therefore control the dog population. We hope the local community will continue their care for the dogs, such as feeding them. This may take a long time, but it will work!



Glossary:

Neutering (*sterilizare*)

Neutering is a very simple operation, carried out under general anaesthetic, to remove the reproductive organs. It is a guaranteed way of preventing dogs from producing more puppies. It is safe, humane and effective.

Return (*a elibera, a da drumul pe strada*)

The dogs are returned to the area they were collected from to ensure that they are accepted back into their pack.

Rehoming (*a gasi o noua locuinta/casa*)

Giving a home to a dog that doesn't have one. Why not give a home to a dog from a shelter? It will be health checked and make a wonderful friend.



Why Neutering Works



Question: Why do dogs mate?

Answer: Because dogs, like all animals, have a very strong mating instinct, over which they have no control.

Question: What does this mean in practice?

Answer: It means dogs will try to have more puppies

FACT: A female dog, a bitch, usually comes into season (on heat) twice a year. This can last for one month. During that time male dogs will do almost anything to mate with her.

Question: Why is this such a bad thing?

Answer: You can see the answer all around you - too many street dogs.

FACT: During this time male dogs can become aggressive as they search for the females on heat, who give off a distinctive smell. The males will have only one thing on their mind and don't care where or how they get it!

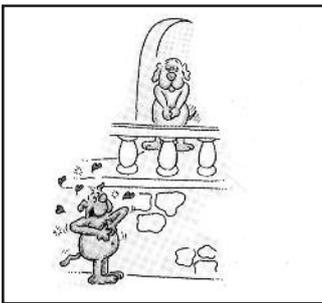
Question: What does neutering involve?

Answer: Males are castrated; females are spayed (have their reproductive organs removed). The dogs are given an injection to put them in a deep sleep so that they don't feel a thing.

FACTS: Neutering usually makes dogs friendlier, less aggressive, cleaner in the home and reduces the chance of some diseases. The population of stray dogs in any town depends on the amount of food, water and shelter available. Killing or removing most of the stray dogs has no effect on the long-term population. If there is food available dogs will go to that area and breed.

Question: What can I do?

Answer: Understand that dogs are living animals who feel pain just as we do. They deserve to be treated nicely and with respect - don't throw stones at them, chase them or kick them – it is not their fault that they live on the street.



Now read what THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION says:

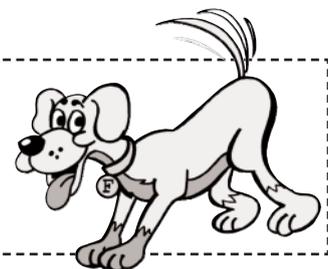
“REMOVAL AND KILLING OF DOGS SHOULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH A PROBLEM OF SURPLUS DOGS ... IT HAS NO EFFECT WHATSOEVER ON THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM”.

So what do they agree will work?

“IN THE LONG TERM, CONTROL OF REPRODUCTION (NEUTERING) IS BY FAR AND AWAY THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY”.

Activity

Write and design a leaflet on reasons why dogs should be neutered.



Problems and Solutions



Below are a series of statements about the problem of street dogs and ways in which this problem can be solved. Some of these answers will become clearer when you have finished going through this booklet.

1
The number of street dogs in any one area depends on the amount of food, water and shelter available.

True False

2
Neutering, like other operations, is very expensive

True False

3
There are too many dogs on the street.

True False

10
Dogs have feelings and can feel pain just like people

True False

4
Rounding up dogs and dumping them elsewhere is a good idea.

True False

9
Regular healthchecks of the street dogs will keep them healthy and prevent disease

True False

5
Neutering dogs is the only long-term solution, not poisoning or shooting.

True False



8
Free Sterilisation Clinics, like the ones in Sofia, help street dogs.

True False

7
The only real solution is to kill street dogs.

True False

6
Neutering dogs makes them more dangerous.

True False

Now check your answers

ANSWERS
1. True, 2. False (it's free at the Oradea clinic), 3. True, 4. False (it just moves the problem), 5. True, 6. False (it makes dogs less aggressive and friendlier), 7. False (it is inhumane, useless and unnecessary), 8. True, 9. True, 10. True.



A Case Study: FPCC in Campina



As a case study we are going to look at a 'catch, neuter and return' scheme which began in Campina, Romania; where thousands of dogs have already been helped in this way. The service is provided by a small charity, The FPCC (The Fundatia pentru Protectia Cainilor Comunitari), which started its own dog shelter and clinic in 2001.

The FPCC was set up to provide a completely free service to help reduce the number of dogs on the streets and to assist the community in which people live, work and go to school.

At the clinic, the dogs are neutered so they can't have puppies. Once the dogs have been treated they are returned to the area where they were collected from. This is a more effective and humane way of dealing with the problem, and no suffering is involved.

So far in Campina, they have neutered and returned over 2,500 dogs. But there is a long way to go yet!

