I shared my bread with a man and a dog; the man does not know me anymore, but the dog still recognises me.
Welcome to SOS Dogs - Education Booklet. This booklet has many interesting activities and stories that will help you improve your English. It will also help you learn lots of different things about dogs and explain why they need your help and respect.

SOS Dogs - Education Booklet has been produced for you by Battersea Dogs Home, Dogs Trust and North Shore Animal League International - 3 organizations which work and care for dogs. Together they have formed SOS Dogs (Save Our Street Dogs) which works to reduce the street dog population all over the world.

We hope you enjoy SOS Dogs - Education Booklet. Happy reading!

Let's learn about dogs

• Did you know that there are millions of dogs in the world today? Some of these dogs are pets. Pet dogs are owned and cared for by people and live with them as companions in their homes.

• There are also working dogs which may work with the police or the military. Farmers use dogs for certain jobs such as rounding up sheep and cattle. Some working dogs help disabled people too.

• Other dogs have no owners. They are called stray dogs or street dogs. They live on the streets of towns and villages. These animals have to find their own food, water and shelter. They usually live in groups called packs. When street dogs are ill or injured there are no owners to help them.

• Although they live differently, pet dogs and street dogs have many things in common. They have the same needs and feelings. They also behave in similar ways.

Dogs and people

• All dogs are related to wolves, humans first kept them in their homes more than 12,000 years ago, when they were used to protect homes and families.

• There are many different shapes, sizes and breeds of dog, some pedigree (pure breed) and crossbreed (mixed breed).
For many years, scientists, veterinary surgeons and organizations that care for animals have researched the street dog problem. Their research has found the kindest solution. This solution involves: catching the street dogs; neutering them to stop them breeding and then returning them to the street. This is called Catch, Neuter and Return (CNR). The World Health Organization agrees that the CNR solution, is the only humane and effective way to control the street dog population. Preventing dogs from reproducing means the dog population will not grow and, over time, it will reduce.

**Working together**

Oradea, a town in Romania with a street dog problem, has started a Catch, Neuter and Return programme. Every day between 5 and 10 dogs are caught, taken to the shelter, neutered and given a health check. The clinic also gives the dogs a small cut on their ears - called tipping. This is to let everyone know that these dogs have been neutered. When the dogs have recovered from the neutering operation they are returned to their neighbourhood.

Catch, Neuter and Return stops the street dog population growing because the neutered dogs can no longer reproduce. Eventually there will be fewer street dogs without a home. Everyone knows it will take a long time to neuter all of the dogs, but all agree it is the best way to control the street dog population.

**Living with street dogs**

Think about where you live. Are there any street dogs in your area?

Some people find street dogs a problem because they add to the mess around a town as well as having lots of puppies. They can also seem frightening.

Other people try to help street dogs by feeding them and caring for them when they are ill or injured.

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**Activity - How do you feel?**

Try this activity with your friends and classmates. Give all of your answers in English if you can.

**Imagine you are a street dog.**

Ask yourselves these questions:

- How does it feel to live on the street with no shelter?
- How does it feel if you cannot find food or water?
- How does it feel if someone shouts at you?
- How does it feel if someone chases you or hits you?
- How does it feel if someone is kind to you?

**Some English words used to explain feelings:**

I feel: frightened, scared, worried, cold, hot, lonely, hungry, thirsty, loved, happy, unhappy, sad, pain, hurt, angry, wanted, unwanted

Finally, ask each other for ideas about the following questions:

- How could the lives of street dogs be improved?  
- What can you do to improve the lives of street dogs?
Neutering - your questions answered!
SOS Dogs asked veterinary surgeon Natalia Slovic, who lives and works in Romania, some questions about neutering...

What is neutering?
Neutering is a simple operation which stops male and female dogs producing puppies. Before the dogs are neutered they are given an injection to make them sleep. This means that they won’t feel a thing when they have the operation.

What happens if we don’t neuter dogs?
A lot of unwanted puppies! Un-neutered females can have at least 2 litters of puppies a year. Each litter may contain up to 7 puppies! So you can see how the street dog population can get bigger and bigger. Neutering is also good for dogs that have owners. Neutered dogs are usually cleaner at home.

