

# Kindness Counts!



Now is the perfect opportunity for your students to do something kind for the community in which they live!

The Humane Society of Broward County is a non-profit organization. We rely 100% on the community to help us care for over 200 homeless animals a week. Our mission

Here are just a few ways the kids **can let their kindness shine** by helping a less fortunate group - the homeless dogs and cats of Broward County.



## 1. **HOLD A TOY DRIVE:**

The dogs and cats at the Humane Society spend the majority of their time inside their cage during their stay with us. To make their stay a little less stressful we would love it if every dog or cat had at least one toy. These are the types of toys we're looking for:

*Dogs:* Rubber Kongs, Nylabones, large rubber toys, soft stuffed toys. We cannot use small toys and tennis balls as they fall down our drains.

*Cats:* Ping pong balls, plastic balls and play mice. We need toys that we can wash and use over and over.

*Other Pets:* We also need toys for rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs!

2. **HOLD A TOWEL/BLANKET DRIVE**

Our shelter uses a lot of towels and blankets for lots of different things. We use them for bedding, bathing and after surgery. We prefer large white towels and gently used blankets if possible.

3. **MAKE OUR WISHES COME TRUE!**

Visit our Web site to view our Wish List on items that we are always in need of. ([www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com)) The Humane Society goes through loads of laundry detergent, paper towels, newspapers and dozens of other things.



**THANK YOU!**

*This lesson was provided by the Humane Society of Broward County. We offer a variety of free education programs! Please call 954-266-6848 or visit our website for more information.*

# Kindness



## No More Chains for Dogs!

Discuss: Close your eyes and imagine if you had to stay outside all of the time. No matter if it rained, snowed, was hot or cold, night or day, you had to stay outside all by yourself. You get bitten by bugs all the time. The sun beats down hard. You can't walk or run, you can only sit and lay down. You have no choice but to eat, sleep, sit and go to the bathroom all in the same place. You can hear people in the distance, but still you sit alone, all day, every day. What do you think this life would be like?

Sadly, this is the life that many dogs face because their owners keep them chained up all of the time.

Not only is this a cruel thing to do to dogs, but it also causes a dangerous situation for humans. Fortunately, many cities in our area have recognized this as a serious problem and they have made the constant chaining dogs illegal. But, many cities still have not.

### Background

Dogs that are chained up outside suffer because dogs are social animals. Wild dogs like wolves live in large groups called packs. They depend on their pack for everything they need – food, shelter, companionship, etc. You will almost never see a wild dog living on his own. But, thousands of years ago when humans domesticated dogs, they took over that pack role. Now, dogs depend on people for the food, shelter, and companionship they need. Dogs that are forced to live outside by themselves all of the time away from their pack, especially those that are chained to a tree, will suffer from a great deal of stress and loneliness. Their health may suffer and it could shorten their lives.

It is also very dangerous for people, especially for children, when a dog is kept chained up all of the time. When dogs don't get the social interaction they need, they can become withdrawn and untrusting of people. They know that they are stuck where they are, unable to flee from the danger of other animals or cruel people. Naturally in response, they become aggressive and territorial. Chained dogs are much more likely to bite than unchained dogs.

### How you can help

Check to see if your city is one of the cities that have passed laws against the constant chaining of dogs. A good place to look would be the city's official website (look up 'Animals' in the municipal codes/ordinances section.) If your city has no laws against it,

write to your commissioners to let them know you are in support of such laws! If your city does ban it, why not write to the Broward County Commissioners instead?

Do you know someone that keeps their dog chained up all of the time? Kindly let them know that the Humane Society of Broward County would be happy to help them and to call us at 954-266-6815.

How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it! ~ George Elliston