

Pet Care Adds Up



Math

Grade 4

Objective

To gain an understanding of the costs involved in properly caring for a pet.

Standards--Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

§111.16. Mathematics, Grade 4.

(14) Underlying processes and mathematical tools. The student applies Grade 4 mathematics to solve problems connected to everyday experiences and activities in and outside of school. The student is expected to: (A) identify the mathematics in everyday situations; (B) use a problem-solving model that incorporates understanding the problem, making a plan, carrying out the plan, and evaluating the solution for reasonableness.

(3) Number, operation, and quantitative reasoning. The student adds and subtracts to solve meaningful problems involving whole numbers and decimals. The student is expected to: (A) use addition and subtraction to solve problems involving whole numbers.

Skill

Students will be able to calculate the expenses associated with owning a pet.

Materials

Pet supply catalogs, Web sites, and circulars, as well as information provided by local veterinarians, pet-care providers (such as boarding kennels, sitters, humane societies, and groomers), and municipal agencies.

Activity

Students will gather and compare information about pet care costs using the above sources.

Helpful Background Information

www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/
www.healthypet.com/library.aspx

Procedure

1. Explain to students that a major factor in pet selection is the cost of caring for a pet.

2. Divide the class into groups and assign each a different pet, such as a dog, cat, horse, hamster, gerbil, or rabbit.
3. Distribute pet care literature so that students can become more familiar with the needs of the animal they've been assigned. Then help each group brainstorm a list of expenses associated with caring for the pet they've been assigned. These should include not only food and supplies but also adoption, vaccinations, licensing, spaying/neutering, grooming, and boarding fees.
4. Have each group research, call, or write to the sources of information listed above in order to determine the costs for each item on their list. Each group can then create a poster that illustrates their pet's needs and the expenses associated with them. Posters can be displayed in a bulletin board so that costs for different pets can be compared.



To view this lesson plan online, go to www.klrn.org/hand-in-paw