

You can be a part of the awareness campaign that promotes pet adoption!

Remember Me Thursday® is a day to honor the orphan pets in need of forever homes and to remember the millions of orphan pets who lost their lives before they found a family. Light a candle to join the movement on the fourth Thursday in September.

COMPLETE A STEM CHALLENGE!

Innovate solutions that will assist in solving the global problem of orphaned pets. Each year thousands of dogs and cats never find their forever home and we can do more to help that. Use the engineering design process along with science, technology, math, and engineering skills to create a multimedia presentation addressing this issue. Your entry could win you a prize! See https://remembermethursday.org/stem-to-the-rescue-contest/ for more details. Submit your presentation to Helen Woodward Animal Center and you could be eligible to win a prize! See the webpage for specific details.

MORE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN REMEMBER ME THURSDAY:

We've included everything to get you started.

- **Share** your skit about the hardships orphan pets face.
- Organize a candle-lighting ceremony in your neighborhood (candle craft template included)
- **Light a virtual candle** at remembermethursday.org on the fourth Thursday of September
- **Drive donations** of pet food for orphan pets in need.
- Create DIY blankets and toys for your local shelter

USE SOCIAL MEDIA

- Use #RememberMeThursday to share your thoughts and feelings about the importance of pet adoption and encourage others to spread the word about Remember Me Thursday.
- Change your social media profile picture to the Remember Me Thursday icon on the fourth Thursday of September. Icons are found at remembermethursday.org.
- Share photos of your pets or candle ceremonies with Helen Woodward Animal Center using #RememberMeThursday on any social media platform and your awareness message and photos may be shared with the world.

Facebook: /HelenWoodwardAnimalCenter

Twitter: @HWAC

(i) Instagram: @HWAC

TikTok: @HWAC





Your Remember Me Thursday[®] Educators KIT includes:

- ACT IT OUT!
 Write your very own screenplay for Remember Me Thursday
 - OVER'POM'PULATION
 A practical exercise that shows the risks of not spaying or neutering our pets
 - REMEMBER ME THURSDAY®

 CANDLE CRAFT
 - MAKE A HEART HAPPY ACTIVITY Partner up and role-play pet adoption
 - HAPPY HEARTS CRAFT 15
 - THE UNHAPPY HEART STORY 17
 - FRIZZY IZZY GOES HOME Story book and coloring pages



Act It Out!

ASSEMBLE YOUR CLASS AND WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A SCREENPLAY RELATING TO REMEMBER ME THURSDAY®.

INSTRUCTIONS

An example of a skit which can be used, created by a rescue group in Puerto Rico, is included for reference. However, you are encouraged to create your own play relating to Remember Me Thursday[®].

The Case of the Abandoned Dogs

A Screenplay written by: Abbie's School Culebra, Puerto Rico Roles (12): combine or rearrange as needed! Come up with creative names of your own for more realism.

- Woman 1/Woman 2
- Girl 1/Girl 2
- Narrator A
- Narrator B
- Vet 1
- Vet 2

- Puppy 1
- Puppy 2
- Puppy 3
- Puppy 4
- Puppy 5
- Puppy 6

(The puppies are in a car yipping happily thinking they are going on some adventure. The car door opens and a girl and a woman get out.)

Woman 1: Get the dogs out of the car.

Girl 1: Come on guys. Everybody out. (The dogs yip and run in circles)
Be good little guys. I hope you have fun.

Woman 1: Come on. Let's go.

Girl 1: Do we really have to leave them all, Mom? (She picks up a stick and throws it to distract the puppies away from the car.)

Woman 1: In the car I said. (Girl 1 gets in and they drive away. The puppies stop playing with the stick and turn to chase after the car.)

Narrator A: For three days the puppies wait in the area they were left.

Puppy 1: I'm hungry. I don't think Girl 1 is coming back for us.

Puppy 2: Why not? We had so much fun playing in the yard together.

Puppy 3: I loved Girl 1. Maybe she doesn't love us anymore. I'm hungry and scared and confused.

Puppy 4: Well, let's get moving. There must be food somewhere around here. Hey look....there's a lizard!

Puppy 5: I don't want an old lizard. I want real food to fill my belly.

Puppy 6: And water to drink. I am so thirsty. This sun is very hot.

Puppy 1: It's scary out here. Where's Mama dog?

Puppy 2: I don't know. I think that mean woman kept her. (The puppies shudder and yelp.)

Puppy 4: Help me hunt, everyone. It will be night soon and then it will be cooler.

Puppy 3: Oh, I don't like the night out here. The noises are scary. The dark is scary. Nothing smells right. I want mama dog.

Puppy 5: Don't cry. You have all of us. We can stick together.

Narrator B: Night time comes. It begins to rain softly. The puppies huddle together. The wind picks up and some thunder is heard. (The puppies whimper and snuggle closer "Brr...I'm scared...Mama...Girl... etc.")

Narrator A: Several more days pass. The puppies survive on trash. They drink from puddles and dirty ponds when they can't find any water. They are thin and tired, confused, and frightened. Days pass into weeks and they find themselves at the edge of a town. Leaving the safety of grass and trees they begin walking on a road. Cars zip by.

Puppy 6: (as a car comes close) Yikes! What was that? (Another car comes) Run! (Tires squeal, Puppy 6 yelps)

Puppy 1: Puppy 6 are you alright?! (Runs over and stays with Puppy 6, the rest of the puppies are too scared and keep running).

Narrator B: Puppy 6 does not understand cars and in her attempt to escape the scary, noisy, speedy monster she is hit and limps from the side of the road. Too many abandoned animals meet their death by vehicles.

Narrator A: Her litter mates run in terror and they get separated. With each day they are more frightened, thin, dirty, and discouraged. The stressful life is taking its toll on the weary travelers.

Puppy 3: This life is too hard. I'm tired and hungry all the time.

Puppy 2: I am so tired and hungry. Please go on without me. I need to sleep.

Puppies 5: You have to try. Come with us. We can't leave you behind!

Puppy 2: I'm sorry. I feel so weak. Please leave me alone. (Lays down to sleep. Other puppies whine.)

