

Summary and organisation of what they learned about responsible dog ownership and assistance dogs

Lesson 2

Lesson content:	Summary and organisation of what was learned about responsible dog ownership
Age	5th–8th grade
Tools	laptops/interactive whiteboard/tablets

Serial	Time	Lesson plan	Digital tasks
1.	2'	Objective In today's lesson, we will review what we know about dogs.	
2.	3'	Motivation: Grouping statements – why is it important to know how dogs communicate? Online task – discussing the picture provided	https://learningapps.org/watch?v=pcfmnbba325
3.	8'	Discussion of dog body parts – Identifying the body parts seen in the picture, pointing out and naming body parts not shown in the picture. How does a dog communicate? PPT presentation	https://youtu.be/hLXvvr3JObw
4.	10'	Dog communication – Based on the information learned, complete the online task about dog communication.	https://learningapps.org/watch?v=p76eft1jt25
5.	10'	Group work What should we do if we encounter a stray dog? Two groups work together, each receiving a section of text to work on independently. They create a mind map based on the information they have read.	Appendix
6.	8'	Find body parts Find the body parts of the dogs in the picture on the board. At the end of the task, select which body parts are used in dog communication and which are not.	https://learningapps.org/watch?v=p971u5pvnv25
7.	3'	Discussion: evaluation, self-evaluation	

APPENDIX

How to help if you see a stray dog

The sight of a stray animal can be heartbreaking, and animal lovers will most likely want to help. But it is difficult to act quickly in an emergency situation without background knowledge, as not everyone knows what to do in such cases.

Recently, [we have been seeing more and more stray dogs, and the number of posts about them is growing](#), with finders asking for help on social media. However, we are faced with the fact that **shelters and foundations have limited capacity and, in most cases, no room to take in new animals**. Unfortunately, this is the reality, and due to irresponsible breeders and hasty, ill-considered decisions, many dogs end up on the streets. What we can do as civilians is "damage control", i.e. **try to find a safe home for the animal we have found, if possible**. But this is easier said than done, as many factors can complicate the rescue of an animal. A stray dog can be unpredictable, as we do not know its history or personality, so [it is worth following a few rules to keep ourselves safe](#) while helping the dog.

Safety first

The first and most important thing to do when you encounter a stray dog is **to assess the situation**. Observe the animal's condition, its body language, whether it is approaching or moving away, and whether it is showing signs of aggression. These can tell you a lot about the dog and how to handle the situation. If **you encounter a stray dog while walking your pet, do not approach it under any circumstances** and back away from the situation as quickly as possible. Take your pet home and return to the "scene of the crime" or contact the relevant authorities and keep an eye on the stray dog until they arrive. [There are five recommended steps \(which are also the safest for humans\):](#)

- Do not approach the animal
- Inform the authorities
- Take care of the animal – offer it water and possibly food, and guide it to a safe place
- Do not try to catch the animal
- Provide the authorities with information about your exact location

If the animal needs help

If you see that the animal is not aggressive and needs help, and you decide to try to catch it, you can do the following.

Visit a vet

Once you have caught the animal, your first stop should be a veterinary clinic so that they can read the animal's microchip. Since microchipping has been mandatory for dogs since 2013, reading the chip may lead you to the animal's owner. If there is no vet nearby, animal shelters or even petrol stations may be able to help. In the best case scenario, the dog has "only" wandered off and its owner is already looking for it. In the worst case, it has been abandoned and no longer has a home. This raises the question of what to do next.

Contacting shelters, animal welfare organisations and foundations

If the dog is stray, it may be worth contacting animal welfare associations, shelters or foundations to see if they have the capacity to take the dog in. **Unfortunately, they will often say no** because they are usually overloaded and **do not have enough space, money or manpower to take responsibility for another dog**. Nevertheless, it is worth calling them to see if, by some miracle, they will say yes. If you recognise any breed characteristics in the dog, **you can also contact the relevant breed rescue organisations**.

If all else fails...

If no one will take the stray dog and you feel ready for the task, you can take the animal in or **find a temporary foster home**. The former is not easy, that's a fact, as you don't know what health or behavioural problems it may have. It's a lot of work, but it's rewarding when you manage to win the trust of a dog that has had a difficult life. The most important thing is not to leave the dog alone if it needs help. A picture is worth a thousand words, and in the world of social media, you can reach someone who can help. **We don't dispute that finding a stray animal comes with unwanted responsibilities, but by helping, you are giving it a chance at life.**

Please click on the link and answer 5 short questions to help us improve our work! (The questionnaire takes about 1 minute to complete.)

Satisfaction survey: <https://forms.gle/UA4e7J9amYI85G5N7>