Is there another way to stop dogs mating?
No, it’s their instinct. Dogs, like all animals, have a very strong mating instinct which they cannot control. An un-neutered female dog smells very strongly when she is ready to mate. This smell lasts for about 1 month. During this month, male dogs will do almost anything to mate with the female. Some dogs travel many kilometres to find a female to mate with. They fight and argue over female dogs too!

If there are too many street dogs in an area, isn’t it simpler to take them somewhere else or kill them?
No. Scientific research shows that if you remove all the street dogs from an area other dogs will soon move in. There is always food and water around towns and street dogs move to areas where there is food. Neutering all street dogs is the best solution as it means that the dogs will not be able to produce unwanted litters.

What can young people do to help solve the problem?
Just explaining the reasons for neutering helps. They can also spread the message that it is important to be dog-friendly. Being unkind to street dogs is unfair... it is not their fault that they live on the street.

Activity
Imagine that your town needs a leaflet to promote its new street dog neutering programme. Write and design a simple leaflet explaining why the town’s street dogs will be neutered.
In June 2003, a Catch, Neuter and Return scheme was set up in Oradea, Romania.

At the clinic, the dogs are neutered so they can’t have puppies.

This is a vets/neutering room.

Here the dogs recover after their operation, when they are ready, they are returned to where they were collected from.

The people in the neighbourhoods know that the dogs live there and will feed them and look out for them.

In some areas, they can’t be returned, so they are ‘rehomed’.

These dogs are waiting for a new home.

Within 2 years of launching this scheme, over 2000 dogs have been neutered by SOS Dogs Oradea.

Part of the work of SOS Dogs Oradea, is to go into schools and talk to young people, like yourselves about their work and the benefits of neutering and good dog care.
What’s your view?

Read the 10 statements below. Tick either Agree or Disagree in the box beside them.

1. There are too many street dogs

2. Neutered dogs are less likely to get into fights

3. Catching dogs and neutering them is a good idea

4. Only street dogs should be neutered

5. Street dogs should be left alone and allowed to breed

6. There should be more neutering programmes to help street dogs

7. Neutering is the best solution for the street dog problem

8. Dogs only have 1 litter of puppies per year

9. All types of dog have the same basic needs

10. It is OK to be unkind to street dogs because they are not like pet dogs

Check your responses with the SOS Dogs information box below. Has your view changed?

SOS Dogs says

1. How many street dogs are there in your town?
2. This is because their mating instincts are now gone and they are not fighting for the female dogs.
3. Killing or hurting dogs will not make them go away.
4. Having a pet dog neutered, means a cleaner home and they are less likely to stray.
5. If they are not neutered they will keep making puppies.
6. Is there a neutering programme in your area?
7. It means there will be less dogs on the street.
8. Dogs can have at least 2 litters of puppies a year, each litter can have up to 7 or more puppies.
9. All dogs have feelings and basic needs.
10. Street dogs don’t have anyone to look after them, it is not their fault.
Are you dog-friendly?

- The aim of the game is to reach the winner’s trophy first.
- Players spin the spinner (on the inside back page).
- The person with the highest number goes first.
- Players take turns to spin and move their counter around the trail. If a player spins a six they can move their counter and get a bonus spin.
- When a player lands on a grey square they must follow the instructions.

CONGRATULATIONS
You are kind and responsible to dogs
WELL DONE!

You are unkind to a dog.
Go back to the start

You feed your dog regularly.
Move forward 2 places
You forget to feed your dog. Miss a turn.

You have your dog neutered. Have another turn.

You forget to give your dog fresh water. Go back 7 spaces.

You give your dog a lot of attention. Move forward 4 spaces.

You can’t be bothered to play with your dog. Go back 3 spaces.

You are kind to a dog. Move forward 6 spaces.

You don’t train your dog. Go back 2 spaces.
Everyone says that lots of street dogs in a neighbourhood is a big problem. How big can this problem get? Find out by looking at the picture and solving the mathematical puzzles below.