Narrator B: Malnutrition weakens an animal's immune system and makes them vulnerable to sickness. Malnutrition makes you tired and can kill you. Just like humans, animals need a healthy diet and clean water.

Puppy 4: Yay! Another trash barrel! Yum! This one has lots of treats!

Puppy 5: Bones! Hamburger! Wow! A feast!!

Puppy 3: Look Puppy 2, food! (Brings some food to Puppy 2).

Narrator A: What the puppies don't realize is that poison has been added to some of the "treats" they have discovered.

Puppy 4: Hey guys...wake up! I am so thirsty. I think that hamburger had some special seasoning in it. It made me so thirsty.

Puppy 5: My stomach hurts, and I am reallly thirsty.

Puppy 3: I feel bad everywhere.

(Puppy 2 and Puppy 3 stay sleeping while Puppy 4 and Puppy 5 go look for water.)

(A mom and daughter come along playing with a ball. They see the puppies sitting on the grass by the road. Puppy 4 hides behind Puppy 5. Puppy 5 barks at the people.)

Woman 2: It's okay little puppy. I won't hurt you.

Girl 2: Do you think it will bite us?

Woman 2: I don't think so. (She squats down) Come little girl.... Girl 2: Look there's another one behind it. Where do you think they came from?

Woman 2: I think they were abandoned. How sad.

Girl 2: Maybe we can help them!

(Woman 2 and Girl 2 walk off, returning in a car. They get out of the car.)

Girl 2: Come little puppy, come. (Girl 2 approaches Puppy 4 and offers her a piece of food and a bowl of water.)

Look how hungry and thirsty she is, Mom!

(Softly) Good puppy.

Woman 2: They're very thin and dirty. We could take them home and call an animal shelter to pick them up. Let's see if they will follow us. Come little dogs. Come on. (The dogs do not follow.)

Girl 2: Come on puppy, you know me. (Puppy 4 starts to approach, but Puppy 5 barks and barks. She will not move.)

Puppy 4: Come on, Puppy 5. Let's go with them. They gave us a good food and water!

Puppy 5: No, I am not leaving Puppy 2 and Puppy 3 behind. I thought we were going to stick together.

(Puppy 4 turns to go back to Puppy 5 and barks and barks.)

Girl 2: I think they want us to follow them. (The dogs bark more and lead them to their siblings.)

Oh my gosh, look! There is another dog....and another one. They are sleeping.

Woman 2: Oh dear, they look quite sick. You are right Girl 2, we cannot just turn our heads and pretend not to see. We need to help; they need a vet.

Girl 2: Do you think they will be okay Mom?

Woman 2: We will soon find out. I think we may have arrived just in time to save them.

(They go to the vet.)

Vet 1: You have 4 pups? Well let's take a look at them in just a moment. We are working on a similar looking puppy with a leg injury. Looks she got hit by a car and another puppy stayed with her. Funny... they could be twins to these little fellas here.

Vet 2: You'd be amazed what we see. Usually people just don't know enough and forget that our pets have feelings too.

Come on little guys, your turn. (Vet1 and Vet 2 take 4 dogs away.)

Girl 2: I really really want the puppies to be okay. I feel so sad for the dogs that are homeless or hurt. My friend says her puppy is her best friend.

Woman 2: I am very proud of you for caring about these little puppies. You did the right thing by helping them. Let's see what the vet says, and maybe we can take one home with us. I think you are big enough to help take care of a pet now, it's a big responsibility!

(Vets come out)

Vet 1: Well, it looks like the puppies will make it. Two of them are quite sick. It looks like they may have eaten some poison. We have them on an IV now and if they make it through the night, they should recover.

Girl 2: What about the other puppies. Do you think we could take them home with us?

Vet 2: We've fixed the one with the broken leg, she's very lucky she didn't get more hurt. They are all thin, hungry, dehydrated, and in need of a good bath, but they should be all be ready to take home in a few days.

Woman 2: All of them? We would be happy to keep one, maybe two.

Vet 1: We can help you learn how to care for them properly.

Vet 2: And we can help you find a shelter for the others. Ask your friends or family who would consider adopting or fostering too!

Narrator A: Only 30% of pets in USA households come from rescue facilities.

Narrator B: Each year over 3.4 million orphaned shelter pets lose their lives without finding their forever home.

Narrator A: Most animals in shelters are actually given up by their families. Moving, divorce, and allergies are some reasons people give up their pets. Other people just can't care for pets if they get medical issues, as can happen with older age. Imagine being loved and then suddenly being tossed out in the street or placed in a shelter's cage. Our companions deserve more than that.

Narrator B: Animals who are not adopted after they enter a shelter are usually euthanized. Almost 3 million shelter animals are euthanized each year because the shelters are too full.

Vet 1: How can we help our pets to be safe and happy? Pets are important members of our families. Dogs are pack animals, so maintaining a healthy bond in their new family is critical. Like a best human friend, dogs are extremely loyal.

Vet 2: Spaying and neutering your animals is the responsible thing to do. Homeless animals outnumber homeless people 5 to 1. We need to help control animal population so man's best friend won't suffer the pains of neglect, abandonment, and animal cruelty.

Puppy 1: We all need love. Dogs give unconditional love. Love them, and they will love you back.

Puppy 2: Dogs need exercise just like us.

Puppy 3: Dogs need shelter and a clean place to sleep just like us.

Puppy 4: Dogs need clean water to drink just like us.

Puppy 5: Dogs need to be fed a healthy diet every day just like us.

Puppy 6: Dogs need to be bathed and brushed from time to time to help them maintain a healthy coat.

Woman 1: Dogs need to visit a doctor when they are sick and should have a checkup every year just like us.

Girl 1: Each pet has its own special personality just like us. Respect your pets for their uniqueness.

Woman 2: Treat your pets like they are your world, because in so many wonderful ways, they are!

Girl 1: Your pets cannot talk with words like we do, but they can express themselves through their actions, their loyalty and their cries. Listen to them and...

