

Animal Care



Participants will learn about supporting animal shelters and will make fleece blankets and dog treats for a local animal shelter.



OBJECTIVES:

1. Group members will be reacquainted through a warm up activity.
2. Group members will learn about the current challenges of animal shelters.
3. Group members will make dog treats and fleece tie-blankets for animals in a local animal shelter.



MATERIALS:

FOR FLEECE BLANKETS

1. Fleece fabric at least 40 inches or wider (most are 54 inches).
 - a. You will need two pieces of fleece/blanket. The two pieces of fleece used must be the same size. Patterns may differ.
2. Scissors
3. Tape Measure or Ruler
4. One 4" × 4" piece of paper



ACTIVITIES:

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WARM-UP ACTIVITY

- a. Introductions of new F.I.I.V.E. group members, staff, and guest speakers (if applicable)
- b. Warm-Up Activity (See Appendix A: Warm-Up Activities)

NOTE: Don't forget to pass out nametags!

II. PRESENTATION

(See Appendix B: Volunteer Activity Session Scripts for presentation materials on *Animal Care*.)

III. PROJECT: NO-SEW FLEECE BLANKETS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take two pieces of fleece and put one on top of the other, lining up the edges so they are even (one will be the top and one will be the bottom).
2. Trim off any selvage around the edges of your fleece (try not to cut in more than 2 inches). Remember, you need to try to cut straight!
3. Lay the 4"× 4" paper on the corner of your blanket. Cut out the corner through both layers. Do this on all four corners.
4. Now cut a 4-inch fringe into both fleeces at 1" wide.



- a. Try to keep the fringes roughly 1” wide but they do not need to be perfect. Continue to do so on all four sides.



5. Begin tying over hand knots using one fringe from each fleece. Tie these knots on every other fringe around the entire blanket.



6. Flip the blanket over and tie the remaining fringes until finished.
7. Tying double knots is suggested to ensure the knots do not come apart in the wash.



MATERIALS:

FOR DOG TREATS

1. 2 cups whole wheat flour
2. 2 cups all purpose flour
3. 3/4 cup cornmeal
4. 1/4 cup vegetable oil
5. 4 bouillon cubes
6. 2 cups boiling water
7. Optional: garlic, crisp bacon strips, bacon drippings or your dog's favorite flavor.
8. Mixing bowl
9. Cookie cutters
10. Cookie sheet
11. Measuring cups
12. Recipe cards and a pen (to write the list of ingredients on the cards)
13. Zip-lock bags

III. PROJECT: DOG TREATS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.
2. In a large bowl, combine first four ingredients. Mix well. Dissolve bouillon cubes in boiling water. Add bouillon to flour mixture. Mix to make a stiff dough. Roll onto a floured surface. Cut out shapes with cookie cutter or glass. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Let stand overnight to harden.
3. Write a list of ingredients on a recipe card. After the treats have hardened, place them in zip-lock bags and include an ingredient card in each.

NOTE: It is recommended to write the ingredients list on the recipe cards in advance!

IV. REFRESHMENTS AND DEBRIEFING

While group members enjoy a small snack or refreshment, use the following questions to facilitate a debriefing discussion about the day's activity:

NOTE: Ask another staff member or an older adult volunteer to take notes!

1. What is something new that you learned about animal shelters?
2. What was your favorite part about today's session?
3. How did today make you feel?

V. CALENDAR CORNER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Prepare the group for the next F.I.I.V.E. volunteer activity session.

- ~ Date/Time/Location
- ~ Advertise guest speaker (if applicable)
- ~ Supplies (if applicable)
- ~ Recommend appropriate attire (if applicable)

VI. RECORDKEEPING

(See Appendix C: Recordkeeping Materials to use with each volunteer activity session.)





Additional Tips or Suggestions:

- For those whose fine motor skills are limited, have them decorate or count the bags for the dog treats.
- Invite an employee from the animal shelter you are supporting to speak on behalf of the shelter – ask if they will bring one of the shelter animals for the group members to meet!
- If you have access to adequate transportation, consider taking your F.I.I.V.E. volunteer club members to the animal shelter for a tour.
- A veterinary clinic is an additional resource to consider as a donation recipient or to find knowledgeable guest speakers. If you are fortunate to live in a community that has a veterinary school, consider contacting the school to have a student representative come to talk to the group about proper animal care.
- If your club is located in a rural area, consider taking your group to visit a local farm.
- If you have a local zoo, consider tailoring this session for creating a donation that is appropriate for zoo animals. A zoologist or zookeeper would make an excellent guest speaker.
- Ask local grocers, pet store supply stores, or vet clinics to donate supplies or money to purchase supplies for this activity. Craft stores may donate fleece. Think about asking other organizations or businesses invested in animal care to donate.
- Consider asking your volunteers each to donate an item in the supply list.
- Alternative or additional activities:
 - Make tug toys or stuffed animals.
 - Organize a fundraiser.