

Key Stage 2: Citizenship

Lesson Plan 2: I want, you need

You want a dog. You need a dog. It's your right to have a dog! That's what you've been telling your mum, dad or guardian for ages, but they keep on saying NO! Why? Because having an animal is not just about what YOU *want*, it's about what the animal *needs*.

For example, a rabbit needs:

1. Company of his own kind – another rabbit!
2. Good food every day and lots of hay
3. Fresh water every day
4. A secure hutch so he is safe at night
5. To have his hutch cleaned out every day
6. A large area where he can play with his friend every day (not just when it suits you!)
7. To be checked over every week to make sure he is healthy
8. To be taken to the vet whenever you think he is not well
9. Warmth in winter and a cool place to be in summer
10. Things to do – bunnies don't like to be bored
11. Somewhere to dig
12. To be left alone with his bunny friend a lot of the time

A rabbit does not need:

1. To be picked up all the time and treated as a toy
2. To be locked in a hutch all day long – how would you like it?

That's a lot to remember, isn't it?

Now, in your pair, make a list of all the things a dog would need. How many can you think of? Try and get to 15 things that a dog would need.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Can you think of anything that a dog definitely DOES NOT need? Try and think of five things.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Do you think you could offer ALL of those things to a dog? Be honest! If you answer no to any of them, then maybe this is not the right time for you to have a dog. Having an animal is about more than just what you want. It's about their needs and their rights as well.