



Learning at Home

# Companion Animals

Set 3 Workbook



Senior Primary to Intermediate



# About the SPCA Home Learning Booklets



## About

Thank you for downloading one of SPCA's Home Learning Booklets. We are so happy you want to learn more about animals and we are excited to see some photos of the activities you do. Here are some instructions on how to use these booklets.

We have three sets of booklets. Each set has similar activities; choose a set that will be the best challenge for you. In each set there are three booklets; one for companion animals, one for farmed animals and one for wildlife.

Each booklet has 12 activities. We would like you to do at least 7 of the activities. There are different types of activities that include arts and crafts, reading, writing stories and maths problems, so that you can choose the type of activities that you enjoy. At the back of the booklet, there is a checklist for you to tick off the activities you have done.

Once you have completed at least 7 activities, send a copy of the checklist you have filled in at the back of the booklet and photos of your two favourite activities to [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz). We would love to share your work, so by sending in your photos you are agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on the SPCA Kids' Portal and within SPCA social media postings. If you do not want your photos to be shared, please tell us in your email when you send them in.

When you send us your checklist and photos we will send you a digital badge to recognise your hard work.

You may only want to do one booklet, or you may want to do all three in the set. Send in your work to get the digital badge each time you complete a booklet. If you decide to complete all three booklets, send a picture of all three of your digital badges to show us that you have completed them all and receive an SPCA Certificate and paw badge you could pin to your school bag or pencil case.

Some of the activities will be done in the booklet and for some of the activities you will be creating things. You can print the booklet and fill in the activities on paper or you can download the booklet and fill in the activities digitally. For any activities that you do not do in the book, take a photo of what you made or what you did, and add it to your booklet.

At the back of the booklet there is a colouring sheet which you may like to do and some information about other ways you can get involved with SPCA. There are also some blank pages if you need more space to do any of the activities.

**If you need any information about animals to help you while you are working through these activities, go to the SPCA Kids' Portal for information about caring for lots of different animals and how to be a responsible animal guardian.**





## Safety Reminders

The safety of you and the animals that are part of the activities is the most important thing while working through these booklets. Below we have made a list of things to help keep you and the animals safe.

- > Always have an adult with you if you are completing an activity away from home. For example, visiting the library, a farm or a local habitat.
- > Always have an adult helping you if you are working with tools.
- > Make sure you are being cyber safe if you are working on the computer for any of your activities.
- > All enrichment items or other items that are for animals must be checked by an adult before they are given to the animal. Any items that are for an animal that is not yours must be checked by that animal's guardian before the items are given to the animal.
- > All enrichment items must be made with non-toxic materials and have no loose, sharp or broken bits on them that could injure an animal. Ask an adult to help you get together your materials.
- > Animals need to be supervised while they are using enrichment items. Items with string can be dangerous if animals are left alone with them and should be packed away when play time is over.
- > If you are observing animals or taking photos of them, give them lots of space and watch them calmly and quietly. The amount of space they need will depend on the animal. If you are observing a companion animal, you are able to be much closer to them than if you are observing wildlife. This is important to keep yourself and the animals safe.

*It's now time to begin! ENJOY!*



Let's go.  
Follow me!





## Baking Pupcakes



Animals need to have good nutrition to be happy and healthy. This means they need the right type of food for them and the right amount of food. Animals can also occasionally eat some animal treats. Get an adult to help you follow the recipe to bake these Puppy Apple Cupcakes for your dog or for a family member's dog. Watch the Youtube video here: [youtube.com/watch?v=xDTudg1k6vc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDTudg1k6vc)

### Ingredients

- > 2¾ cups water
- > ¼ cup unsweetened apple sauce
- > ¼ cup oats
- > ¼ teaspoon vanilla
- > 4 cups wholemeal flour
- > 1 cup fresh or dried apple pieces
- > 1 teaspoon baking powder
- > 1 egg, beaten
- > 4 tablespoons honey



### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C and line a 12 cup muffin pan with cupcake liners.
2. Mix the wet ingredients (water, apple sauce, vanilla, egg and honey) thoroughly.
3. Mix the dry ingredients (oats, flour, apple pieces and baking powder) in a separate bowl.
4. Slowly add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix.
5. Pour into the cupcake liners.
6. Bake for 1 - 1½ hours, depending on your oven. Insert a toothpick into the centre of the pupcake and if it comes out dry, they are ready to come out of the oven.
7. Wait until cooled and take off the cupcake liner before serving one to your pup. Store leftovers in a sealed container.

