

Classroom Lesson Plan — National Dog Month

provided by [National Day Classroom](#)

Theme: Responsible pet care, kindness, and fun facts about dogs

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognize August as **National Dog Month** and understand its purpose.
 - Identify ways to care for and respect dogs.
 - Share personal experiences with pets in a respectful classroom discussion.
 - Work collaboratively on a creative project.
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2. Story: Cal's Canine Classroom

Cal sat at his desk, trying to focus on the math problem on the board. But all he could think about was the big surprise Mr. Jenkins had promised. Suddenly, the classroom door opened, and in trotted a fluffy golden retriever wearing a bright red vest.

“Class, meet Daisy,” Mr. Jenkins announced. “She’s a therapy dog who helps people feel calm and happy. August is [National Dog Month](#), so today we’re learning all about our furry friends.”

Daisy’s handler, Mrs. Lopez, told the class how Daisy visited hospitals, libraries, and even schools to comfort people. Cal learned that dogs can be service animals, therapy companions, and even rescue heroes.

At the end of the visit, Daisy gave everyone a friendly sniff and a wagging tail. Cal grinned. “I think National Dog Month might be my new favorite month,” he whispered to his friend Mia.

3. Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think we celebrate National Dog Month?
 2. What are some jobs dogs can have besides being a family pet?
 3. What does a dog need to be healthy and happy?
 4. How can we show kindness to animals?
 5. Has anyone met a therapy or service dog before? What was it like?
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4. Activities

A. Dog Fact Match-Up (10 min)

Provide slips of paper with **dog breeds** on one side and **fun facts** on the other. Students work in pairs to match them correctly. Example:

- **Breed:** Dalmatian → **Fact:** Known for their spots and history as firehouse dogs.

B. Create a “Paw-sitive Care” Poster (15–20 min)

In small groups, students design a poster showing the best ways to care for a dog—feeding, exercise, vet visits, love, and playtime. Posters can be displayed in the classroom or hallway for the month of August.

C. If I Were a Dog... Writing Prompt (10 min)

Students write a short paragraph imagining life from a dog’s perspective.

Example starter: *If I were a dog for a day, I would...*

5. Optional Extension Activities

- Invite a local therapy dog team to visit the classroom.
 - Read aloud from a dog-themed book such as *Because of Winn-Dixie* or *Henry and Mudge*.
 - Hold a “Dog Photo Wall” where students bring a picture of their dog or a favorite dog breed to share.
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6. Closing

Remind students that August is a time to appreciate all the ways dogs bring joy, help people, and show unconditional love. Encourage them to practice kindness toward all animals—not just dogs—year-round.

