



## Pet Care Homes

With this activity, recommended for kids ages 5-10, you will make a diorama illustrating everything your pet of choice needs to be happy and healthy. It's a great activity to help kids think through responsible pet care while encouraging their creativity. If given the time, space, and freedom to work on it, many kids build very creative homes! Try it as a follow-up to the DIY Pet Care Presentation available for free download on spcaLA's website!

### MATERIALS

- Small cardboard box or shoe box
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers
- Variety of magazines or blank paper for drawing
- Miscellaneous craft items of choice (e.g. fabric pieces, yarn, felt, etc.)

### PROCEDURE:

- Brainstorm with your child and make a list of everything a pet needs to be happy and healthy. Make sure it includes the following:
  - Food, Water, Shelter, Exercise/Play, Rest, Grooming/Hygiene, Medical Care, Love/Attention.
- Pose the following discussion questions:
  - Do humans also need these things to be happy and healthy?
  - What are some specific examples that help YOU meet your need for each of these things? (e.g. spaghetti, my bedroom, soccer, etc.)
  - What are some specific examples that help others in your family meet their need for each of these things?
- Next, explain that your child will need to think about one specific type of pet for the activity. Help your child pick this specific pet to focus on. Make sure it's a domesticated animal!
  - Recommendation: visit [spcaLA.com](http://spcaLA.com) to choose from a list of real-life available pets. There you will always find many dogs and cats to choose from, and you will often find bunnies, rats, or guinea pigs too!
- Ask your child to think about the following as they are making their pet care home:
  - Since you know your pet needs things like food, shelter, and exercise/play, what are the *specific* things within those categories



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that your chosen pet needs? What will you include in your pet's home to make sure they have everything they need to be happy and healthy?

- If using a shoe box, simply remove the lid to create an opening. If using a cardboard box, cut out the flaps to create an opening on one side. You should end up with a 5-sided box for this diorama pet care home. Help your child with cutting, as needed.
- Instruct your child to create their pet's home inside of the box with the supplies you have on hand. Encourage them to cut out images, draw pictures, build items, and let their imagination run wild as they build the perfect home for their pet.
- Once complete, ask your child to give you a tour of their pet care home and how they made sure to include everything their make-believe pet needs inside of it.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:** If your child really enjoys making this pet care home, they can always choose a different kind of pet and build another!



Example above is a simple pet care home for a dog! It has an agility course outside for play and exercise, a couple of dog beds, a kong toy, a food bowl, a water bowl, and the overall safety of a warm home! What would you add?