Everyone (except the narrators): Be their voice.... We are the voice....we are the voice....we are the voice....

Narrator A and B: Educating people is one of the best ways any of us can help. Join Helen Woodward Animal Center to help shine a light on orphan pets during Remember Me Thursday® – a global awareness campaign that happens every year on the 4th Thursday in September. We can all make a difference and improve the lives of hundreds of shelter animals!

(end)

Over'pom'pulation





INSTRUCTIONS

- Split your class into partners. Give one partner a brown bag filled with poms. The other partner will cup their hands to receive the poms. Explain that each pom represents a cat and the students' cupped hands represent a typical home in the United States.
- 2. The students with the bag of poms will pass them into their partners' hands as you tell the story. The students holding the poms are trying not to let them overflow onto the floor.
- 3. Explain that an unaltered (non-spayed) female cat can begin having kittens at 5 to 9 months old, and can give birth to 1 to 6 kittens per litter every 2.5 months! That adds up to a lot of cats if no one is being spayed or neutered. Unaltered cats are driven by their hormones and sneak outdoors to look for a mate, which is why spaying and neutering is important even if you didn't think your cat would ever have the opportunity to breed.

In January a family adopts a cat and they name her **Snowball (put 1 pom into partner's hands)**. The family loves Snowball very much, but they didn't spay her! Snowball has her first litter of **6 kittens (6 poms)**.

- 3 months pass and it's April, Snowball still isn't spayed, and she has a second litter of 4 kittens (4 poms).
- It's mid-June and Snowball has a third litter of 5 kittens (5 poms), plus her first litter of 6 kittens each has their first litter of 4 kittens (how many is that? 6x4=24 poms)!
- At the end of September, none of the cats or kittens have been spayed, so Snowball has a fourth litter of 3 kittens (3 poms). Her first litter of 6 kittens each has 6 kittens (6x6=36 poms), and her second litter of 4 kittens each has 5 kittens (4x5=20 poms).
- December comes and more kittens are born. Snowball has a fifth litter of 4 kittens (4 poms), Snowball's first 2 litters of 6 kittens and 4 kittens each have 6 kittens (6x6=36 + 4x6=24 = 60 poms), and Snowball's kittens' kittens (litter of 4) each have 3 kittens (4x3=12 poms).

It's only been one year, and there are already 175 cats living in Snowball's house. Can this many cats live in one home? No!

Have students place their poms in the center of a table. We need to find homes for all these cats and kittens; brainstorm as a group how to rehome all of them. As ideas are given take a handful of poms from the pile.

- Shelters have space to take 12 or 20 depending on the facility
- Private rescues can take 15
- Friends, neighbors, other neighborhoods can take a few more (5), because most neighbors already have the number of pets they want.

Where else can they go? There is just nowhere else for them to go. Most of these animals will not be able to find a home and we want every cat and dog to have a home. This is why spaying and neutering is so important and why awareness campaigns like Remember Me Thursday® are necessary. We need to remember the pets in the rescues waiting for a home and pledge to always adopt instead of shop!





Step 1: Cut two thin strips of white construction paper. Cut one square of yellow construction paper and one square of red construction paper.



Step 2: Glue the strips of white construction paper until they make an "L" shape



Step 3: Fold the horizontal strip of paper over itself creating a backwards "L"



Step 4: Fold the vertical strip of paper down, creating an upside down "L"

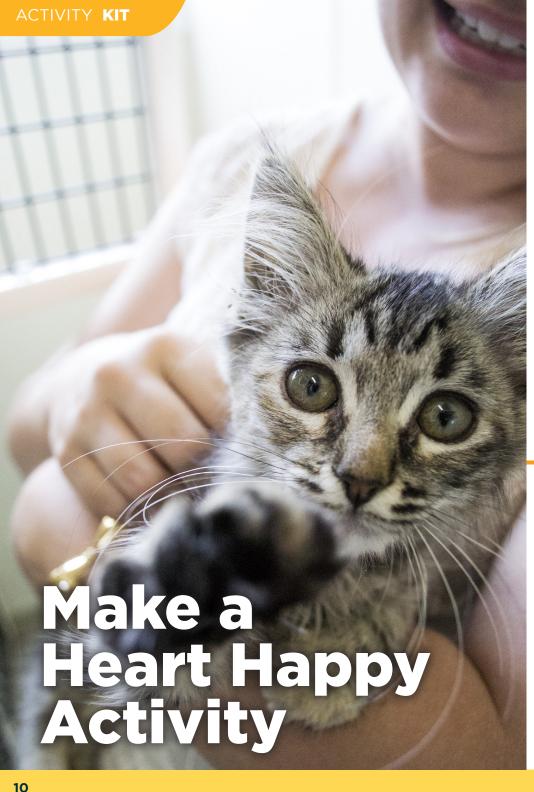


Step 5: Repeat steps 3 & 4 until you have your "candle stick"



Step 6: Cut the red and yellow papers into a "flame" shape and glue on top of the "candle stick"

Step 7: Hold up your candle for a moment of silence in honoring orphan pets.



FOCUS:

To help children understand why adoption is important. Sometimes we may have a perfect pet in mind, but there are many animals still needing homes that still have great potential to bring us joy.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Remember Me Thursday Educators Kit Pet Profiles A Partner

Age Level: 2nd-6th Time: 5-10 Minutes

Number of Participants: 2

- 1. Grab a partner for this activity!
- 2. One will start by describing their "perfect dog/cat" (ie. breed, gender, age, color, personality/characteristics, name etc.)
- 3. The other will "become" one of our adoptable pets and make a plea to be adopted:

Hold up one of the photos included and say the name, breed, age, personality, and then tell your story (ie. "I've been lonely for a long time and have been waiting for my forever family to fall in love with me ... "). After, state your case for why you would make a good pet.

4. Switch roles!

We've included some of our real-life adoptables from this last year to help you along.



