



Welcome to Hearts United for Animals "Critter Care" curriculum! Students in grades 3-8 will learn key elements of responsible pet care through a series of puppet plays and enrichment activities that support 8 topics, or modules.

The 12 puppets are residents of the magical Blue Sky Animal Shelter. Each puppet has its own personality and life story, and students will love getting to know all of these little characters.

How to Use Critter Care

Each module covers a specific topic, and can be taught as a single unit or as part of the entire series of 8 modules. Each module starts with the play, followed by a series of enrichment activities that support and teach the concepts introduced in the play.

The lesson plans for each play are written with the assumption that the plays will be read and performed by the children. However, a CD or taped version of each play could be developed for those who prefer to

have their students learn to manipulate the puppets, but not learn and/or perform the spoken parts. If your program prefers this option, you will substitute the written parts of the plays with a pre-recorded CD or taped version. Students will then learn to coordinate the physical movements of the puppets with the CD.

The Puppets

A variety of options exists for choosing puppets for the plays in this curriculum. A high-quality set of puppets can be obtained at www.JumpnPuddles.com.

The puppets and their order numbers are listed below:

Chihuahua FM2803

Amazon Parrot FM2592

Frog FM2673

Hamster FM2204

Guinea Pig FM2120

Angel Fish NP8132

Black Lab FM2274

Cat FM2510d

Mouse FM2219

Iguana FM2258

Duckling FM2633d

Rabbit FM2268d

The puppets are well-made and would be suited for situations where a group wants to use this curriculum repeatedly over time.

Other options for puppets include stick puppets and sock puppets. Stick puppets are made by gluing a picture or drawing of each character on heavy cardstock to a dowel or tongue-depressor. Puppeteers manipulate the puppets by holding the stick and moving the puppet around the stage.

Sock puppets are made with socks, felt ears, eyes, tongue, and mouth. Children place the socks over their hands and use their hands to "talk".

If stick or sock puppets are used, students will establish ownership of the program if they help make the puppets. It is recommended that all of the puppets be created before work on the plays begins.

The Puppet Plays

Each module contains the play in a written script version. Preparation for each play could vary from one hour to several hours, depending on the format selected and the time available.

The development of the *Critter Care* curriculum was a combined effort by many of the volunteers at Hearts United for Animals. It was a labor of love for our animal friends who depend on us to be gentle and nurturing stewards of their welfare.

Please contact us with questions you might have regarding the use of this curriculum or the work of Hearts United for Animals.

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