Traveling Pets

2nd Grade

SOL Thread & Objective
Science and Engineering Practice: SOL 2.5. The student will investigate and understand that living things are part of a system, plants and animals are interdependent with their living and nonliving surroundings, an animal’s habitat provides all its basic needs, and habitats change over time due to many influences.

Essential Knowledge and Practices
Students will communicate an understanding that an animal’s basic needs are met through its habitat and how habitats change over time.

Description
Students will design and create a carrier that can be used to safely and successfully take a pet on a trip away from home.

Inquiry Question
How can we maintain an animal’s habitat while safely transporting them on an overnight trip?

Problem
New traffic laws require that all pets be secured in carriers in order to travel long distances, so you must create something that would make your pet feel comfortable while traveling.

Introduction
When we travel, we often take our favorite things along with us. We take a pillow, food, games, clothes, and a stuffed animal. When pets travel, they need their favorite things like water, food, toys, treats, and a leash. While sitting for hours in a car, we want to be comfortable and pets do too. A pet could get stepped on if laying on the floor, the car seatbelt is too tight, and sitting in someone’s lap for the whole trip gets uncomfortable. Traveling in a carrier that feels like home is the best thing for a pet! An animal’s habitat is its home and provides all the animal’s basic needs, including food, air, water, shelter, and space. Watch this Discovery Education video for more information about pet care. As you think about the things you learned in class about animal habitats, try to think of living and non-living things that make up your favorite animal’s habitat.

Materials
Household items such as paper, pencil, cardboard, poster board, construction paper, boxes, rubber bands, yarn, beads, ribbon, glue, glue stick, craft sticks, pipe cleaners, straws, toilet paper or cotton balls, pom-poms, paper towel tubes, tape, scissors, crazy scissors, crayons, markers, color pencils, ruler, stapler, hole punch, heavy duty hole punch
Procedure
1. Select a favorite animal. This animal will be the pet that you design the carrier for.
2. Make a list of all the things that your pet needs to survive in its habitat.
3. Draw the habitat that your pet lives in. Don’t forget to include things on your list.
4. Design a carrier that your pet would be comfortable traveling in.
5. Decorate inside and outside of the carrier so it looks like the animal’s habitat.
6. Your carrier must:
   a) be surrounded by living and non-living things that’s in its natural habitat
   b) have at least one moving part
   c) have an opening to put your pet in and take them out
   d) have another opening so that your pet can look out and see where they are going
   e) have a handle so that you can carry it
   f) have decorations to make it look like the pet’s natural habitat
   g) be able to travel to and from the overnight trip safely, without falling out
7. Get a stuffed animal and put it inside the carrier.
8. Be able to explain why you decorated your carrier the way that you did.
9. Share pictures, drawings, or videos of your pet in its habitat carrier with your teacher.

Traveling Pets Reflection Rubric
Check off each box to reflect how well you completed each standard below.
Write comments to show evidence of exceeding the standards or an area that can be improved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</th>
<th>Success Criteria</th>
<th>Areas for Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wow! Amazing!</td>
<td>I did it!</td>
<td>I need help</td>
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</tbody>
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**Knowledge**
- I can describe the habitat that my pet lives in

**Creation**
- I created a carrier that has a handle, a moving part and 2 openings

**Habitat**
- I designed a carrier that is safe, has living and non-living parts and looks like my pets’ habitat

**Presentation**
- I can explain my decorations and why it meets my pet’s needs