Morley

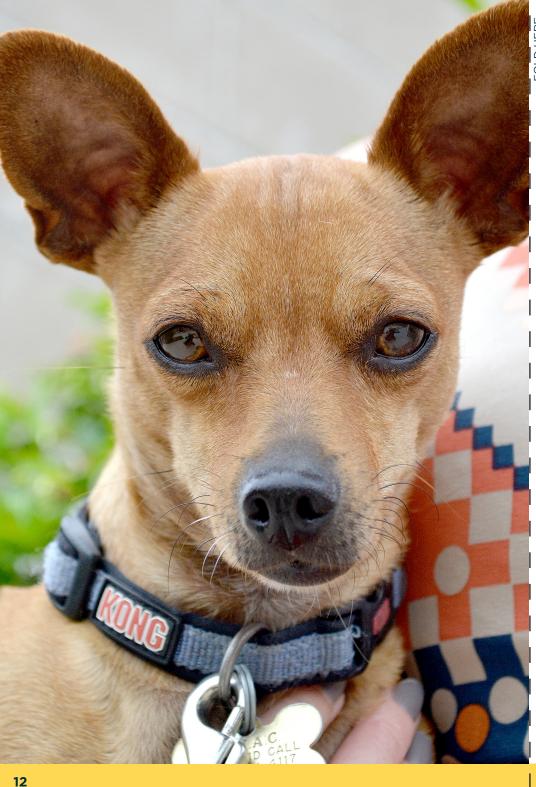
Feline

Male

15 months old

Morley is a snazzily-dressed (see his Tuxedo coat pattern) and handsome fella. He's loves to explore the world around him. He's not shy with new people and will initiate a game of "chase the toy" with any willing visitor. He's also quite the "Romeow" and charms everyone he meets. Need more play in your life? Come meet Morley today!

Morley is waiting to meet you at Helen Woodward Animal Center. He has been altered and is up-to-date on all of his vaccinations. As with all pets adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center. he is micro-chipped for identification.



Wink

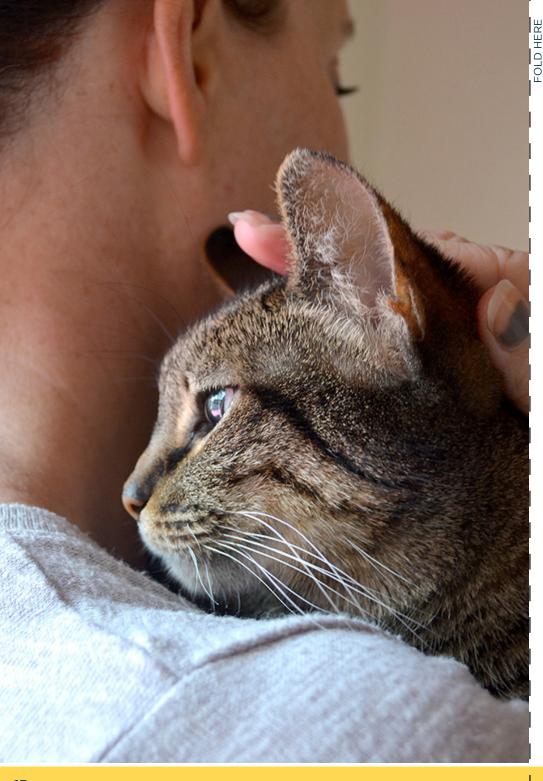
Canine

Female

22 months old

Are you a great motivator and a patient teacher? Do you love to help your friends be their best selves? Wink is a gentle young soul and this Chihuahua blend is looking for a friend who can help her gain confidence in herself. She's a little shy at first, but after a few minutes getting to know you, she melts like butter. She even likes other dogs! Come visit and give us an L-O-V-E for Wink.

Wink is waiting to meet you at Helen Woodward Animal Center. She has been altered and is up-to-date on all of her vaccinations. As with all pets adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center, she is micro-chipped for identification.



Fred

Feline

Male

12 years old

Fred is one handsome fella at the top of his feline game. Not only is he a very capable cuddler, he's a creative one too! He likes to cuddle in the sun and in the shade. He cuddles in his bed and with human friends. He can cuddle while snoozing, while purring, and while playing! This kitty has what it takes to warm your lap and your heart. Come meet him today!

Fred is waiting to meet you at Helen Woodward Animal Center. He has been altered and is up-to-date on all of his vaccinations. As with all pets adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center, he is micro-chipped for identification.



Elizabeth

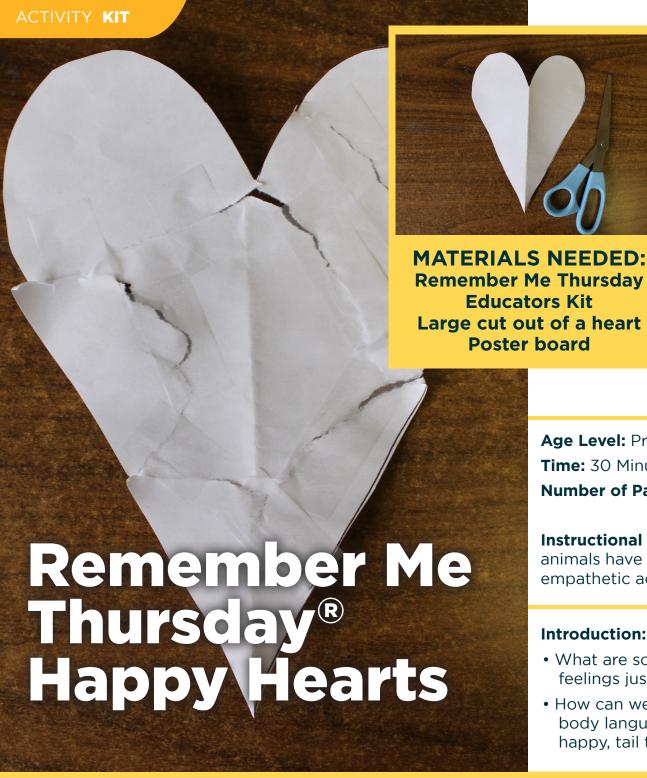
Canine

Female

6 months old

Elizabeth doesn't ask for much... Just some belly rubs, more belly rubs... and maybe hours of belly rubs. At just six months old, she's all-puppy and all-FUN! She's a Terrier blend with a goofy personality, and friendly demeanor, and an athletic spirit. A humble girl, she doesn't need to be queen of the castle, but she does want to be queen of your heart.