To solve this puzzle you need to know:

- each pair of dogs will have 1 litter of puppies a year
- each litter contains 4 puppies
- 2 of the puppies will be male
- 2 of the puppies will be female
- each male and female pair will mate and breed.

![Image of dogs]

To work out how many puppies there would be after:

5 years?__________  6 years?__________  7 years?__________
8 years?__________  9 years?__________  10 years?__________

Don't forget!
In real life dogs will have more than 1 litter of 4 puppies each year. They will have 2 litters of puppies. Each litter may contain 7 puppies. This means thousands of puppies can be produced from just one pair of unneuter ed dogs... **Neutering street dogs makes good sense!**
Extraordinary dogs

Dogs often make the news on television and in newspapers because they may have helped someone in a special way. Below are a series of stories about loyal, courageous and intelligent dogs; in some cases quite extraordinary stories.

When you have read each one, put a tick in one of the boxes to say whether you think the story is true or false.

One dog; two rescues
On two occasions a family pet saved the day. On Monday Antonia’s dog Nela saved her 5 year old from the river when she fell in. Two days later Nela broke her leg when she jumped from a cliff to save a child who had fallen.

Dogs who help deaf people
A hearing dog for a deaf person is like a guide dog for a blind person - only they act as their owners’ ears and alert them to sounds like the doorbell and telephone. Tilly has been a hearing dog for 2 years, and has already saved her owner from being hit by a car. A hearing dog has very special training to make sure they don’t forget any of the sounds they need.

Helping the disabled
Ramona has needed a wheelchair since a bad accident 7 years ago left her unable to walk. Her specially trained dog Jack helps her do all sorts of important tasks. Jack assists her in everyday things like shopping and getting dressed, he is also trained to get help in an emergency.

Bull Terriers: heroes or villians?
In some countries Bull Terriers are considered too dangerous, but one man owes his life to his pet Bull Terrier. His dog woke him in the middle of the night with frantic barking, as the bedroom filled with smoke. He was able to get out alive from his burning house thanks to his Bull Terrier.

Dogs who help blind people
When Timmy was just 6 weeks old he started to learn how to be a guide dog. The training he had makes him a vital part of his owner’s life. He helps Rosa, who is blind, find her way safely through crowded streets everyday and helps her deal with dangers like road traffic. He can even judge the height and width of things like ceilings and corridors so that she won’t hurt herself.

Sylvia rescues baby
Sylvia, the dog, searched a ruined building for two hours before alerting her handler to a trapped baby. She wriggled through a tiny gap in the wall to emerge with the baby unharmed.

NOW
In the empty box or on a separate piece of paper, write your own story for your local newspaper about a heroic dog.

OR
Put one of the stories above into cartoon form to explain it to young children who cannot read.

Now check your answers

Answers: All the above stories are true. This should not surprise you because dogs are very loyal to their owners, repay the kindness their owners show them. Dogs
What would you do?

The SOS Dogs safety code
- Don’t pat or play with a dog unless you have permission. Always ask the owner first.
- Never rush up to a dog. Hold out your hand and let the dog come to you.
- Don’t stare into a dog’s eyes. When a dog growls at you or is unfriendly, stay calm and walk away. Don’t run.
- Never take a dog for a walk on your own. Always ask an adult to come along with you. In an emergency, they might need to control the dog.
- Try not to make sudden movements or loud noises when you are with a dog. You may frighten it.
- Stay relaxed and calm.
- Don’t disturb a dog if he’s eating, drinking or is tied up.
- Tell your friends how to behave properly around dogs - teach them what to do and what not to do!

Are you safe with dogs? Are dogs safe with you? Take our fun quiz and find out!

