

American Foxhound: The State Dog of Virginia

Good Citizen Lesson Plan

Curriculum: History and Social Science

Grade: K-1

Virginia Standards of Learning: HSS.K.8, HSS.1.10, HSS.1.11

Objectives: Using pets to understand citizenship, students will be able to:

- *recognize the training and behavior for a pet to be a good citizen*
- *identify the American Foxhound as the state dog of Virginia*
- *compile a list of ways in which pets can be good or bad citizens*
- *discuss, write, and draw about a specific topic*

Time Required: 60 minutes

Materials and Resources: emblem picture of the American Foxhound; light-colored 8.5 x 11 inch paper or construction paper; crayons and markers; computer with Internet access; pet pictures from clip art, magazines, and/or personal images (printed and electronic, such as a JPEG); website www.petboogaloo.com/pet-award-certificate for computer made certificates; color printer.

Procedure:

1. Discuss with students what it means to be a good citizen (e.g., following rules, respecting what belongs to others, taking responsibility for one's own actions, helping others).
2. Hold up the emblem picture of the American Foxhound. Explain that the state dog of Virginia is the American Foxhound.
3. With the class looking at the emblem picture of the American Foxhound, ask them to compile a list of ways in which pets are good or bad citizens. *Is it okay for a dog to growl, snarl, or jump up on visitors or to dig or go to the bathroom in a neighbor's yard? Is it okay for an animal to wander the street? Wouldn't it be nicer if a dog behaved in a friendly way towards visitors and was walked on a leash and kept in a fenced yard?*
4. How can students be good citizens to their pets (kindness, respect, proper training, and positive reinforcement)?
5. Have students create a "Good Citizen" award for a pet, listing the qualifications for that pet. Ask them to design a certificate and explain what a pet would do to qualify for the award. Students can draw their own certificate or go to www.petboogaloo.com/pet-award-certificate for computer-made certificates, where they can import their own pet's image.

Assessment:

1. Students are able to create a "Good Citizen" certificate.
2. Students will discuss their understanding of what it means to be a good citizen.

Extension:

1. The class can raise money for and/or visit a local animal shelter.
2. Students can share positive stories about pictures of their own pets.





Dog: American Foxhound

The American Foxhound was adopted as the official dog of the Commonwealth by an Act of the 1966 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The legislation was signed by Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. It was chosen because George Washington, the father of our country and one of Virginia's most illustrious citizens, imported fox hounds into the Commonwealth for hunting purposes and all fox hounds are descendents of these dogs.

Characteristics: The American Foxhound is a breed of dog that is cousin to the English Foxhound. They are scent hounds, bred to hunt foxes by scent. Male American Foxhound are usually 26-29 inches tall and females 25-28 inches tall and weigh typically between 40-65 pounds. The foxhound's chest is rather narrow. It has a long muzzle, and a large, domed skull. The ears are wide and low-set. The eyes are hazel or brown, and are large and wide-set. The coat is short and harsh. Overall, they are very similar to the Beagle, only standing higher and being larger.

The American Foxhound is sweet, kind, loyal, and very loving at a home. While on the hunt the foxhound is a warrior, once a scent is picked up he or she will follow it neglecting any commands.

GOOD CITIZEN

Fantastic!

