

### LESSON: A "Tail" of Two Friends

**Story Reference:** *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Humane Heroes Volume I*, Story 2, "The Friendly Puppy and the Cheetah Cub"

**Lesson Description:** Students examine the steps an animal care team at the American Humane Conservation-certified Busch Gardens took to cultivate a friendship between two different species of animals. Students learn how animal friendships can evolve and be mutually beneficial (like human friendships) by charting the sequence of events and identifying the positive outcomes for the animals. Students play the role of an animal care team to develop their own plan to build a friendship between animals of different species.

**ELA Alignment:**

- Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

**Lesson Objectives:**

- Analyze the cause-and-effect relationships of friendships among animals.
- Develop a plan to build a friendship between two animals.

**Materials:**

- One Friendship "Tail" Timeline for each student
- One animal pair index card for each small group
- Notebook paper for written reflection

**Introduction:** Think-Pair-Share about Friendship (5 minutes)

- Instruct students to think about positive qualities that they can identify in a good friend. Ask them to recall how they met one of their favorite friends and to identify some ways they help each other.
- Tell students to pair up with a classmate and share their ideas about the benefits of friendship with their partner.
- After the students have had a chance to discuss, ask the pairs to summarize and share their answers with the class.

**Read and Analyze:** Discuss Cause and Effect and Create a Timeline (20 minutes)

- Prior to reading "The Friendly Puppy and the Cheetah Cub," advise students to take notice of what happens in the story and why each event occurs. Tell them they should look for specific cause and effect relationships. Remind them that they should first identify **what** happens (this is the **effect**), and then they should investigate **why** it

happens (this is the **cause**). Once the students understand cause and effect relationships, ask them to read “The Friendly Puppy and the Cheetah Cub” independently or as a read-aloud.

- Lead a discussion using the following questions:
  - *What are the reasons that the Busch Gardens animal care team decided to introduce a puppy to a baby cheetah?*
  - *How did the animal care team ensure that Mtani and Kasi would be compatible when they first met?*
  - *How might the outcome have been different if the team used an alternative approach?*
  - *What eventually happened as the two friends grew up and became adults?*
- Ask students to describe the sequence of events in the story by individually completing the Friendship “Tail” Timeline. Guide them to write or draw each event in the box and include a way that Mtani and Kasi helped each other as they grew in the space beneath the box.

**Guided Practice:** Build a Friendship Between Animal Pairs (15 minutes)

- Divide the class into six groups of students with 3-4 students in each group. Tell students that the groups will be playing the role of an animal care team. Write the following animal pairs on index cards and instruct each team to draw an animal pair at random:
  - Elephant and Dog
  - Dog and Fox
  - Rabbit and Deer
  - Giraffe and Ostrich
  - Dog and Owl
  - Duck and Labrador Retriever
- Instruct the animal care teams to create a plan to build a friendship between their animals.
- Coach students to consider the steps taken by the animal care team that helped cause a friendship between the cheetah and the puppy. Students can draw from their own experiences with practices that can lead to friendship.
- Each team should write a sequence of 4-5 steps they believe will cultivate a friendship in their animal pair. Make sure that students consider the different characteristics of their animals to try to develop appropriate steps. They should also explain how they anticipate the effect this friendship will have on the two animals.
- After the groups have completed their plan, students can share their plans with the class, and listen to other groups’ plans to identify and discuss any different ideas from their own.
- Optional: ask students to search online for real-world examples of animal friendships, record how the friendship came to be and how each animal benefits from the friendship, and finally report their findings to the class.

**Closing:** Reflect on Friendship (5 minutes)

- Instruct students to compose a written reflection on one of the following questions:
  - *Is the effect of friendship the same with animals as with humans? Why or why not? What effect do you feel friendship has on you?*
  - *Pick a specific event from the story that helped Mtani and Kasi develop their friendship. How might the story be different if (insert event) did not happen?*
  - *What are some conditions that lead to friendship? Describe a time when somebody did something that caused you to want to be their friend.*
  - *What would have to happen in order for you to want to become friends with somebody who is very different from you?*

# Humane HEROES Timeline

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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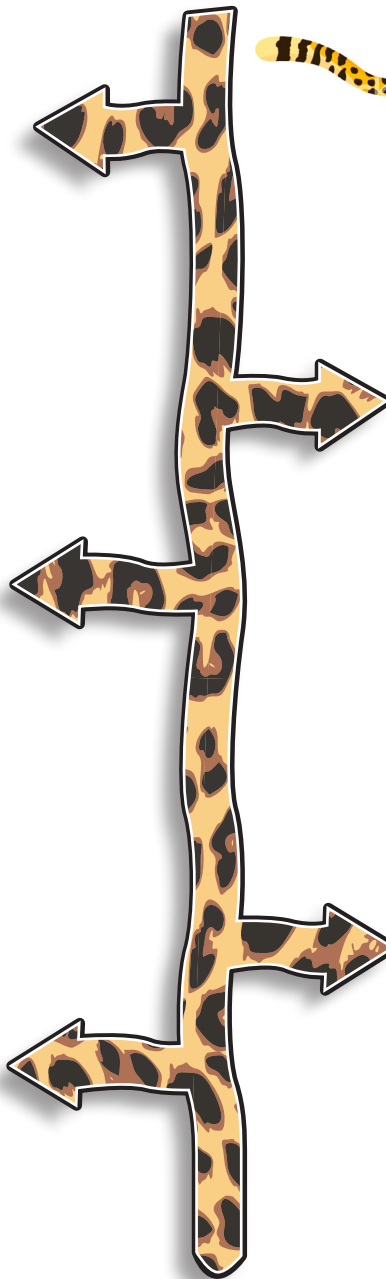
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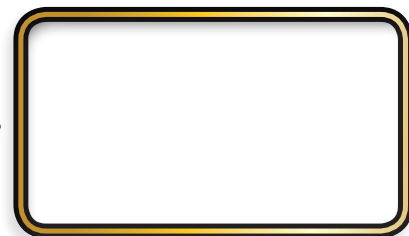
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