



Be Kind Belize - Understanding Animal Populations Group Activity Workshop

Ages

Suitable for ages 9 years and older

Time needed

60 minutes

Preparation

Leader should be familiar with *Be Kind Belize Neutering and Spaying Fact Sheet*

Materials needed

A bag of dried beans.

Plastic cups or bags to distribute beans to each group

Paper & pencil

Be Kind Belize Spaying & Neutering Fact Sheet

Be Kind Belize Spaying & Neutering Work Sheets 1 & 2

Aim

To teach young people about how quickly pet populations can grow and the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

Activity

This is a small group activity in which young people will use beans to represent a pet population. They will witness the growth of that population and have the opportunity to learn about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets.

Procedure

Split into small groups of 2-4 young people in each group. Have young people work on a table or on the floor as they will need space for this exercise. Give each group a bag or cup of beans. Have them select 2 beans. Tell the young people that these are 'starter' beans. These beans will now reproduce and create 'baby' beans.

Tell the young people to use their beans to demonstrate that their 'starter' beans will create 6 'baby' beans every 6 months for 1 year. *Question:* After 1 year what is your total number of beans? (12 'baby' beans + 2 'starter' beans = 14)

Once they have done this, ask them to split their 12 'baby' beans into pairs. *Question:* How many pairs of beans do you now have, including your original 'starter' beans? (7 pairs)

Explain that their 'baby' beans have become 'starter' beans. Each pair of 'starter' beans will create 6 new 'baby' beans every 6 months for 1 year. Ask them to use their beans to demonstrate this *Question:* How many beans do you have in total? (42 baby beans + 14 starter beans = 56). *Question:* How many beans did your original 2 starter beans produce in just 2 years. (56 total beans – 2 'starter' beans = 54)

Explain that dogs and cats can produce kittens and puppies as quickly as their 'starter' beans created 'baby' beans.

Questions for Discussion

What problems are caused by too many dogs and cats?
What happens to dogs and cats when nobody wants them?
What can we do to prevent this from happening?

Discussion

Explain spaying and neutering of cats and dogs to the students, using the Be Kind Belize Spaying and Neutering Fact Sheet as a guide. If possible and appropriate distribute copies of the Fact Sheet to all students.

Complimentary Activities

Be Kind Belize Spay & Neuter Work Sheets 1 & 2