The FPCC is a non-profit making foundation, which means they don't make any money from it. They are there to help. The FPCC know which dogs need neutering as they don't have a mark on their ear. If the dog has a mark on it's ear and a red collar then it has already been caught and treated by the FPCC.

This is a photo story about a dog that the FPCC has helped.

Sara and the FPCC

Sara had been living on the streets all her life. She had no home.



One day a trained dog worker stopped to talk to Sara. She was not sure whether the man was going to hurt her but he seemed very gentle.



The man picked Sara up and put her in a cage. She didn't really understand what was happening, but he was very quiet and this helped her feel calm.



After a short journey she was taken from the van and to a clinic. She was put in a room where there were some other dogs and she began to relax a bit more.



Sara was given a small injection which made her feel very sleepy. Whilst she was in a deep sleep, the vet* operated on her so that she could not have any more puppies (neutered).



Before she woke up, the vet put a small mark on her ear and a red collar round her neck to show that she had been neutered.



Sara stayed a few days in the clinic to rest after the operation.



Sara was then taken back by the dog worker to where she had come from, and released back to her dog family.

* A vet is an animal doctor.

'How Sensible Are You?'

Start

	<p>Your dog is ill and you take it to a vet. Move forward 3 spaces</p>			
		<p>You keep your dog on a chain. Go back 4 spaces</p>		
<p>You give a home to a dog from a shelter. Move forward 6 spaces</p>				
<p>You forget to walk your dog. Go back 4 spaces</p>		<p>You tell your friends about neutering. Move forward 3 spaces</p>		
<p>CONGRATULATIONS You are kind and responsible to the dogs in your community. WELL DONE!</p> 	<p>You are unkind to a dog. Go back to the start</p>			<p>You feed your dog regularly. Move forward 2 places</p>

- The aim of the game is to reach the winner's trophy first.
- Players spin the spinner (on the inside back page).
- The person with the highest number goes first.
- Players take turns to spin and move their counter around the trail. If a player spins a six they can move their counter and get a bonus spin.
- When a player lands on a grey square they must follow the instructions.



You forget to feed your dog.
Miss a turn



You have your dog neutered. Have another spin



You give a home to a dog from a shelter. Move forward 6 spaces

Your dog has puppies. Go back 7 spaces



You can't be bothered to play with your dog. Go back 3 spaces

You give your dog a lot of attention. Move forward 4 spaces



You don't train your dog. Go back 2 spaces



Dogs and Numbers



Too many street dogs is a big problem. We can reduce the number of unwanted puppies being born by collecting them and taking them to the neutering clinic. Here, they will be neutered, which helps to keep them healthy and will stop them from having more unwanted puppies.

This picture will help you understand how quickly dogs can reproduce and have puppies. Assuming that each pair of dogs will have at least four puppies a year and that in each litter there are 2 female and 2 male dogs, see how quickly their numbers grow from the original pair of dogs.

Don't forget that this picture is based on just one pair - the cycle will be repeated for each pair of dogs that have puppies.



(1 year)



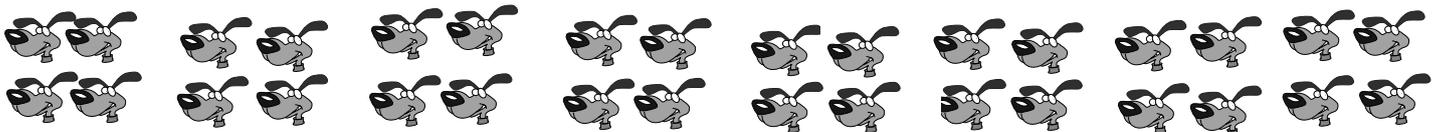
(2 years)



(3 years)



(4 years)



Can you work out how many puppies there would be after:

- 5 years?
- 6 years?
- 7 years?
- 8 years?
- 9 years?
- 10 years?

Remember that in real life not all dogs will have 4 puppies; some dogs can have a litter of up to 7 puppies. Just imagine how many 1000's of puppies can be produced from just one pair of dogs.

Now check your answers

ANSWERS: 5 years: 64 6 years: 128 7 years: 256 8 years: 512 9 years: 1024 10 years: 2048





Dogs often make the news on television and in newspapers because they may have helped someone in a special way. Below are a series of stories about extremely loyal, courageous and intelligent dogs; in some cases quite extraordinary stories.

When you have read each one, put a tick in one of the boxes to say whether you think the story is true or false.

One dog; two rescues



On two occasions a family pet saved the day. On Monday Antonia's dog Nela saved the 5 year old from the river when she fell in. Two days later Nela broke her leg when she jumped from a cliff to save a child who had fallen.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dogs who help blind people



When Timmy was just 6 weeks old he started to learn how to be a good guide dog. The training he had makes him a vital part of his owner's life. He helps Rosa, who is blind, find her way safely through crowded streets everyday and helps her deal with dangers like road traffic. He can even judge the height and width of things like ceilings and corridors so that she won't hurt herself!