1. You are walking along the street and you see a dog with its owner. The dog wants to play with you. What do you do?
   a) Run over and give the dog a big hug  
   b) Ask the owner if you can stroke it  
   c) Throw a stone at it

2. A street dog in your neighbourhood growls fiercely at people. What do you tell your neighbours to do?
   a) Tell them to walk over and pat him  
   b) Tell them not to stare at the dog. Tell them to walk away slowly  
   c) Tell them to run at the dog and shout loudly

3. Your dog has droopy ears and a droopy tail. He growls when you try to get him out of his basket. What do you do?
   a) Try and get in the basket with him to make him happy  
   b) Leave him alone and tell an adult  
   c) Shout at him and tell him to get up

4. Your neighbour has a very friendly dog. When you see it you...
   a) Jump and shriek in a very excited way  
   b) Offer it your hand and speak to it gently  
   c) Stare at it and tell it to go away

5. It is a hot sunny day. You see a dog that has been left alone in a car, the window is open, the dog is panting alot. You want to be kind, so you...
   a) Wave at it and try and pat it through the window  
   b) Try and find the owner because the dog is getting hot  
   c) Run around and around the outside of the car to make the dog bark

What are your dog safety scores?
Mostly a’s
Be careful! You really like dogs, but you need to learn more about their behaviour. Some of your enthusiastic behaviour could upset them and even make them bite you.

Mostly b’s
Well done! You obviously like dogs very much. You also understand their behaviour. Dogs are quite safe with you, and you are quite safe with them. However, all animals are unpredictable. You must always be careful with dogs.

Mostly c’s
Oh dear! You don’t know very much about dog behaviour. You sometimes behave unkindly. Staring at dogs, shouting at them, teasing them and throwing stones at them can make them attack you. Dogs that growl and show their teeth should be left alone. You should walk away quietly and never stare at them.
Can you give Angelo a home?

Angelo is a friendly, 8-month old cross breed puppy with long, shaggy fur.

He loves going for walks and playing ball games. He gets on well with children, but is frightened of cats! He needs two meals a day and loves drinking water from his bowl.

Unfortunately, Angelo no longer has an owner and lives with us in the animal shelter. We are desperately trying to find him a new home. Angelo has been neutered and vaccinated.

All he needs is a caring owner...

There are lots of dogs like Angelo who need new homes. Please can you help?

Angelo's new owner

Imagine that you want to be Angelo's new owner. You want to take good care of him and make him happy.

Write a list of 10 things that you will need to do or buy to make sure Angelo is a happy, healthy and well behaved dog. Here is 1 item to get you started:

1. Food
2. ________________
3. ________________
4. ________________
5. ________________
6. ________________
7. ________________
8. ________________
9. ________________
10. ________________

Write a list of five things that would make Angelo unhappy....

1. ________________
2. ________________
3. ________________
4. ________________
5. ________________

Check your list with the suggestions found upside down at the bottom of this page.

SOS Dogs says

Did you know that there are lots of dogs just like Angelo who need new homes? Animal shelters all over the world work hard to find dogs and puppies new owners. SOS Dogs believe that dogs from animal shelters can make wonderful companions. By giving a dog from a shelter a home, you will give it a new start in life. You will also be making space at the shelter for other dogs that need help. To find animal shelters in your area look in your local telephone directory, newspapers and on the internet.

Now check your answers

Things that would make Angelo unhappy - no water, no food, being left up, no one to play with, no exercise, cold, unhappy, grooming, love

Things that would make Angelo a happy, healthy and well-behaved dog - water, exercise, companionship,
This is one way in which you can help.
Why not encourage your friends to copy it and make ‘The Promise’
Once you have signed it you should display it and be very proud of the
support you have shown dogs that need your help.

**I PROMISE I WILL:**

- Be dog-friendly and treat all dogs with kindness.
- Remember that a dog is a living creature.
- Do all I can to help the dogs in my town.
- Explain why neutering is a good thing.
- Ask my friends to help.
- Tell my friends what I have learnt.

**SIGNED: ..........................**

If we could speak, we would say:  
**T H A N K  Y O U !**

Perhaps you and your friends could display the promises in school - to encourage even more people to join in?
Counters and Spinner for the Board Game (see pages 8 and 9)

To make a spinner copy the template above, or cut this one out. Then push a pencil through the middle for it to spin on. Whichever side is touching the ground when it falls is your number to move. Above are some counters which you can cut out, or you can make your own.
Sponsored by

- Battersea Dogs Home, UK
- Dogs Trust, UK
- North Shore Animal League International

www.dogshome.org  www.dogstrust.org  www.nsaluk.org

sos_dogs@hotmail.com