

Journey Through an Animal Shelter



This lesson focuses on Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's role in the community and how the shelter works to improve the lives of residents and animals. Students will use compassion and empathy to understand what it's like for animals in the shelter.

<p>Age level: All Ages</p> <p>Prerequisite: None</p> <p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Number of Participants: Any</p> <p>Number of Educators: 1/2</p>	<p>Materials:</p> <p>Video :</p> <p>“Journey Through an Animal Shelter?” (7 min)</p>
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Instructional Objectives:

- Students will be able to define key words like “all access animal shelter”, “limited access animal shelter”, “pet overpopulation”, “microchip”, “stray”, “spay” and “neuter”
- Students will be able to list ways FWACC cares for animals in its care
- Students will be able to list ways to keep their pets safe and in their homes
- Students will understand animals have feelings and needs, just like humans

Environmental Objectives:

- Students should use kind words and demonstrate compassion

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Tell the students that today they will be learning about Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control and the animal shelter does.

- **Ask:** *Who has pets? Dogs? Cats? Small animals? Who got their pet from an animal shelter?*

- Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is what we call an all access animal shelter.

- **Ask:** *Who can raise their hand and tell me what they think that means?*
 - All access means we do not turn away any animal. Besides dogs and cats have cared for peacocks, alligators, raccoons – and lots of other types of animals. You will see some of those different types of animals in this video.
 - We are the only all access shelter in our area.
 - There are “limited access shelters” in our community. Limited shelters can decide what they take in. If they are full they can turn people away.

Body (25 minutes)

- Now we’re going to watch a video so you can learn what it’s like for the animals when they come here. When you’re watching it think about how the animals in the video might be feeling.

- **Play Video (7 minutes)**

When asking the students the following questions let several answer – don’t limit it to just one answer per question. We want to promote differing ideas. When responding to answers from students think about the words you are using. Don’t use words like “right” or “no, that’s not the answer”. We are promoting a safe place where their different opinions and ideas can be shared. If a student says, “animals don’t have feelings” dig deeper and ask why they think that and use examples of how animals show their feelings. (happy to see us when we get home, hide when they are scared, bark, hiss, wag their tails) Be mindful to not use “it” when talking animals – use he or she!

- **Ask:** *How do you think Loki was feeling at the beginning of the video when her family moved and couldn’t take her with them?*
 - Sad? Confused? Lonely? Hungry? Thirsty? Scared?

- **Ask:** *How do you think Loki felt when the Animal Control Officer found her and put her in the carrier to bring her to the shelter?*

- In the video – she said there was a warm blanket and she felt safe. Maybe still a little scared? Unsure?
- **Ask:** *How do you think Bobby, the dog, felt when he chased the squirrel and was lost?*
 - Scared?
 - Spark more conversation – “Have you ever been somewhere and lost your parents? How did/would you feel?”
- **Ask:** *When they were in the Animal Control Officer’s van – Bobby told Loki he had a microchip. Who can tell me again what a microchip is and why it’s important?*
- **Ask:** *When they got to the shelter – Loki talked about how she saw many different types of animals. Can you name some of them?*
 - Lizard, dog, cat, bird, PEACOCK!
 - Review: We saw these animals because we are an all access shelter – and take in ALL animals!
- **Ask:** *Loki said she – like the other animals – had a simple operation so she couldn’t have babies. Does anyone remember what that was called?*
 - Spay for females, Neuter for males
- **Ask:** *Loki said this simple operation was so important to prevent “pet overpopulation”. When she said that more kittens filled the room. Who can raise their hand and tell me what they think that means?*
 - More pets than there are homes for.
- **Ask:** *How do you think Bobby felt when his owner found him – and came to pick him up at the shelter?*
 - Happy!
- **Ask:** *How do you think Loki was feeling when she got adopted and her new owner gave her fresh water, food and fun toys?*
 - Happy! Loved!

Review (10 minutes)

- **Ask:** *Now that you learned a little bit about what we do here to help and care for animals – what do you do at home to keep your pets safe, healthy and happy?*

- Collar, leash, microchip, ID tags, vet visits, vaccines, clean water, food, toys, playing, walks, kindness
- **Ask:** *As we walk through the adoption center – think about how each animal is feeling. Also look for ways we keep them healthy, happy and safe.*