

Off Leash Obstacle - Student Role Cards

Teacher Instructions

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 - Each set has nine roles and are group by letters in the top right hand corner
 - Print as many sets as required. There are four sets of role cards in this document (36 students)
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3. Use the role cards as outlined in the Off Leash Obstacle: A One Health Lesson Teacher's Guide



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BUDDY THE DOG

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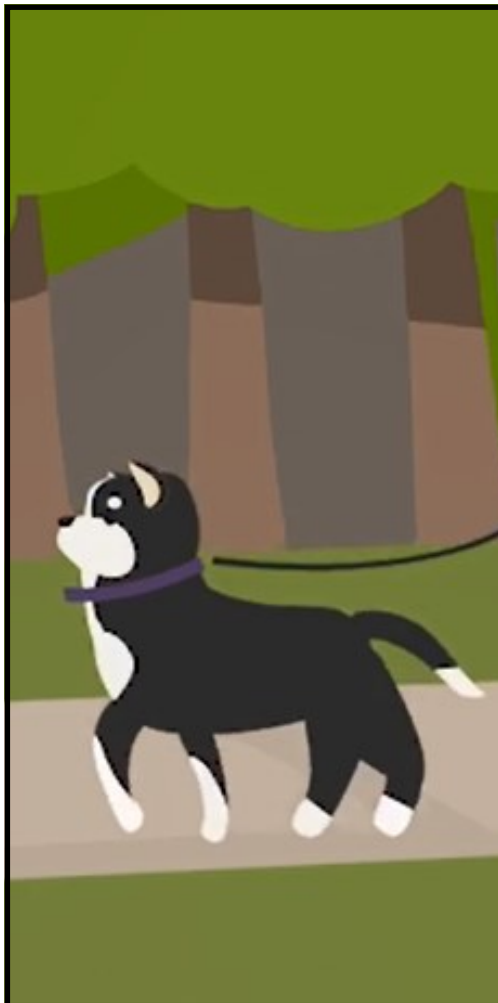
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DOG OWNER

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STUDENT ON SKATEBOARD



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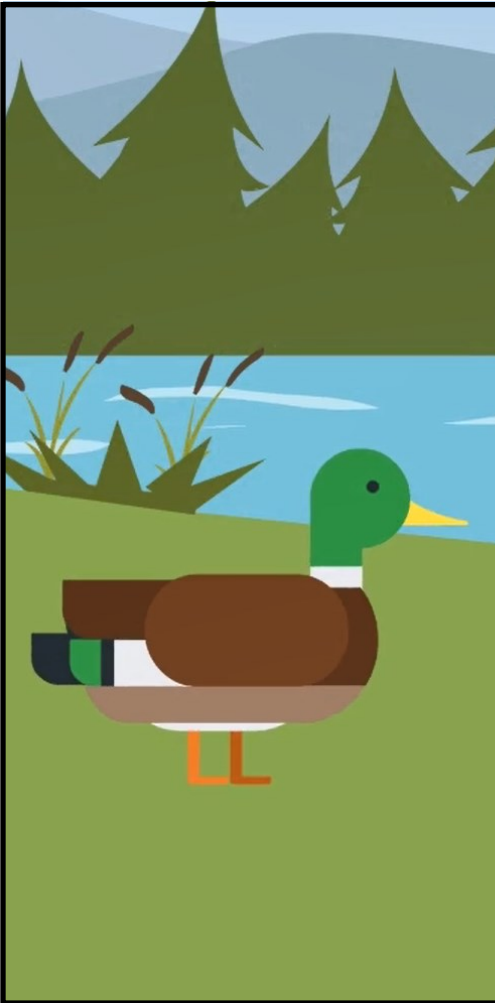
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MALLARD DUCK



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COYOTE



Coyotes live in the park and prey on off-leash dogs and other animals as part of their diet. Dogs (and cats) are good sources of protein for coyotes. Coyotes are very important to the urban ecosystem by controlling mice, rabbit, and squirrel populations, and coyotes have been in this area long before dogs have. Last year a dog sick with Parvovirus visited the park and the owner did not pick up the dog's feces. The virus infected a whole pack of coyotes, and all but two died. Coyotes often hunt in groups and with only a small number of them, they barely survived last winter.

