

Are you Ready for Me? - Book Activity

Overview: Students will listen to the book about what a dog needs and reinforce the learning by "caring" for a stuffed dog.

Materials: *Are You Ready For Me* book by Claire Buchwald (or access to [YouTube online reading](#)), stuffed dog, needs items for dogs (needs lists found below), a tote bag

Key Questions:

- What are "needs"?
- What are "wants"?
- What do humans need and want?
- What do animals need and want?

Big Ideas:

- Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy
- Healthy communities recognize and respect the diversity of individuals and care for the local environment

**curriculum links are listed on the last page of this packet*

Preparation: Place all needs items in a tote bag

Activity:

Read *Are You Ready For Me* by Claire Buchwald. If you do not have the book, pull up the YouTube read-along version [here](#). Once you have read the book, pull out (or have the students pull out) one item at a time from the tote bag and act it out with the stuffed dog (i.e. brush the dog, pick up the "poop", put the leash on).

When each item is pulled out, ask if they know what it represents and why they think this is a need and not a want.



Discussion Questions:

- Do other animals have these needs as well?
- What should we do to meet a cat's needs? Rabbit's needs?
- Can you think of other needs animals have that weren't in the book?
- Do people have some of the same needs?

Items to put in the tote bag

Dog's Needs Items

Item	Need it Represents
Leash (or crafted one)	Exercise/Space and Freedom
Collar (or crafted one)	Safety - able to find where they belong if they are lost
2 Bowls	Food and water (one bowl for each)
Brush (or dog nail clippers)	Hygiene/Grooming
Poop Bag (or regular plastic bag)	Clean-up after our animals
Pet Toys	Entertainment/play/doing dog things
Watch	Attention– pets need time and affection (to act this out, have child pet the stuffed animal)
Stethoscope	Veterinarian

Extensions:

- Complete attached activity sheets
- Create tote bags of needs for other companion animals, such as cats, guinea pigs, or rabbits, etc. See lists below.
- Expand the activity to include other animals, such as farm animals, by creating a bag of their needs. Discuss if the needs of farm animals are different than companion animals like dogs and cats.
- Create a short picture book about what another animal needs. Keep it to companion animals or to expand to include farm, marine or wild animals.