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sylvia rescues baby



Sylvia, the dog, searched a ruined building for two hours before alerting her handler to a trapped baby. She wriggled through a tiny gap in the wall to emerge with the baby unharmed.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dogs who help deaf people



A hearing dog for a deaf person is like a guide dog for a blind person - only they act as their owners' ears and alert them to sounds like the doorbell and telephone. Tilly has been a hearing dog for 2 years, and has already saved her owner from being hit by a car. A hearing dog has very special training to make sure they don't forget any of the sounds they need.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Helping the disabled



Ramona has needed a wheelchair since a bad accident 7 years ago left her unable to walk. Her specially trained dog Jack helps her do all sorts of important tasks. Jack assists her in everyday things like shopping and getting dressed, he is also trained to get help in an emergency.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOW

In the empty box, write your own story for your local newspaper about a heroic dog.

OR

Put one of the stories above into cartoon form to explain it to young children who cannot read.

Bull Terriers: heroes or villains?



In some countries Bull Terriers are considered too dangerous, but one man owes his life to his pet Bull Terrier. His dog woke him in the middle of the night with frantic barking, as the bedroom filled with smoke. He was able to get out alive from his burning house thanks to his Bull Terrier.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now check your answers

ANSWERS: All the above stories are true. This should not surprise you because dogs are very loyal to their owners; repaying the kindness their owners show them. Dogs can, indeed, be man's best friend.



I Understand...



The statements and pictures below are for you to use to spread the word. You could use them to help you write a letter to your local newspaper about your feelings.

...REHOMING A DOG MEANS IT WILL HAVE A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE LIFE.

...DOGS DESERVE OUR RESPECT.

...DOGS ON THE STREETS ARE EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

...I CAN HELP BY TELLING MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS ABOUT NEUTER AND RELEASE SCHEMES.

...A DOG CAN BE A GOOD FRIEND.

...NEUTERING IS A SIMPLE AND PAINLESS OPERATION.

...LESS DOGS MEAN LESS COMPETITION FOR FOOD. NEUTERING MEANS THERE WILL BE LESS DOGS.

A NEUTERED DOG IS A STAY AT HOME DOG, AS IT NO LONGER FEELS THE NEED TO ROAM LOOKING FOR A MATE

Some of the illustrations have a blank space underneath for you to write in your own statements. One box is completely empty for you to put an illustration and statement. Good luck!

...NEUTERING IS THE ONLY LONG TERM SOLUTION TO TOO MANY STREET DOGS.

...NEUTERING MAKES DOGS LESS AGGRESSIVE.

...IF DOGS BREED AND BREED AND BREED WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

...DOGS NEED ATTENTION TO STOP THEM GETTING BORED.

Blank space for illustration and statement.

The Promise



Bulgarian Society for Animal Protection and Preservation

This is one way in which you can help.
Why not encourage your friends to copy it and make 'The Promise'?
Once you have signed it you should display it and be very proud of the
support you have shown dogs that need your help.

I PROMISE I WILL:



Treat all dogs with kindness.



Remember that a dog is a living creature.



Do all I can to help the dogs in my town.



Encourage people to have their dogs
vaccinated and neutered.



Ask my friends to help.

SIGNED:



If we could speak, we would say:
T H A N K Y O O O O O U !





CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

age _____

of _____

has completed the

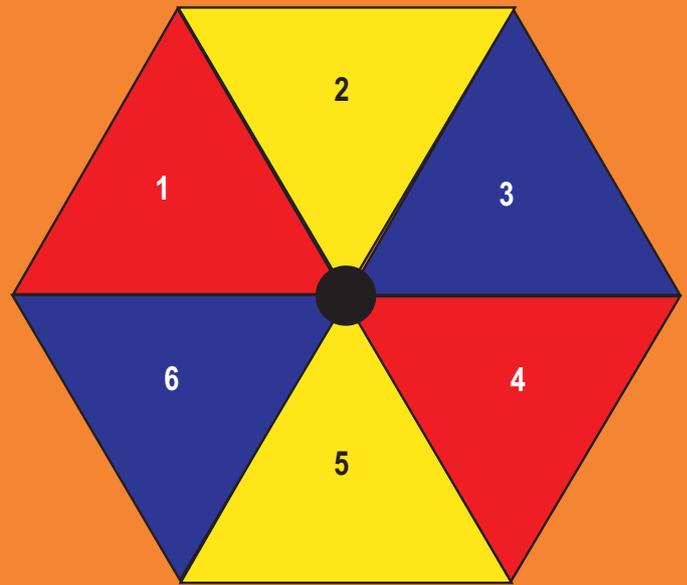
SOS DOGS EDUCATION BOOKLET

This project helps to encourage the responsible treatment of dogs in the community.

Signed:..... School Representative



Counters and Spinner for the Board Game (see pages 7 and 8)



To make a spinner copy the template above, or cut this one out. Then push a pencil through the middle for it to spin on. Whichever side is touching the ground when it falls is your number to move. Above are some counters which you can cut out, or you can make your own.