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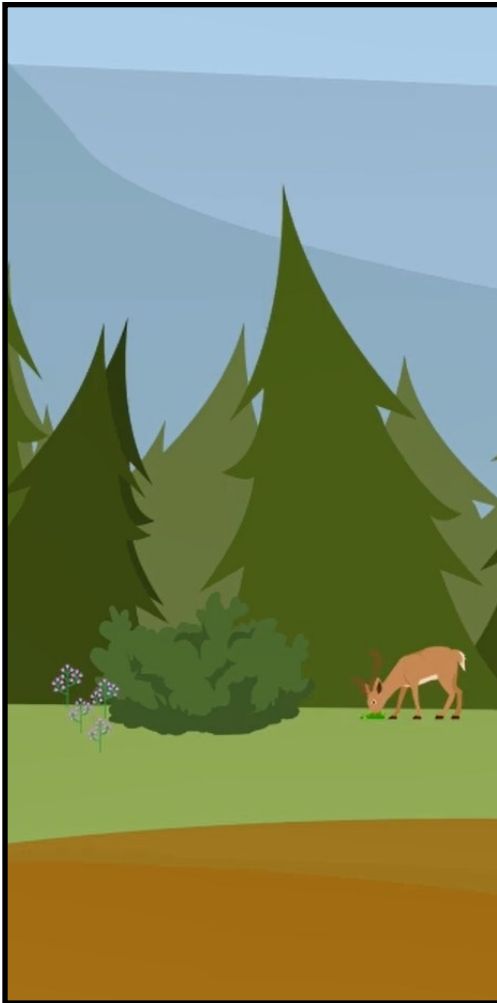
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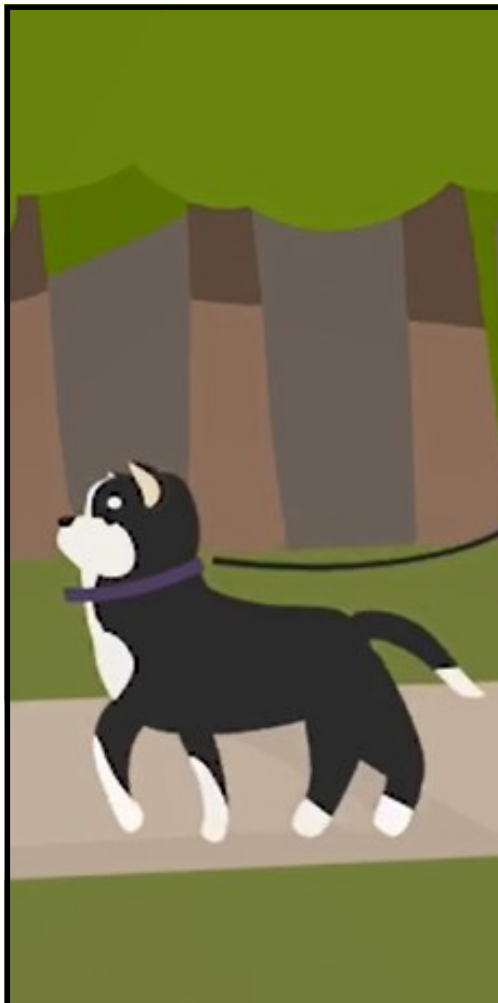
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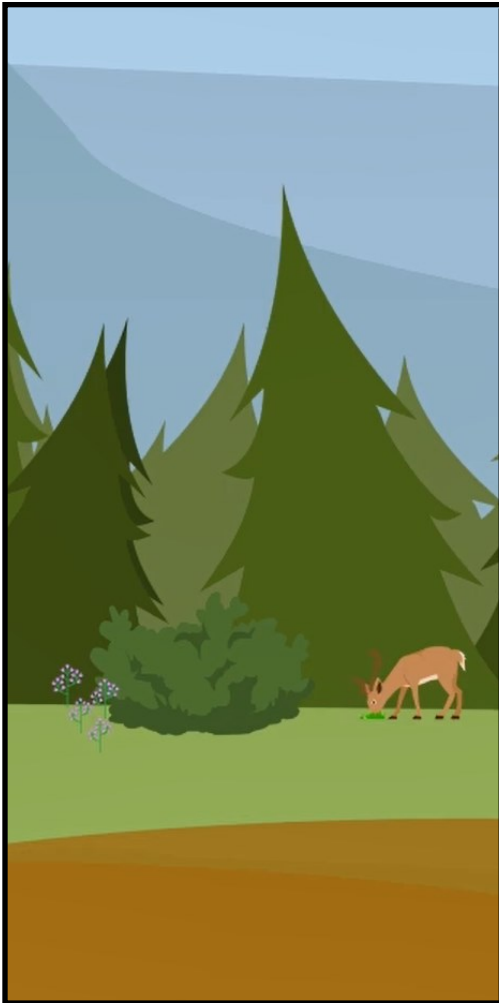
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One Health at UCalgary



