

Compassion Comics

This activity asks kids to think about concrete ways to practice compassion for animals in rough situations. The goal is to create a comic strip that identifies how the animal in a given scenario may be feeling (an exercise in empathy) and to imagine human action that would be helpful to the animal (an exercise in compassion). The scenarios provided are not graphic or severe, but they are nonetheless examples of animals being harmed in some way – filter and edit scenarios for your child if needed. The scenarios are also open-ended so that the child can use their imagination to build the details of the story on their own.

MATERIALS:

- 2 sheets of blank paper (at least 8x11")
- Pencil
- Ruler (optional)
- Crayons/markers/color pencils

Scenarios

A parrot is left abandoned in a house when their family moves out.

A dog lives chained up in a backyard with no shelter from the hot sun.

A turtle is forced to live in an aquarium that is too small for them.

A cat is abandoned in a park when their owner decides they can't keep them.

An older dog is ignored when the family gets a new puppy.

A kitten gets lost from their mother and siblings and is hiding under a porch.

A horse is not fed properly and is severely underweight.

A neighborhood cat is taunted and teased by the local kids and is living in fear.

A hawk's wing is broken, and they cannot fly.

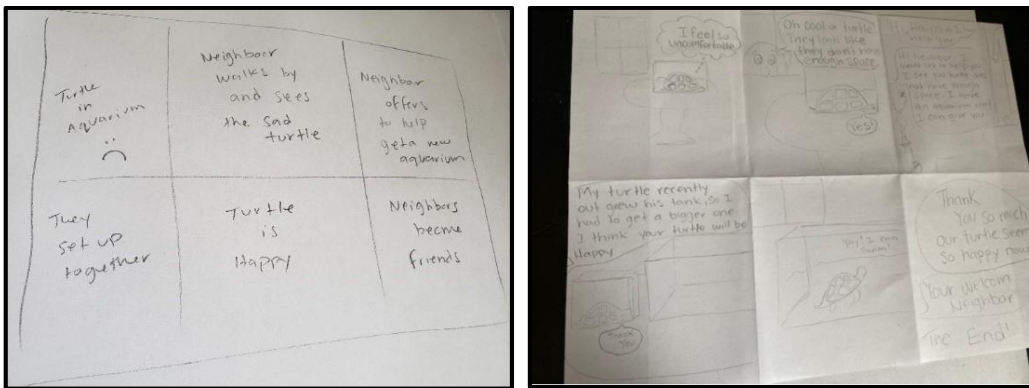
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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one scenario to focus on and consider the following questions:
 - Why do you think this is happening?
 - What does this animal need that they are not getting?
 - What do you think this animal is feeling?
 - Who can help them? Will that person be you? Someone else?

- Make 4-6 boxes of equal size on your sheet of paper by either folding the paper or drawing lines directly onto it.

- Using a pencil and a scratch sheet of paper, draft your story. What will happen in each scene? Who are the characters and what is the setting? Map out your vision for the comic, box by box. Make sure you include a statement on what the animal is feeling.



- Sketch out animations and text for each box using a pencil. Add color and final touches! Share with friends and family.

