



Community Animal Safety Video Game Notes

Main Game Concept

- 2D game concept inspired by the educational gameplay of Zoe and Molly Internet Safety - https://zoeandmolly.ca/app/en/games?utm_campaign=ol_en&utm_term=/game
- The game would be a POV styled game where a child (6-10 years old or Grade 1-Grade 5) would be walking out in their community (possibly down the street or in a park) and would meet a variety of animals.
- The main goal would be to make it to their local Humane Society and would “win” by making it there safely.
- Each animal would be a different scenario and the child would work through what to do in each with a question and 2 possible answers.
- If a child gets it right, they would move on to the next question. If they get it wrong, they would have to redo the scenario and question. This could possibly come up with a warning of why this choice is wrong.
- This game would be a follow-up to lessons taught in a classroom around animal safety. It would act as a review as opposed to giving new information to children.

Scenarios

Meeting a dog that is being walked by its owner on a leash

1st Step - Always ask permission before petting the dog.

Possible Option - Touching the dog without asking permission

Background Info - Some dogs don't like strangers, kids, men, women, etc. The owner will tell you if the dog is friendly or not.

2nd Step - Introduce yourself to the dog by letting it smell your fist

Possible Options - Put your open hand out to the dog, touching the dog

Background Info - Animals get to know each other by sniffing each other. Dogs need to smell you before they feel comfortable with you touching them. If you put your fingers out to a dog, they have a hard time smelling each finger one at a time and you may end up poking them in the nose. It is also a safer option in case the dog becomes scared and bites.

3rd Step - Pet the dog under the chin

Possible Options - Pull their tail, pet the top of their head

Background Info - Petting the dog under the chin allows your face to be a far ways from the dog's mouth and the dog can still see where your hand is. It will then be more trusting of what you're doing. Pulling their tail will hurt the dog and cause them to react with a possible bite or growl. Petting the top of their head stops the dog from

seeing your hand and they may become confused about what you're doing. This will cause them to back away or stop a positive interaction.

4th Step - Thank the owner and continue walking

Possible Option - hug the dog

Background Info - Never hug a dog that you aren't familiar with. When you hug a dog, you are putting your face directly beside the dog's mouth. If the dog becomes scared because they don't know the child, they could bite the child's face which could cause serious injuries.

Meeting a Stray Dog (Dog without an owner) on the Street

1st Step - Never approach the dog

Possible Options - Run up to it and pet it, call it over

Background Info - Although some strays may be friendly, many are not, and without an owner there, you have no idea if the dog will be aggressive or not. Avoiding the dog will potentially save you from being bitten or attacked.

2nd Step (If the dog approaches you and you're scared) - Stand like a tree (legs together, hands closed and at your sides, avoiding eye contact)

Possible Option - Pet the dog

Background Info - Again, you don't know if the dog will be aggressive or not, and if it's coming up to you, you could be in an unsafe position. Dogs become bored with "trees", and this position will keep you safe from a curious dog. Dogs also find staring an aggressive act, so avoiding eye contact keeps them from feeling threatened.

3rd Step (If the dog starts to jump on them and knocks them down)

- Like a log (face down on the ground, hands clasped behind their neck, elbows covering their ears)

Possible Option - Run away

Background info - In extremely rare cases, a stray dog may try to knock them to the ground and attempt to bite them. If this happens, laying like a log helps protect their face, neck, ears, and is a non-threatening posture to the dog. If they run away, the dog will become more aggressive and try to chase them.

****At this point, have the owner come and take the dog away so the game can move on****

You hear and see a dog barking behind a fence - the dog is aggressive

1st Step - Avoid eye contact with the dog and keep walking

Possible Option - Yell at the dog and make faces at it

Background Info - When a dog is behind a fence, they may feel stuck or the need to protect their property which will cause them more stress and aggression. Yelling at them or making faces at them makes this situation worse and can cause the dog to act more aggressively.

You see a cat that is hurt

1st Step - Keep a safe distance and don't approach it

Possible Option - Run up to it and try to touch it

Background Info - When an animal is in pain, they become more aggressive because they feel the need to protect themselves, keeping a safe distance away keeps the animal and you both safe and calm.

2nd Step - Call Animal Protection Officers

Possible Option - Call 911

Background Info - Local animal protection officers are trained in dealing with stray and hurt animals that need care and love. They will come out to help the animal and get it the care that it needs.

You See a Stray Cat that Has Kittens

1st Step - Keep a safe distance away and do not approach the cat and kittens

Possible Option - Approach the cat and try to snuggle the kittens

Background Info - When animals have babies, they may act more aggressively to try to protect them. Baby animals and strays may also not be fully safe to touch as they may have sicknesses that can be passed to humans. Keeping your distance keeps both you and the animal safe.

2nd Step - Call Animal Protection Officers

Possible Option - Call 911

Background Info - Animal protection officers are trained in safely handling babies and parent animals. They will make sure that the animals are taken to a care facility where they will be given any medication and care that they need.

***At this point, they will then make it to their local Humane Society**