Extension items to put in tote bag

Cat's Needs Items

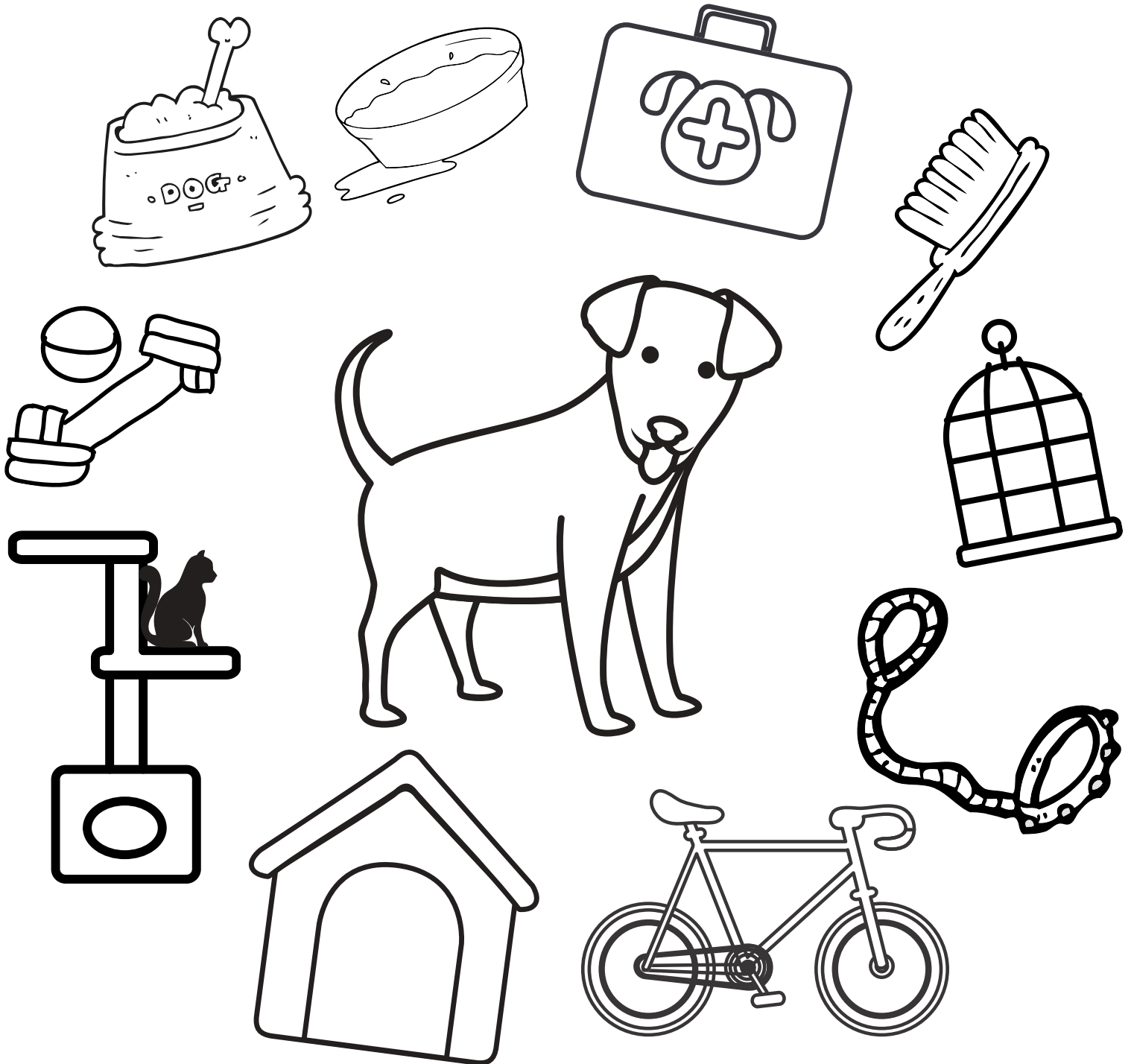
Item	Need it Represents
Collar (or crafted one)	Safety - able to find where they belong if they are lost
2 Bowls	Food and water (one bowl for each)
Brush (or cat nail clippers)	Hygiene/Grooming
Litter scoop	Clean-up after our animals
Pet Toys	Exercise/entertainment/play
Watch	Attention– pets need time and affection (to act this out, have child pet the stuffed animal)
Stethoscope	Veterinarian
Picture of scratching post	Doing cat things, like scratching

Small Animals' Needs Items

Item	Need it Represents
Picture of cage	Safety
2 Bowls (or 1 bowl, and 1 waterbottle)	Food and water (one bowl for each)
Brush (or nail clippers)	Hygiene/Grooming
Litter scoop	Clean-up after our animals
Pet Toys	Exercise/entertainment/play
Watch	Attention– pets need time and affection (to act this out, have child pet the stuffed animal)
Stethoscope	Veterinarian
Another stuffed animal	Companionship – some small animals need a friend

What Do Dogs Need?

