

Activity Sheet 1



The Special Work of Therapy Animals

Read the following stories about different therapy animals and the ways in which they help people. Choose your favorite one and draw a picture of that story. Under your drawing, or on a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about how the animal helped the person in that story, and how you might feel if you were that person.

Suzie is nine years old. She has a disabling condition that keeps her in a wheelchair because she can't walk on her own. Once a week she visits a stable and gets to ride a horse named Comet. Comet is a therapy horse who is trained to move very slowly and carefully when a person with a disabling condition is on his back. When Suzie is riding Comet, his stride makes Suzie feel like she is walking!



Jose just celebrated his sixth birthday, but he couldn't have a birthday party because he is very sick and in the hospital. He isn't allowed to have his friends visit him, but he did get a birthday visit from someone very special. Buddy is a therapy dog who visits children who are sick. Buddy paid a special visit to Jose, and was even wearing a party hat! Having Buddy around made Jose forget he was sick for a little while, and made his birthday very happy. Buddy even gave him a "high five" handshake before he left.



Most of the students in Mrs. Lee's first grade class don't have pets at home. Some are even afraid of animals because they've never been around them. One day Mrs. Lee's class is visited by Ann, a humane educator (someone who teaches children about animals and how to care for and be kind to them) and Ann's guinea pig, Chewy. The children in the class learned all about guinea pigs and they all took turns petting Chewy – even the ones who used to be afraid!



Rose is an elderly woman who lives in a nursing home. She has lots of friends in the home, but some days Rose wakes up feeling lonely and sad. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Rose gets a visit from Honey a therapy cat. Honey sits on Rose's lap and purrs while Rose strokes her soft fur. On the days that Honey comes to visit, Rose always has a smile on her face.

Did you have a hard time choosing a favorite story because you liked all of them? Draw a picture of all four stories, and write a paragraph about all of the therapy animals you've drawn. Ask your teacher to help you fasten them together and you've got your very own booklet about amazing therapy animals!