

Paper Bag Pet Parade



Make a paper bag pet and teach it some tricks, then share your tricks with your friends during a special paper bag pet parade

4-H Project Area: Pets

Time: 25 minutes

Life Skills: Social Skills

Materials:

- Handout with pictures of common pets (see attached)
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Scraps of colorful paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Yarn
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LEADING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG MEMBERS, SEE CLOVERBUD LEADER GUIDE

Did You Know?

Having a pet can be very rewarding! In the United States, pet lovers take care of nearly 100 million dogs and cats. However, there are other animals that can be pets, too. Guinea pigs, hamsters, lizards, rabbits, birds, and fish also make good pets. Youth can be involved in deciding what kind of pet is best for their family and can help research possibilities.

People like different kinds of pets depending on where they live and what they like to do.

Even if youth don't have a pet at home, this activity will get them thinking about the qualities they would want in an animal companion.

THE ACTIVITY



Ask

Who has a pet?

What kind of pet do you have?

What do your pets do?

What are some differences among the types of animals that can be pets?

Investigate



Distribute the handout of animal pictures to the children. Tell them to examine the pictures and describe what they notice about the animals' bodies.

Do they have fur? Are there scales on the animal? What kinds of ears do they have?

Point out the different physical features of the animals: tails, feet, ears, fins, etc.

Also ask the youth what would need to be done to care for the animals they are looking at. **How do you take care of a dog? How is that different from taking care of a bird?**

Create

Youth can use their imagination to design their own pet with a paper bag.



- Hand out the paper bags, set out craft materials, and give youth time to build their animal.

Challenge them to include at least two of the

animal parts that they observed when looking at the animal pictures. They should also name their animal.

Share/Reflect

It's time for a paper bag pet parade! Explain that each child will be marching their pet in the parade and will get to share something unique about their paper bag pet.

Arrange the space so that youth can line up for a parade. Invite each youth to introduce their pet to the group and perform their trick.

Ask, What might you need to do to take care of your imaginary pet?

They should tell the group something special about their pet. Continue the parade to show off the paper bag pet creations to any friends and family members who are present.

Ask, What did it feel like to parade with your pet?

What was the hardest part of doing the pet parade? What was the easiest part?

If you could have any pet in the world, what would it be? Why?

Relationship to 4-H

4-H exhibits at public events (like county fairs) are usually evaluated by a judge. Youth will need to be able to talk to others about what they learned and did in 4-H. Youth may be shy about speaking in front of a group or talking with someone they do not know, so it is important to provide opportunities to practice these skills throughout the year.