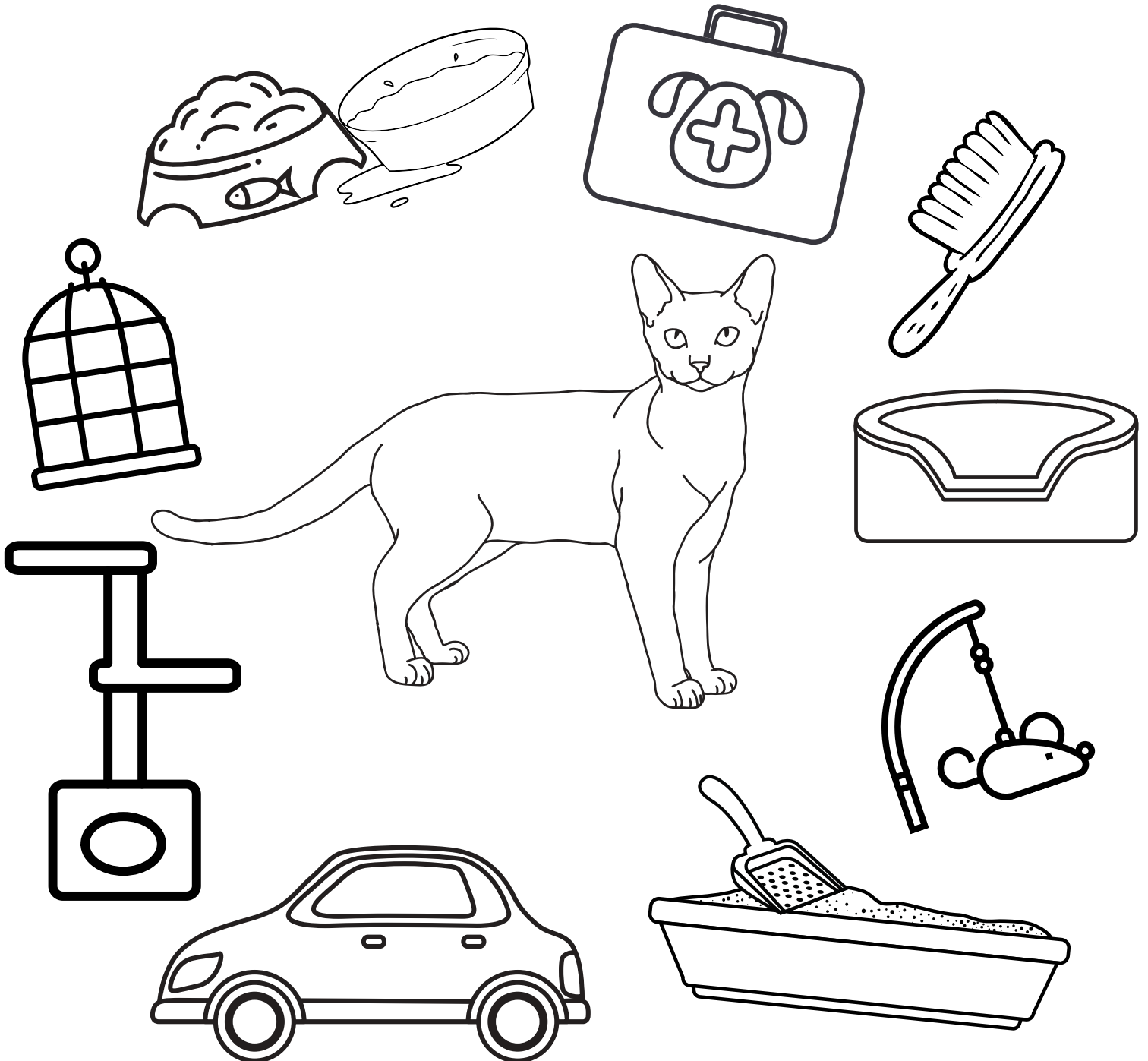
Directions: Colour the dog and all of the items they need to live a happy and healthy life! Cross out the items they don't need.



What else do dogs need to be happy and healthy?

What Do Cats Need?