**Reminder: Just like humans, animals can become unhealthy if they eat too many treat foods. Treats should be given as part of a balanced diet.**

SPCA does not recommend feeding pupcakes to dogs with special dietary needs, on specialised diets or who are particularly sensitive to any foods. If in doubt, please check with your vet.

For other dog-safe homemade treat recipes go to:

[sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/homemade-treats-for-your-dog](https://www.sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/homemade-treats-for-your-dog).





# Animal Behaviour



What does your animal do all day? Do they spend most of their time sleeping? Do they have a favourite spot to rest in?

One way scientists learn about the world is by making observations. Observing means that you are watching someone or something and taking notice of what you see.

Observe your animal's behaviour (or a family member's animal or wildlife in your garden) to find out more about them.



Use this chart to record your observations. Choose 6 behaviours you expect your animal to be doing; for example, sleeping, eating, drinking, grooming, playing with toys, hiding. Write these at the bottom of the page and choose a letter to represent each one. Observe your animal every three minutes for thirty minutes and tick which behaviour you are observing them doing. Add any extra information in the notes column.

Time	Behaviour						Notes

## Animal's Behaviour

- > >
- > >
- > > Other - O
- >

Tip: Work on some other activities in this book while you are waiting.





# Animal Origami



Reading instructions can help us learn how to do things. Read these instructions to learn how to make an origami cat.

## Instructions



1. Start with two squares of paper, one slightly larger than the other.



2. Take the smaller square and fold it in half, left to right.



3. Next, fold the square in half the opposite way, top to bottom.



4. Fold the top corner of the paper down so the point is touching the centre.



5. Next, fold the paper down the middle.



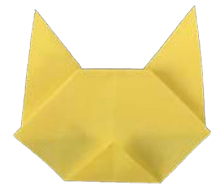
6. Fold the right and left corners to the bottom point to form a square.



7. Fold the top flaps upward to make your cat's ears.



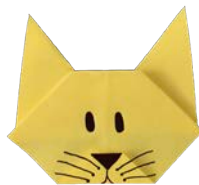
8. Fold the point in the middle of the ears down.



9. Flip the paper over, and fold the bottom point upward.



10. Fold the tip of the front flap down, making your cat's nose.



11. Draw your cat's face.



12. Next grab the bigger square piece of paper.





13. Fold the square in half, top to bottom.



14. Fold the corners into the middle of the square, along the centre line.



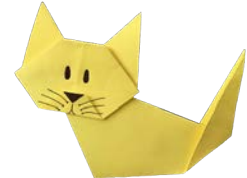
15. Fold the paper in half along the centre line.



16. Fold the narrow point of the triangle upward.



17. Create a reverse fold along the crease to make a tail.



18. Add your cat's head to their body and you're done.



Tip: For instructions on how to make other animals, visit the [kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/fun-stuff/animal-origami](https://kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/fun-stuff/animal-origami)



## Review an Animal Book



Animals are part of so many great stories and interesting books! Visit a library and choose a book about animals. It could be a picture book, a novel or a non-fiction book.

Write a book review about this book to share with others.

### In your review include:

- > Title
- > Author
- > Illustrator (if there is one)
- > Who you would recommend this book to
- > What you enjoyed about this book (or if you didn't enjoy it, why you didn't)
- > If there is anything people could learn about animals from reading this book.









# Companion Animal Costs



There are lots of items that animal guardians need to buy for their animals to take care of them. This is one of the things that people need to consider before deciding to get an animal so they can make sure they will be able to afford to look after them.

