



Pets Like U (Pre-Field Trip Activity 3-6)

We are pleased you'll be participating in the Meet the Pets field trip program at PetSmart!

The following activities are suggestions to provide background knowledge and prepare students for the upcoming field trip.

Before the Trip: Activate Knowledge

Inform the students that the class will visit a pet store to learn about basic pet care and the characteristics of major animal groups. Discuss what students might experience on the field trip. Highlights will include the following, and more:

- Seeing fish, birds, reptiles and small pets
- Understanding how each animal group has similar and differing needs for habitat, socialization, diet, and exercise
- Recognizing basic knowledge for pet care and preparing to take care of a pet in school or home
- Identify how humans and animals are alike and different

Then introduce the following terms before going on the field trip. You may want to focus on these keywords so they are fully recognized during the trip, or you may decide to casually introduce the terms and challenge students to listen on the trip for their use and understanding in context.

basic needs - all living things need food, air, water and shelter to help them survive and thrive

habitat – the immediate environment or home an animal lives which helps provide and require different needs for the animal such as temperature, structure and food supply

diet – what an animal needs to eat in order to survive and grow

behavior – how an animal generally acts or prefers to interact with its environment and other animals

socialization – the amount of contact that an animal prefers to have with other animals that are alike or different than themselves

community – animals that share a similar habitat or living space

compatibility - the ability for animals to live and socialize with one another; compatible animals get along whereas incompatible animals do not get along very well

cold-blooded - animals that depend on the temperature of their environments or habitats to maintain their body heat (reptiles, fish)





warm-blooded - animals that can maintain or control their body heat in partnership with their environments (mammals, birds)

bonus words: gills, camouflage, humidity, nocturnal, migrate

Finally, have students complete the pre-activity sheet "Pet Needs" as individuals or as a group.

Look at the results to get an idea of where the group may be in their understanding of animal groups and their basic needs.

Write what you know about the needs of each pet group:

	diet	habitat	socialization & care
 small pets (mammals)			
 fish			
 birds			
 reptiles & amphibians			