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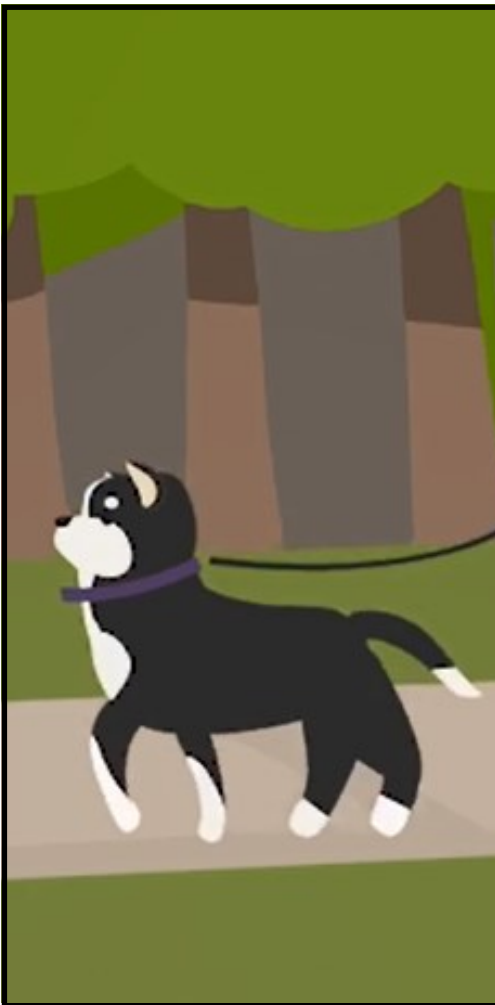
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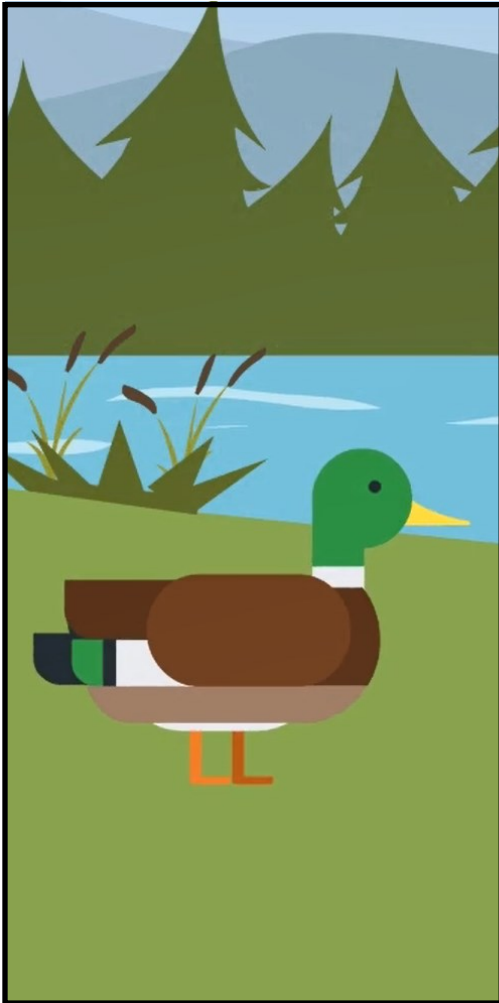
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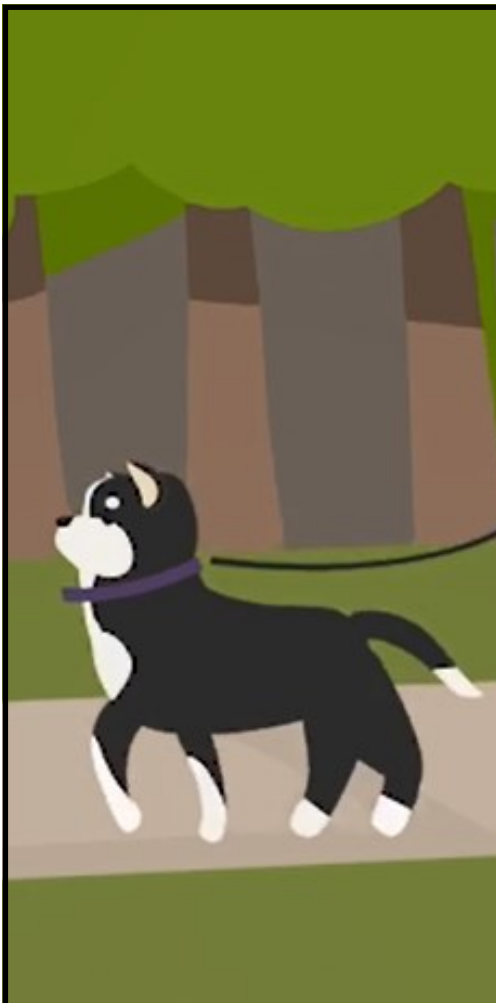
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Pippi loves going to the park to smell and see all the other dogs, people and wildlife. Pippi's owner always keeps Pippi on a leash because when she let Pippi go off-leash one time, Pippi wandered too far and was almost attacked by a coyote. Pippi feels safer next to her owner, but still gets scared when bigger dogs run around off-leash.