Elizabeth is waiting to meet you at Helen Woodward Animal Center. She has been altered and is up-to-date on all of her vaccinations. As with all pets adopted from Helen Woodward Animal Center, she is micro-chipped for identification.





Focus: To help children understand why it is important to be kind to animals and to teach them actions they can take to make their pet's heart happy.

Age Level: Preschool-2nd

Time: 30 Minutes

Number of Participants: Any

Instructional Objective: Students will understand that animals have feelings just like us and will demonstrate empathetic acts that show kindness towards animals.

Introduction:

- What are some feelings we can have? Do animals have feelings just like us?
- How can we tell what an animal is feeling? (Discuss dog body language. E.g., Dog wagging his tail means he's happy, tail tucked means he's nervous, etc.)











Remember Me Thursday® Happy Hearts

Activity:

- 1. Hold the heart cut out up for students to see. Explain that the heart is going to represent how the puppy feels as you read the story.
- 2. As you read "Unhappy Heart," tear off a piece of the heart whenever something hurts the puppy's feelings (after each bolded line) and let the piece fall to the floor. (Fig. 1A and 1B)
- 3. At the end of the story, have a discussion:
 - Why did I tear off pieces of the heart?
 - How do you think we can put the puppy's heart back together?
 - What could the puppy's family have done to give him a happy heart instead of an unhappy one?
- 4. Explain that the puppy's story isn't over and there is still a chance for his heart to be happy again.
- 5. As you read "Frizzy Izzy Goes Home," glue each piece of the heart back together on a poster whenever something makes Izzy happy (at the end of each page beginning with page 4). (Fig. 2A and 2B)
- 6. At the end of the story, have a discussion:
 - What made Frizzy Izzy's heart whole again?
 - Why is it important to make our pets' hearts happy?





Once upon a time there was a cute little puppy, but he lived in a sad place and wasn't so lucky. He was born in a crate that was far too small, and longed for the day he could play with a ball.

He was put up for sale in a small little store, they just wanted to sell him and nothing more. They didn't care if he would find, a forever home with love of all kinds.

One day a little boy came in to look, and one look at the puppy was all it took. "Can we get him?" "Can we get him?" The boy pleaded and begged. "Ugh, I guess so," the dad looked at his son and said.

When the puppy came home the family wasn't sure what to do, so the puppy got bored and ate mom's favorite shoe. When mom found out she was very mad, "Why did you buy a dog that behaves so bad?"

She made the dog go sit outside, he didn't know what he did wrong and he whimpered and cried. All he really needed was to be trained, **but outside in the cold was where he remained.**

He found a place to stretch out on a towel, and soon his tummy began to growl. The family wasn't sure what to feed their new pet, **so they gave him a hotdog and thought he** was set.

A hotdog wasn't exactly the dinner they should have picked, and their choice in food made the puppy feel sick. He really needed to go see the vet, **but the family didn't care if his tummy was upset.**

Day turned into night and the puppy was all alone, he just wanted to be inside of his new family's home. Dad didn't believe that dogs should sleep indoors, so the puppy slept outside on cold concrete floors.

Mom came out in the morning to check on the dog, and was disgusted to discover he smelled like a hog. You should have seen the look in her eyes, when she noticed he was attracting a lot of pesky flies.

He really needed to be given a good scrub, but mom didn't want him inside of her tub. The puppy just sat there stinky and smelly, wondering why no one wanted to give him a rub on his belly.

The puppy whined and begged for walk, and that's when mom sighed and looked up at the clock. She said, "I don't have time for you today, find someone else who might want to play."

The puppy then brought the boy a ball, but the boy wouldn't throw it for him at all. The boy was playing games of his own, so the puppy just had to play alone.

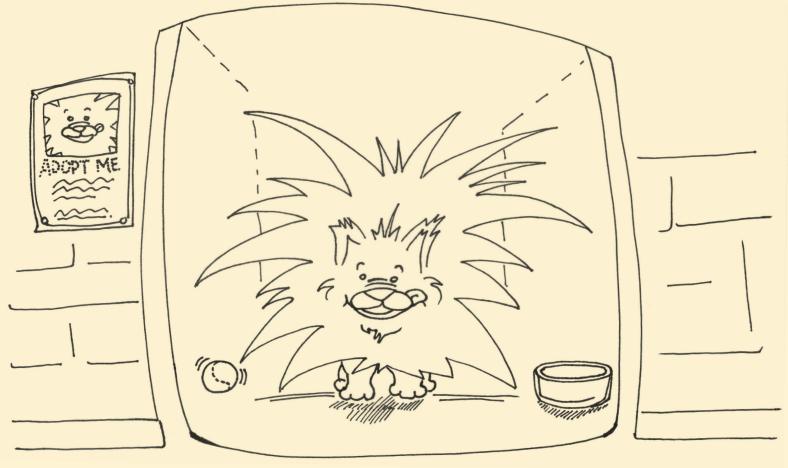
A year had passed when the family sat down and met. They decided they weren't ready to have a family pet. They surrendered him to the nearest shelter in town, **and walked away without the slightest frown.**

