# Those Honest Pets!

Pets are probably the most honest creatures of all. They are truthful, trustworthy and sincere in their personalities and their emotions. For instance, a dog will jump up and down and wag his tail furiously when his loved one comes home…he doesn't try to disguise his feelings! If your cat doesn't want to be loved and cuddled he'll also be sure to let you know he wants down!

Can you name some ways that your pet is honest and upfront with his / her emotions?  Take the time to note your pet's positive characteristics and allow him to be a teacher to you. Animals have so much to teach us if only we would open our eyes and our hearts.

As humans, many times we try to hide what we feel because we are afraid or embarrassed of what other people think. Animals wear their hearts on their sleeve.

As an extra credit activity, have students observe their pet for a week or a fellow student's pet. Have students keep a journal of their pet's honest emotions. Have them write a story concerning their pet's honesty, sincerity and trustworthiness. Choose two students to share their stories with the class.

*"My Dog Skip" is an excellent movie that displays the honesty and loyalty of a dog. If students don't own a pet they can observe Skip's character and write a story based on the movie.*

# Adopting a Pet!

- At the Humane Society of Broward County, we adopt hundreds of homeless dogs and cats each week. The majority of the dogs and cats we receive are turned in by their families who no longer want them…it is very sad.

- We expect that if a person turns an animal into the Humane Society that they will give us an honest reason why they can no longer care for their pet. It is very important that they are honest with us so we can let the next family know why this pet was given up.

- We also ask the family turning in the pet to give us personal information regarding the pet's personality. Again, it is very important they are honest! We want to know if the pet has any bad habits, if they like children, other pets etc. This way we can place them in the best possible home and the potential family knows what to expect from their pet.

- When a family comes to adopt a pet, we ask many questions to be sure that they will be a good responsible home to the dog or cat. We hope that people will be honest with their answers so we can match the pet with a good responsible home. The pet's well-being is always our first priority.

# Play the Adoption Game!

1. Divide students into groups of five or more.
2. Have the groups come up with a list of 10 questions they feel are important for someone adopting a dog, cat or rabbit. What specific things do they feel would qualify a person to be a good responsible owner of a dog or cat or other pet?
3. Have each group select two members of the group to play the Adoption Counselor and the Adopter in front of the entire class.
4. Have them sit in front of the class in chairs facing each other.
5. Have the Adoption Counselor ask the 10 questions to the Adopter.
6. Stress the importance of "HONESTY."
7. After asking each of the 10 questions aloud, have the class take a vote whether or not this person would make a suitable adopter. Why or why not?
8. Repeat the game with each group.

*This lesson was provided by the Humane Society of Broward County.*
*We offer a variety of free education programs! Please call 954-266-6848*

# Honesty

**Discussion points: What makes an animal a pet? Does the fact that you can buy an animal at a pet store make it a pet? Does the fact that you can put an animal in a cage make it a pet? Does bringing an animal into your house make it a pet? What makes an animal wild? Should we try and make wild animals into pets? Why or why not? Should we release pets (like dogs and cats) into the wild? Why or why not? Students should complete the following page and discuss their findings with each other.**

# Which are wild, which are pets?

Draw a line from each PET to the house. Draw a line from each WILD ANIMAL to the forest.