Visit a pet shop or the supermarket and find the price of the following items for a cat:

**Cat Brush**

\$

**Litter Tray**

\$

**Cat Food**

\$

**Collar**

\$

**Cat Litter**

\$

**Cat Toy**

\$

**Food Bowl**

\$

Cat litter image sourced from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Which of these costs are for items that can be used for a while and only need to be bought when getting a cat and then again if they break or when they get old?

How much would it cost to buy all of these items when you first get a cat?

Which of these costs are for items that will get used up regularly and need to be bought weekly or monthly to keep caring for a cat?

Using the price of the cat food you found and the information about feeding on the packaging, estimate how much money it would cost to feed a cat every month.

**Reminder: This is just an estimate because not all cats eat the same amount of food or the same brand. A cat's vet will tell you specifically what they need to eat.**





# Animal Care Diary



As well as spending money on things to care for animals, you also need to be able to spend time to care for them. It takes time to keep them company, feed them, clean their bowls, toys, bedding and enclosures, give them exercise and play with them.



If you have an animal at home, think of three ways that you can help your family care for your animal. Talk with your family about how long each of these things will take and how often they need to be done.

How I can help:	How long will this take?	How often will this be done?
<i>Example: Clean the litter tray in the rabbit enclosure.</i>	<i>10 minutes</i>	<i>Every day</i>



Sometimes when we are having lots of fun doing other things it can be hard to remember to do jobs like cleaning. Our animals rely on us though and we must give them the care they need every day.

Make a chart of the things you need to do to care for your animal. Put it somewhere in your house so that you will see it every day to remind you of what you can do to help care for your animal.



If you don't have an animal at home, choose an animal you would like to have. Draw them in the space at the bottom of the page and think about all of the things that would need to be done to care for the animal that would take time. Talk with your family about how long each of these things might take and how often they would need to be done.

What would we need to do to care for this animal?	How long will this take?	How often will this be done?

Do you think your family would have enough free time to care for me?





## Finger Puppets



Use recycled fabric and other items to create a companion animal finger puppet. Scraps of fabric can be used to make ears, eyes, a nose and a mouth. Maybe you have some buttons or pompoms that you could use to make eyes and a nose and wool would make great whiskers! What else could you use to add features to your animal finger puppet?

Many animals like to live with another animal who is the same species as them so you could make two finger puppets.

After you have made your finger puppet you could use it to do a puppet show for your family and friends. You could make props for your show with recycled cardboard.



## Adoption Poster



SPCA has many animals in our centres who need loving families to adopt them. Help Mimi the cat find a family by creating an adoption poster that will give people information about her and help them decide if they are the right family for her.

*Mimi is a black and white female cat. She is two years old. Mimi will be happy to live in a home with other cats but she is not used to being around dogs. Mimi likes company from all sorts of people and would be happy to live in a family with children. She is available for adoption at the SPCA Centre in Nelson for \$125. She enjoys chasing toys and her favourite toy is her knitted mouse.*





# Kicker Stick Toy



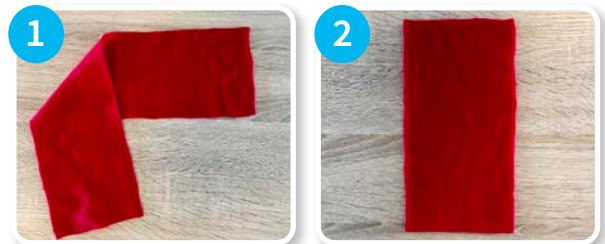
Enrichment items are a great way to help keep animals' minds and bodies busy so that they are happy and healthy. Make this kicker stick toy for your cat. If you don't have a cat, you could make it for family or friends or donate it to your local SPCA centre.

## Materials needed

- > Fleece blankets or flannelette scrap material
- > Sewing thread and needle
- > Scissors
- > Stuffing or extra scrap material

## Instructions

1. Cut a long rectangle from your fabric. You can make this any size you want, just remember there needs to be enough space for the stuffing.
2. Fold the rectangle in half lengthwise so that the sides meet evenly.
3. Start at the fold line and sew the sides together until you get to halfway.
4. Do the same on the other side, creating a pocket.
5. Turn the pocket inside out so the seams are on the inside.
6. Fill the pocket with stuffing or extra scrap material.
7. Cut the bottom half of the material that is not stitched into strips.
8. Tie the opposite strips together and you're done!