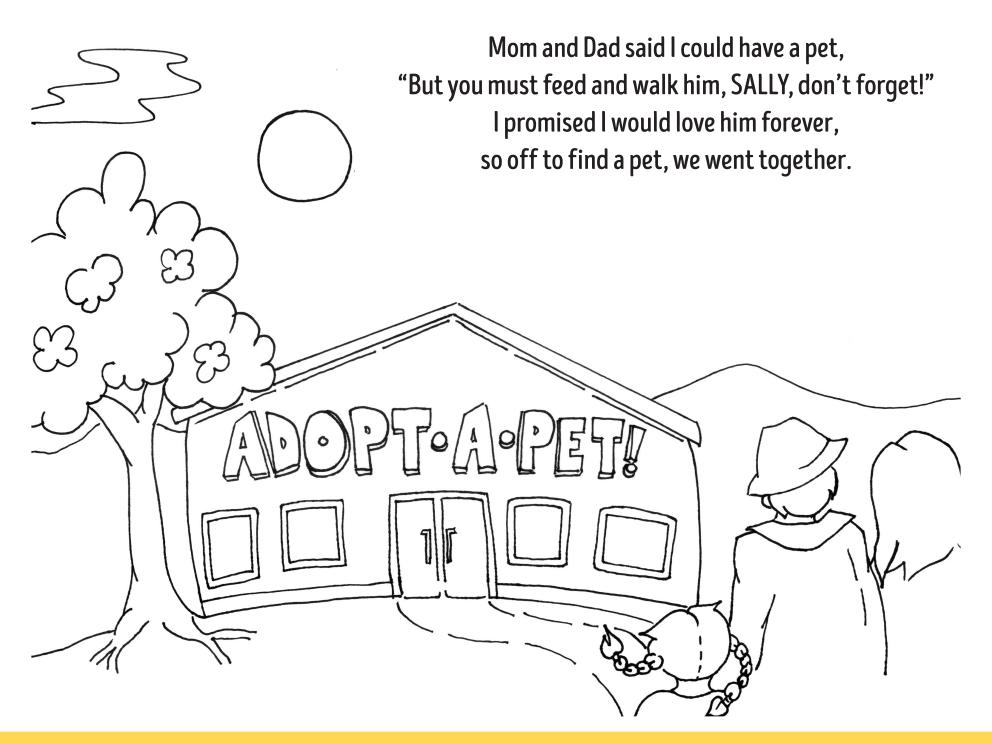
The puppy was left alone and feeling scared,

he couldn't help but wonder if the family ever really cared ...



FRIZZY IZZY GOES HOME



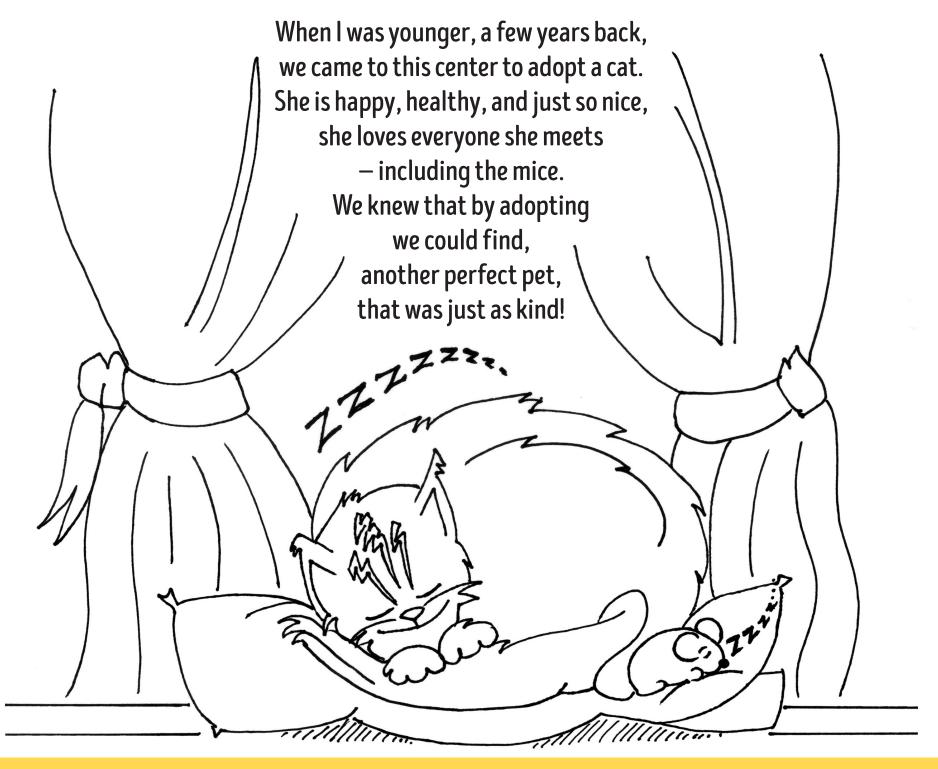


Instead of a pet store, we visited our local adoptions, and we were amazed with all of the options!

Cats and dogs of all shapes and sizes, bunnies, lizards, and birds too, so many surprises!

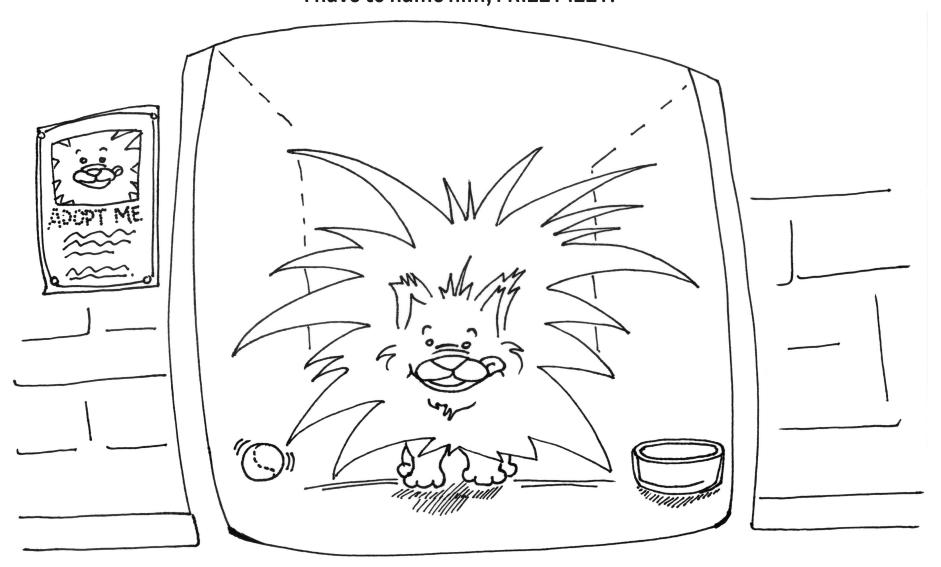
All of these animals would much rather have loving homes, Than to live at the shelter all alone.