DOG OWNER

The dog owner has a mixed breed dog named Buddy who loves running, chasing and retrieving. The park is a few minutes from his house, so he brings his dog there every day and lets him off his leash. The dog owner prefers to let Buddy off leash because he is an extremely energetic dog that needs exercise, and he pulls constantly when he has a leash on. Buddy also has good recall – anytime the dog owner calls him, Buddy comes right back. The dog owner doesn't think it's a big deal to let Buddy off-leash, especially since he never sees bylaw officers and he has not once gotten a fine.



GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. How does other dogs being off leash make you feel? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. If you could share one thing to those who want dogs to be off leash, what would it be?

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. If you could tell dog owners one thing, what would it be?

STUDENT ON SKATEBOARD



The student enjoys skateboarding to school when the weather is warm and uses pathways in the park to get there. He loves it, except for when he gets chased by dogs. He has been knocked off his skateboard twice by off-leash dogs, leaving him with scrapes and bruises, and a little shaken-up. He also gets annoyed when owners don't pick up their dog's feces and he accidentally rolls through it on his skateboard. It smells bad, and he doesn't always have time to clean the wheels before putting his skateboard in his locker.

BYLAW OFFICER



The bylaw officer has a very important job, one of which is to make sure that pet owners are obeying the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw that regulates dogs in the city. She encourages people to learn about the laws in their city that are designed to protect both pets and people. Many people let their dogs off-leash in areas where they are required by bylaw to be on leash. This is a big concern for her, especially since she is very busy and can't be at all the parks at once, and dog owners usually get very angry at her when she gives them a fine. She is just doing her job, and she wished that others would do their part to keep everyone in the city safe too.

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. What do you wish dog owners would consider before letting dogs off leash?

