

# Pets need what people need

## OBJECTIVE

Children will be able to identify the basic needs of humans and pets. They will understand that because these needs are the same, our pets should be considered as part of our family.

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

A parent/guardian will lead children in a discussion about what basic needs humans and pets have while comparing and contrasting them. Children will analyze pages in the book, *Buddy Unchained*, and be able to identify what basic needs Buddy is missing.

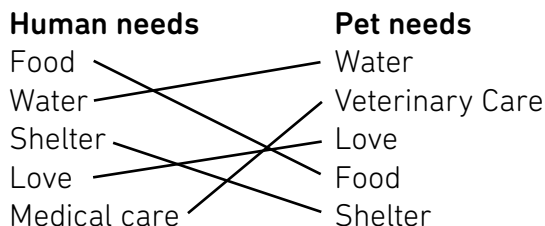
## MATERIALS

- *Buddy Unchained* by Daisy Bix; a video reading of the story will be posted online as well as pictures of a few of the pages to aid you with the lesson
- Paper and pencil

## ACTIVITY

### Procedure

1. Ask children to think of something that all humans need (food, water, shelter, love, etc.). List items in a column on the left side of a paper under "Human Needs."
2. Ask children to think of something that all pets, no matter what kind of animal it is, need. List items in a column on the right side of a paper under "Pet Needs."
3. Draw a line to connect similar items in each column, i.e. (see example below)



4. Explain how human needs and pet needs are similar and help children come to the conclusion that pets should be treated and provided for as a member of their family.
5. Show the video of the story reading of *Buddy Unchained*.
6. Show them a specific page in the book, *Buddy Unchained* (see picture downloads for close-ups of 3 pages from the book). Start by showing the page in which Buddy is sitting in snow attached to a chain (caption reads, "When it got very cold, my paws hurt.").

7. While studying the picture, ask children the following questions:
  - What need is Buddy missing in this picture?
  - What would you do if you saw a pet in a similar situation?
  - How is Buddy feeling in this picture?
  - Is there anything that could have been done to prevent this situation?
8. Look at other pages in the book, repeating these questions as you discuss the needs represented in each illustration (whether lacking or present). Explain that since pets cannot meet their own needs, people are responsible for providing them.

### **Additional discussion topics**

- Ask students if they have had any first-hand experiences with animals that have been neglected. Lead them in a discussion about what steps should be taken to help an animal that may be neglected by its owner. Visit the Animal Humane Society's Humane Investigation website for further information on reporting animal cruelty in your community.  
Website: [animalhumanesociety.org/humane-investigations/reporting-animal-cruelty](http://animalhumanesociety.org/humane-investigations/reporting-animal-cruelty)
- Discuss how pets are different from wild animals because pets rely on humans to provide for their needs. Have students name some of the wild animals they've seen in their backyards or local parks. Do wild animals have the same needs as owned pets? Do they require humans to provide for those needs?