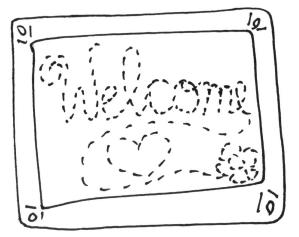
The adoptions staff helped me pick this fluffy white pup who loved to lick.

My new dog's fur was so fluffy and frizzy, lexclaimed with delight, "I have to name him, FRIZZY IZZY!"



When we arrived home, IZZY just had to meet, our adopted cat Mittens — that was just so sweet.

They sniffed and smelled each other up and down, and realized a new best friend is what they had found. Dogs and cats can often live together, as long as you give them both love forever.





I felt hungry and fixed a snack to eat, and there was FRIZZY IZZY sitting at my feet.

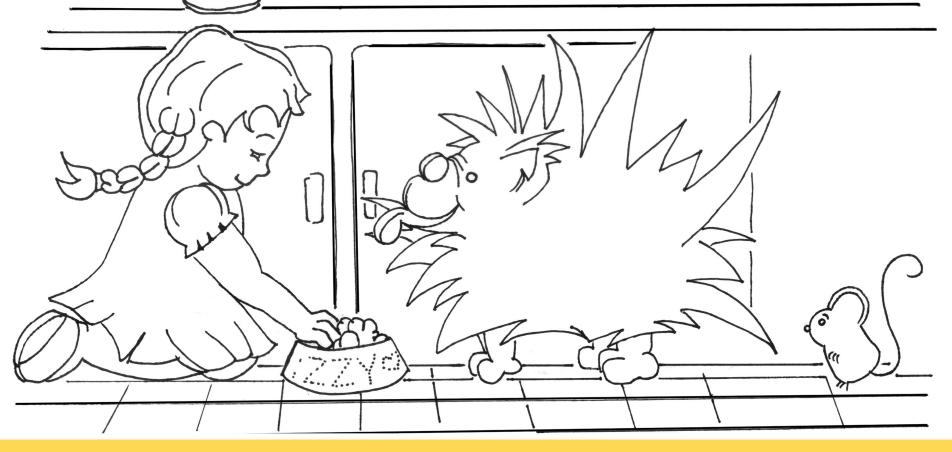
IZZY really, REALLY wanted me to share,

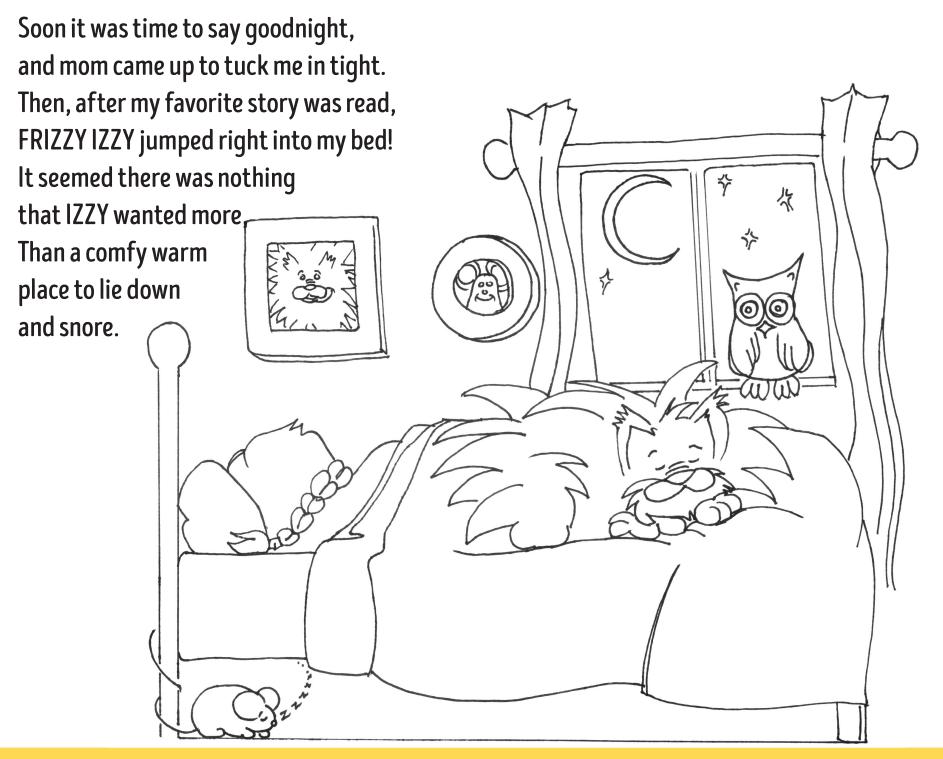
but people food can make dogs sick, and that's not fair.