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

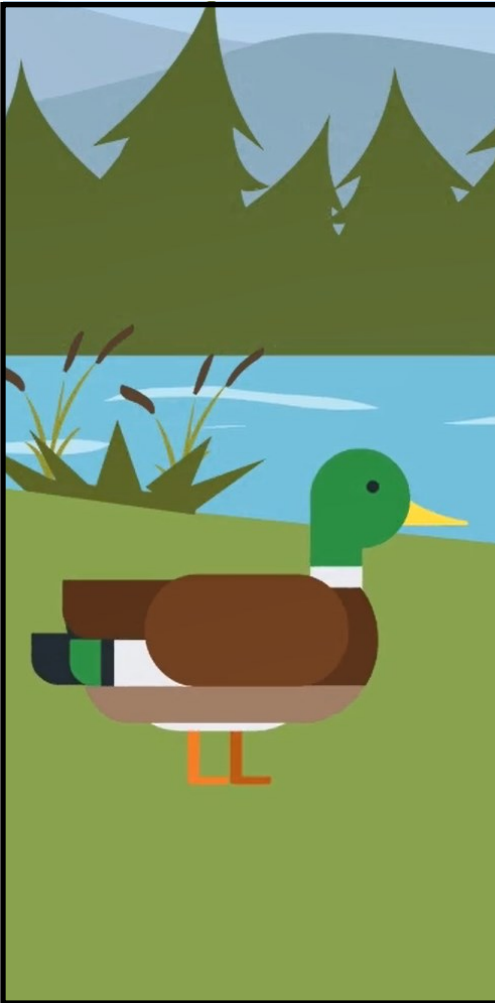
Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. What do you wish dog owners would consider before letting dogs off leash?

MALLARD DUCK



Mallard ducks live by the riverside and rely on it for survival. Off-leash dogs not only scare them by chasing them around, but dogs have also taken their eggs before. Their chicks that survived have also died later in life from bacteria in the river left by dog feces.

COYOTE



Coyotes live in the park and prey on off-leash dogs and other animals as part of their diet. Dogs (and cats) are good sources of protein for coyotes. Coyotes are very important to the urban ecosystem by controlling mice, rabbit, and squirrel populations, and coyotes have been in this area long before dogs have. Last year a dog sick with Parvovirus visited the park and the owner did not pick up the dog's feces. The virus infected a whole pack of coyotes, and all but two died. Coyotes often hunt in groups and with only a small number of them, they barely survived last winter.

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective (point of view) of your character role.

1. How do dogs off leash affect you? List three ways. *Think of how their behaviours might impact you such as running, chasing, jumping, pooping, etc.*

2. Do you think having a by-law to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Give three reasons why.

3. If you could tell dog owners one thing, what would it be?

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. What do you wish dog owners would consider before letting dogs off leash?

MEADOW

The park is made up of a beautiful native grassland meadow, populated with a variety of wildflowers, some of which are becoming very threatened. Although most people know they should never pick a wildflower, they let their dogs trample and dig up the grasses and flowers in the meadow. Some areas have been trampled so much that nothing grows there anymore. This has affected the deer, rabbit, and bird populations that used to dwell here. Bees and other insects also are becoming fewer and fewer. The pollinators that live in the meadow often travel far distances to crops that are in flower, so farmers are losing the important services of pollinators. The feces of dogs that owners leave behind are very high in nitrogen, which helps invasive plants like dandelions grow fast and push out the beautiful wildflowers.



RIVER

The river has been in this area since the last glacial melt over 10,000 years ago. More recently, people have formed towns and cities around rivers, as they are wonderful water sources. However, when people don't clean up their dog feces, it pollutes the water with too much organic matter, parasites and bacteria. If 100 people don't pick up their dog's poop, that amounts to over 200kg of dog feces that end up in the river. 200kg is about the weight of a fully grown stag (a male deer)! In the summer, that amount of waste can end up in the river every week. Many other animals also rely on the river. For example, fish! But when the water is polluted, there is less oxygen for fish to breathe, less food for them to eat, and it's harder for fish to reproduce. Polluted, poor quality water isn't good for anyone.



GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. What do you wish dog owners would consider before letting dogs off leash?

GETTING INTO PERSPECTIVE!

Instructions: Answer the following questions from the perspective of your character role.

1. What are some of the impacts that off leash dogs have on you? Explain.

2. Do you think having a bylaw to keep dogs on leash is a good idea in natural parks? Explain.

3. What do you wish dog owners would consider before letting dogs off leash?
