

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

Exploring what it means to be responsible

Developing a sense of responsibility is a critical component to character and citizenship education. Learning about and recognizing the value of responsibility can empower students to make good choices for themselves and consider how their actions affect others, animals and the environment. It's important for students to understand that being responsible isn't just completing a task or a chore—it's following through with commitments, taking responsibility for actions and thinking through choices. In terms of animal care, being responsible is paramount as animals rely on us to meet their needs—every day, for their entire lives.

Introduce the poster and discuss the following:

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be responsible? What are some examples?
- What does “your actions matter” mean? Can you give an example?
- What aspects of the poster indicate that the dog is being cared for responsibly?
- What other things must a responsible dog/pet owner do?
- You often hear “A pet is a big responsibility.” Why do people say that? Do agree?
- What are some responsibilities that you have?
- What are the rewards for being a responsible person? Are there any consequences for being irresponsible?
- How can being responsible benefit your school? Your home? Local and global community?

Activities

1. As a class, brainstorm examples times or situations when *your actions matter*. Be sure to include actions affecting yourself, other people, animals (domestic and wild) and the environment. Create your own poster with the phrase “Your Actions Matter.” (The sheet on the back can be used for brainstorming, or for the final poster.)
2. Create “A Day in the Life” of a pet. Show or describe a typical day of a pet, either from the perspective of the pet or the pet caretaker. Have students address all of the pet’s physical and mental needs. This can be done through photographs, drawings, story, video, etc.

Make Your Mark!



Send us copies of some of your students' projects to get on the **Kindness Map!**

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