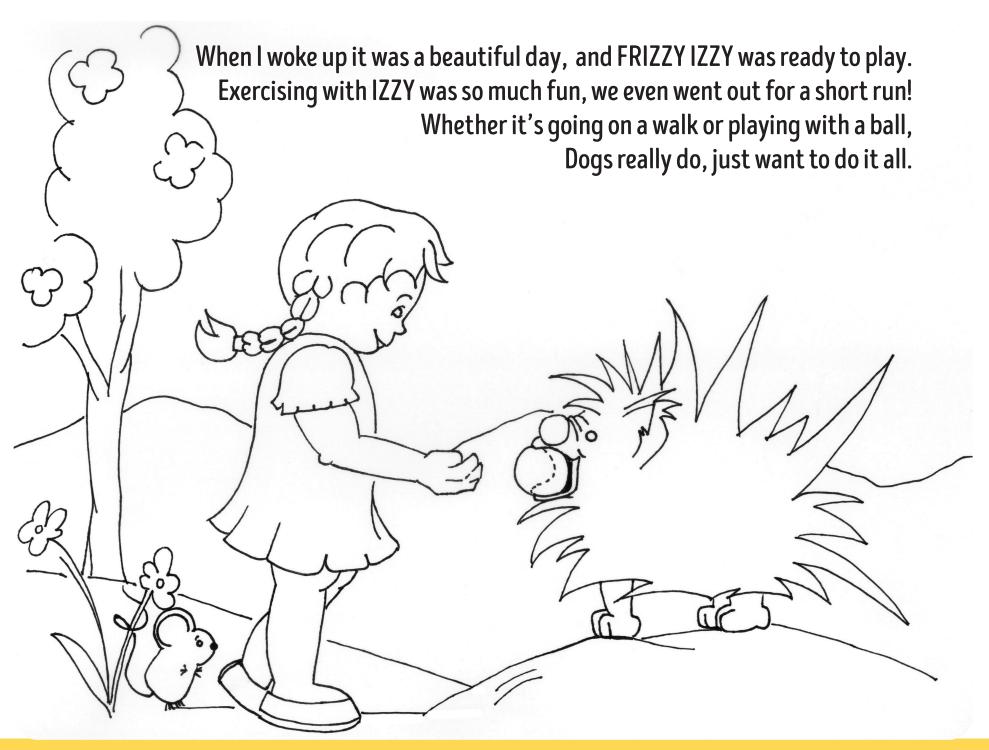
Instead I gave IZZY a can of dog food, and my hungry dog thought it was REALLY good!

So, here's what I learned, it is now clear to see,

That pets need food and water just like you and me!

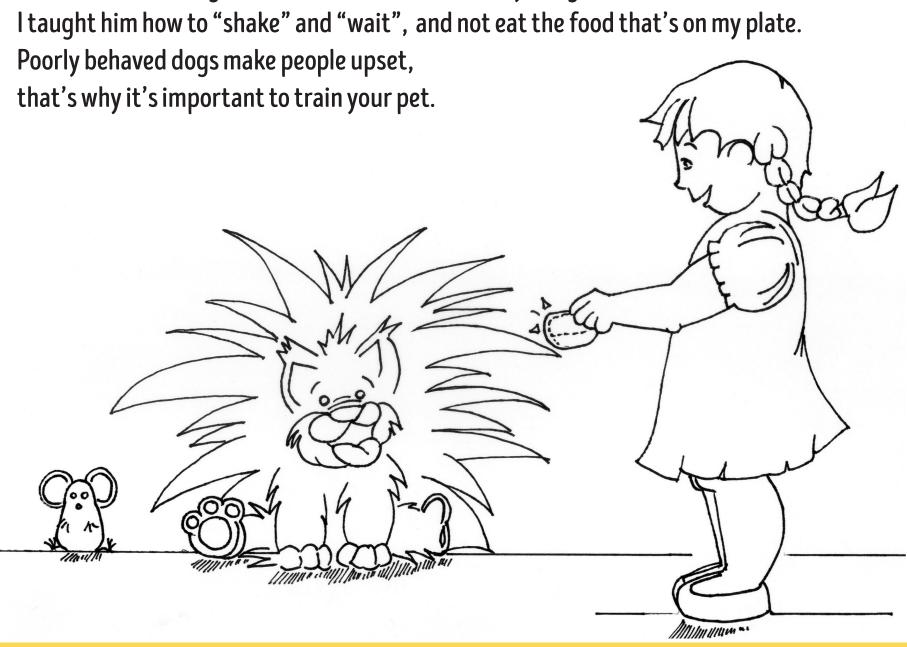






All IZZY wanted to do was play, but I had to teach him to sit and stay.

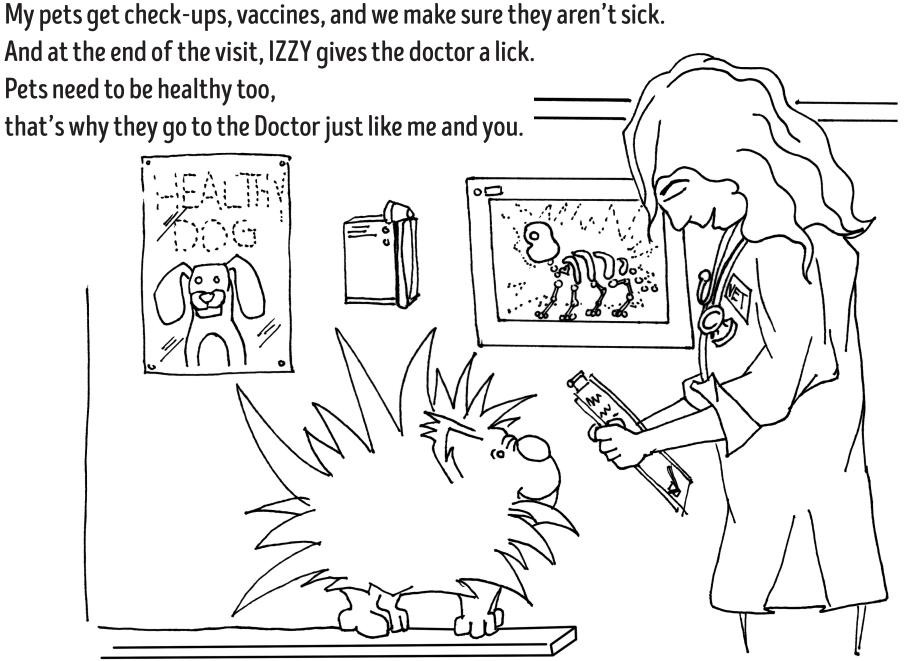
IZZY'S favorite thing to do is eat, so he would do anything for a treat.



FRIZZY IZZY started smelling kind of yucky, so I threw him in the tub with my rubber ducky. I cleaned him up with some doggy shampoo, and brushed his teeth so they smelled good too. Most pets need to be groomed and cleaned, having a pet is a lot more work than it seems!



Sometimes we have to take IZZY and MITTENS to the vet, it's one of the responsibilities of having a pet.



The most important thing IZZY and MITTENS need is love, it's the one thing they can never get enough of. It's amazing how a pet can become your best friend, as long as you love them until the end.

