



## **Students Helping Greyhounds Class Plan**

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### **Introduction**

This lesson has been developed to raise awareness among school children about the plight of racing greyhounds.

Dogs have interacted with humans for thousands of years and, after their domestication, have become their companions. They have the same range of emotions humans do and are able to experience happiness, distress, curiosity, pain and freedom.

By inviting children to participate in this lesson and activities, we hope to develop or increase their levels of empathy for dogs and help make a difference to the many animals in need of respect, consideration and loving homes.

This lesson may take up to three days and may be adapted for younger or older audiences.

Before starting the lesson, make sure to send home permission forms (sample is included) so the parents can give permission for their children to participate in the presentations. Your school district may also require special forms that will allow you to take photos of the children.

### **Objective**

- Student will identify the basic needs associated with caring for a dog.
- Student will recognize how the basic needs of greyhounds are not met.
- Students will identify legal actions that can be taken at the state level to help racing greyhounds.
- Students will identify personal actions that can be taken to stop greyhound racing and promote their adoption in the community.
- Students will help strengthen animal cruelty laws, including letters to legislators and newspaper editors.

## **National Standards**

- Language Arts/English (Evaluation, Strategies, Communication Skills, Communication Strategies, Evaluating Data, Participating in Society, Applying Language Skills, NL-ENG. K-12. 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12)
- Social Sciences (Civic Life, Politics, Government, Principles of Democracy, Roles of the Citizen NSS – C.5-8.1, 3, 5 and NSS-C.9-12. 1, 3, 5)

## **State Standards**

Include your state standards here.

## **Materials Needed**

Materials will be use according to the age level of your class.

- Bulletin board with the title: What does a dog need?
- Post it notes of different colors
- Large picture of a dog (any dog) as the heading of the display
- Large picture of a greyhound to replace the heading of the display
- Martin Luther King Jr. quote
- Kids Pledge to Help Greyhounds
- Think-Tac-Toe for Greyhounds
- GREY2K USA DVDs:
  - Greyhound Injuries in Arizona, 2007 – 2010
  - Tucson Greyhound Park Investigation
- GREY2K USA fact sheets:
  - A Brief History of the Greyhound
  - Greyhounds Endure Lives of Confinement
- GREY2K USA site: [www.grey2kusa.org](http://www.grey2kusa.org)
- Book and resources about the needs of dogs. Recommended books:
  - The Dog Bible by Trace Hotchner
  - The Dog Care Book: All You Need to Know to Keep Your Dog Healthy and Happy by Sheldon L. V.M.D. Gerstenfeld
  - DOG (Eyewitness Books) by Juliet Clutton-Brock
  - Understanding Your Dog by Dr. Michael W. Fox (Chapter 2)
- Writing utensils: Pencils, highlighters and markers

## Lesson Procedure

1. The first day of the lesson, teacher will distribute the “A Brief History of the Greyhound” factsheet and will ask student to read and highlight the main ideas. Teacher will clarify unknown words and respond questions.
2. Also, in preparation to the visit of a greyhound to the class, review with the students the contents of the “How to Behave in Front of Dogs” page.
3. Teacher will pass post-it notes to students and ask them to brainstorm about what a dog needs to be truly happy (vet care, food, shelter, water, love, etc.).
4. Teacher will ask students to write their answers in the post-it notes. No one may speak or exchange ideas with classmates.
5. Teacher will ask students to post their notes on the bulletin board under the picture of a common dog.
6. Teacher will briefly discuss answers with the class and then will replace the picture of the previous dog with the picture of a greyhound.
7. Teacher will ask students if the content of their notes is applicable to the racing greyhounds.
8. Teacher will show the power point included in this lesson and will ask students to write down obvious problem areas in dog care and any areas that need clarification for later discussion.
9. Teacher will distribute the “Greyhounds Endure Lives of Confinement” factsheet and will ask student to read and highlight the main ideas. Teacher will clarify unknown words and respond questions.
10. Upon completion of the power point, teacher will ask students to share any ideas in which more clarification is needed and then answer the question “Are the needs of dogs met with racing greyhounds?”
11. At this point, many students will want to know what they can do to help. Students should spend some minutes brainstorming different ways to stop the suffering of racing greyhounds. The list may include:
  - Write to legislators demanding stronger laws.
  - Create stronger punishments for those who violate the laws.
  - Write to the local newspaper and the local kids ‘newspaper.
  - Educate others about the plight of racing greyhounds.

## **Closure**

- Thank students for all their work and remind the class of the local efforts to help the greyhounds and their adoption in good homes.
- Pass the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote and discuss its meaning to the class, placing emphasis in the fact that everyone – even a kid their age – can help in situations of injustice.
- A rescued greyhound and his/her guardian will visit the classroom. The guardian will introduce the animal to the class and will answer all the questions the students may have. Before the visit, ask students to write good and interesting questions in the form “Questions for Greyhound Guardian” so they have them ready the day of the visit. They may also add more questions during the visit.

## **Assessments**

Explain the Think-Tac-Toe chart to students and ask them to select one or two of the activities listed. By providing several options based on the Multiple Intelligence model, students have the liberty to select the activities they enjoy the most. You may also set individual criteria for each one of the activities listed (editing, formatting, duration, poster size, etc.)

## **Extension Activities**

- Students may create an educational pamphlet or Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the topic learned to be distributed in school.
- Students may create “Heart Messages to the Greyhounds” using the patterns included in this lesson. These should be inspirational and heartfelt messages to the greyhounds who are still racing; messages of hope or awareness for the public. Students may decorate their hearts to make them more festive and noticeable.
- Students are invited to voluntarily sign the “Kids’ Pledge to Help the Greyhounds”. After signing them, they can place the pledge in their binders or folders or take them home as a reminder of what they learned.
- Students may participate in a contest organized by the teacher. In this case, the contest will be the creation of a stamp honoring the greyhounds or creating awareness to their plight. The criteria for the Stamp Project will be based on:
  - Creativity
  - Neatness
  - Language accuracy
  - General message

Teacher may purchase GREY2K USA merchandise to be used as prizes for contests and exceptional students' products.