For instructions for lots of other enrichment items to make for animals, go to [kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/things-to-make-or-do](https://kids.spcaeducation.org.nz/get-involved/things-to-make-or-do)





## Animal Photo Collage



For animals to have good welfare they need to have good nutrition (food and water), a good environment to live in, their health needs to be looked after and they need to be able to behave in a natural way. Animals also need to be able to feel happy and having these four things will help them to feel happy.

How does your family make sure your animal has these things? Take five photos of your animal. Each photo will show an example of how they have each one (nutrition, environment, health, behaviour, happiness).

Think about what makes a good photo. How will the photo be different if you take it standing up or if you crouch down to the same size as your animal? How will the photo be different if you are close or far away from your animal?

Then use an app to make a collage with the photos. You may even like to add some words onto the collage too.



## Spending Time Together



It is important to spend time with your animals every day so that they have company, you can get to know them and they feel safe around you.

Think of a safe activity that you can do with your animal to spend time with them that they will enjoy.

It could be playing with their toys with them, sitting down in a comfortable spot reading a book to them or taking them for a walk. These are just some ideas; you may have others.

Get someone to take a photo of you and your animal doing this activity.





# Animal Feelings



Animals tell us how they are feeling with their bodies and sounds. Their ears, tails, fur, mouth and eyes can all give us clues about how they might be feeling.

Unscramble the letters below each cat picture to label what that cat may be feeling. What do you notice about the cat's body language in each picture? Make notes about their body parts in the space beside each picture.



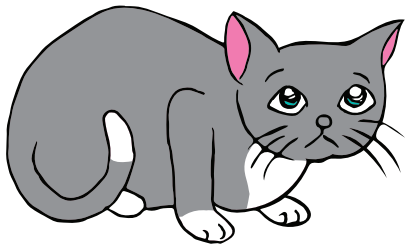
x r e e d l a

\_\_\_\_\_

Body:

Eyes:

Ears:



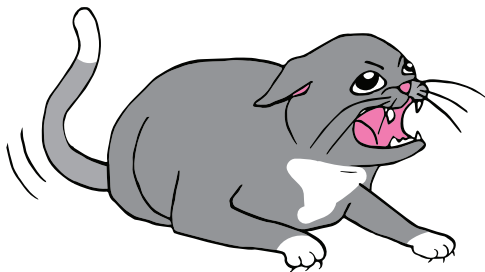
t m u n e c o f o r a l b

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Body:

Tail:

Ears:



r a y g n

\_\_\_\_\_

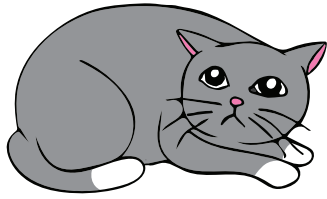
Body:

Mouth:

Ears:

Tail:





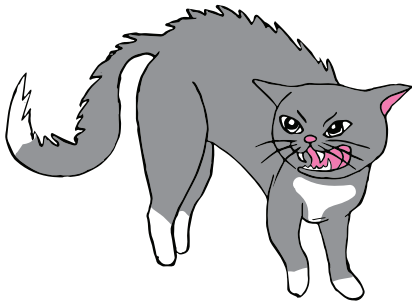
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Body:

Tail:

Ears:



t f i h d r e n e g

\_\_\_\_\_

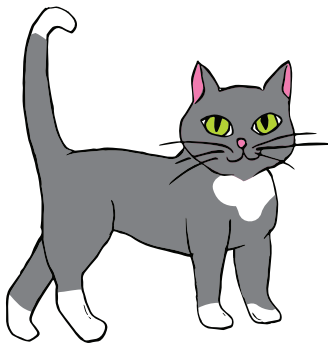
Body:

Tail:

Ears:

Fur:

Mouth:



y a p h p

\_\_\_\_\_

Body:

Eyes:

Ears:

Tail:







# Activities Checklist

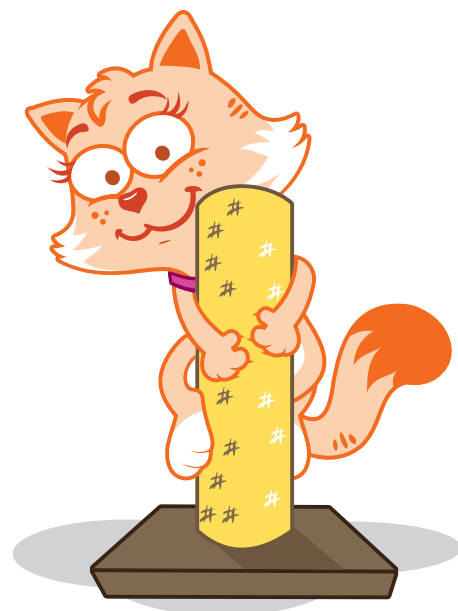


Companion Animals	Completed
Baking Pupcakes	
Animal Behaviour	
Animal Origami	
Read an Animal Book	
Companion Animal Costs	
Animal Care Diary	
Sock Puppets	
Adoption Poster	
Kicker Stick Toy	
Animal Photo Challenge	
Spending Time Together	
Animal Feelings	

**Reminder:**  
 Have you checked off at least seven activities?

Send a copy of this page, along with photos of your two favourite activities, to [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz).

By sending in your photos you are agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on the SPCA Kids' Portal and within SPCA social media postings. If you do not want your photos to be shared, please tell us in your email when you send them in.





# Answers



## Animal Feelings

**Relaxed** - A relaxed cat may have their eyes partly closed, their ears will be in a normal position and their body will look relaxed. They may roll onto their back, be asking for a belly rub or be sleeping. They may also be purring.

**Uncomfortable** - An uncomfortable cat may be in a crouched position with their body and head tense. Their tail may be tucked around their body and their ears may be slightly back. Their hair may also be slightly raised.

**Angry** - An angry cat may be lying down and slightly rolled to one side and moving their tail. Their ears may be flattened down to their head. Their mouth may be open with their teeth showing. They may also be hissing or growling.

**Worried** - A worried cat may have their body and head low down. Their tail may be tucked under. Their ears may be back. They may also be yawning or licking their lips.

**Frightened** - A frightened cat may be standing with their back arched and their tail curled. Their fur may be raised. Their ears may be lowered and pointing outwards. Their mouth may be open so their teeth are showing. They may also be growling.

**Happy** - A happy cat's body may look relaxed. Their ears may be in a normal position and their eyes may be a normal shape. Their tail may be held upright. They may also have their mouth closed and their fur smooth.





## More Ways To Be Involved



We hope you enjoyed working through this booklet! Are you looking for more ways you can learn about animals and be involved with SPCA now that you have finished the booklet?

### The SPCA Kids' Portal

- > The [SPCA Kids' Portal](#) has [puzzles](#) (and [these puzzles](#) and [even more puzzles](#)) [colouring pages](#), [origami](#), [drawing instructions](#), [a place to share your work](#) and lots of quizzes.
- > Check out the [SPCA Kind Matters Kids' Newsletter](#). Kind Matters comes out every term and had loads of information about all sorts of animals, instructions for craft activities, competitions, puzzles and more. Ask an adult to help you subscribe to this with an email address.



### Donate for the Animals

- > Make enrichment items for your local SPCA Centre. When animals come to SPCA Centres we love to be able to give them enrichment items to play with to keep them busy.
- > Take part in SPCA Cupcake Day. SPCA Cupcake Day happens once a year and is a fun and tasty way you can help raise funds for SPCA to help us care for the animals.