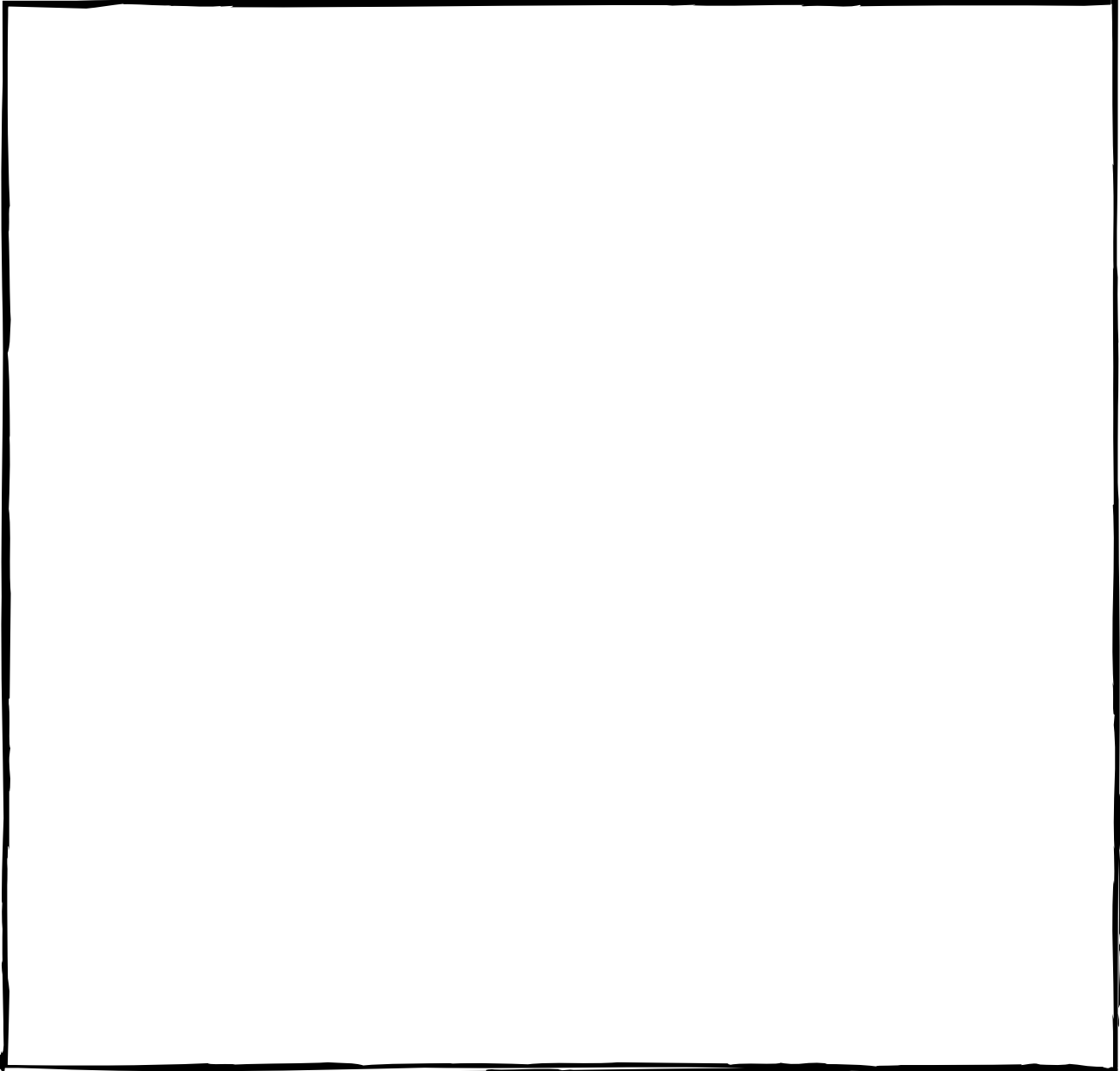
Directions: Colour the cat and all of the items they need to live a happy and healthy life! Cross out the items they don't need.



What else do cats need to be happy and healthy?

Caring for a Pet

Directions: Draw a picture of yourself caring for a pet!



My pet's name is _____

My pet likes to _____

Are you Ready for Me?

Curriculum Links

Curricular Competencies and Content:

English Language Arts:

- Use developmentally appropriate reading, listening, and viewing strategies to make meaning
- Engage actively as listeners, viewers, and readers, as appropriate, to develop understanding of self, identity, and community
- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to stories and other texts to make meaning

Social Studies

- Recognize causes and consequences of events, decisions or developments in their lives (cause and consequence)
- Needs and wants of individuals and families
- Rights, roles, and responsibilities of individuals and groups

Core Competencies:

Critical and Reflective Thinking:

- I can use evidence to make simple judgements

Personal and Social:

- I can be aware of others and my surroundings
- I can take purposeful action to support others and the environment