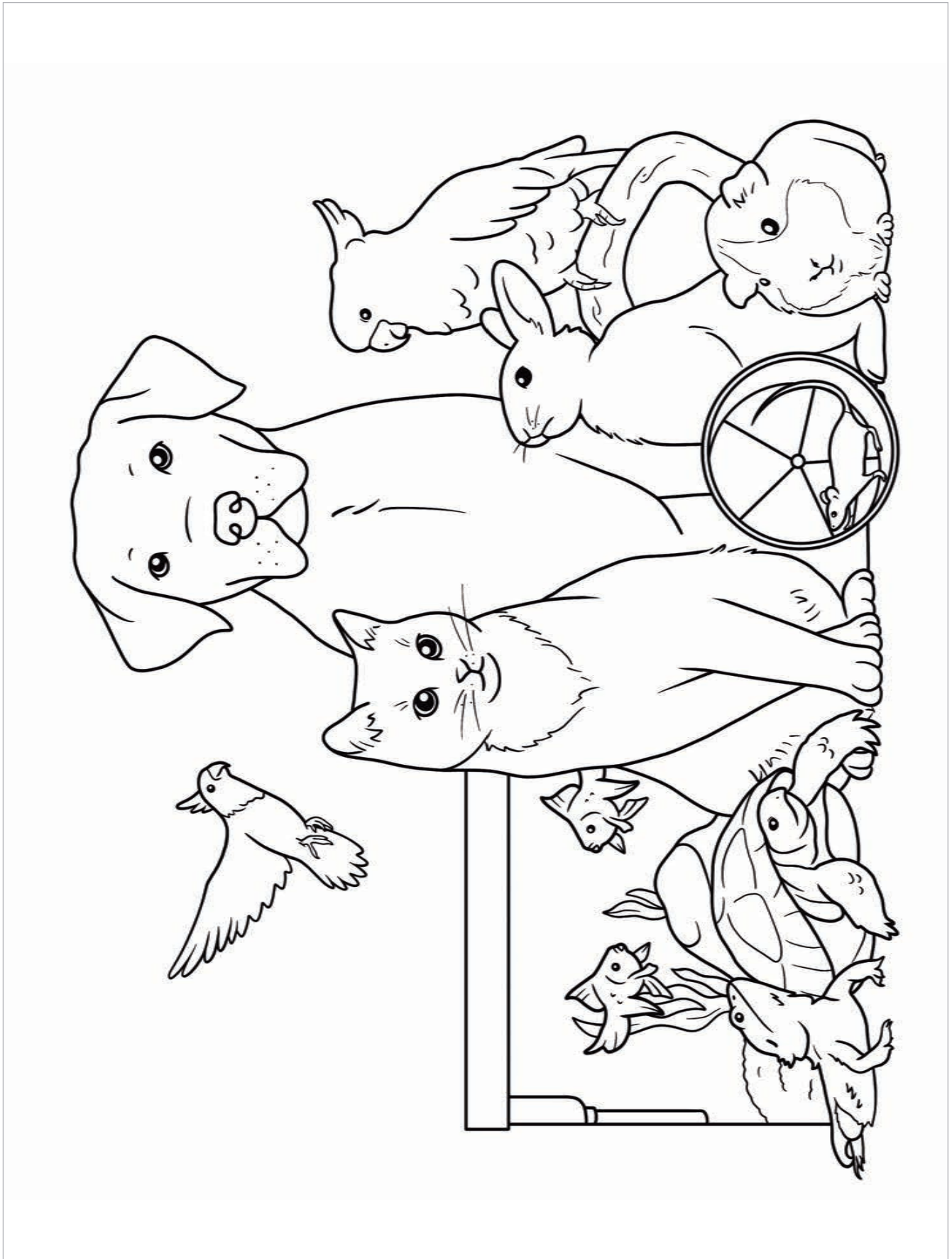
### Connect Online

- > Ask your families and teachers to keep up to date with SPCA's Education Programme for kids by joining the [SPCA NZ Education Community group](#) on Facebook.
- > Let your teachers know about the SPCA Teachers' Portal.

### Become an Animal Guardian

- > Some animals need extra care before they are ready for adoption so families volunteer to care for these animals for a short amount of time. This is called fostering. SPCA will give you everything you need to care for the animal(s) you are looking after.
- > If your family has decided to get an animal, consider adopting one from SPCA. When you adopt an animal from SPCA you are giving them a second chance at a happy, healthy life. The staff at SPCA will help to match your family with the right animal for them and can give you lots of advice about training, feeding and behaviour.





If you need any more space to do any of the activities use the following pages.







