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Module 09: Human-Animal Interactions

Urban EcoLab

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## Circle - M9\_9

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## MODULE 9 LESSON 9 Curriculum-Related Circle

### Welcome to Lesson 9: Issues and Ethical Considerations

#### STEPS FOR COMMUNITY CIRCLE FACILITATION

1. Introduce the Circle Process
2. Introduce the Talking Piece
3. Introduce the Norms
4. Ask the Question
5. Closing (e.g. Clap at the same time)

##### **1. Introduce the Circle Process**

*During our class time today, we're going to examine some of the ways humans interact with dogs. We'll be identifying the issues and ethical considerations surrounding these interactions and propose any actions needed. Let's go over the process quickly.*

##### **2. Introduce the Talking Piece**

*You'll notice I am holding this \_\_\_\_\_. We will use this as a talking piece to pass around the circle, and whoever holds the talking piece is the one who speaks; and the rest of us get to listen. I will ask a question and the talking piece will travel around the circle until it gets back to me. That represents one round. Does that make sense?*

##### **3. Introduce the Circle Norms**

*Before we begin, let's go over the Circle Norms.*

*Have any of you ever participated in a Circle?*

*What are some of the norms you would like to agree to?*

- *Respect the Talking Piece*
- *Speak from the Heart (speak only about yourself)*
- *Listen from the Heart (without judgment)*
- *Trust you'll know what to say (no need to rehearse)*
- *Say "just enough" (to ensure everyone gets heard)*

*Are we missing anything?*

*Is there anything that we need to add?*

*How can we show we agree with what we are saying to each other without saying a word?*

*Are these guidelines something we can all agree to? (make hand signal)*

##### **4. Ask the Question**

*Can you think of a time when you misread someone's body language and it resulted in something positive?*

HINT: Answer the prompt yourself as facilitator to model for the group the length of time you'd like them to speak.

## **5.Closing**

*Thank you for your participation!*

Close the circle (e.g. Clap at the same time)

## **More Curriculum-Related Prompts**

### **Animals Have Different Needs**

- Do you think that dogs should be left outside most of the time or allowed in the house most of the time?
- How do you feel about dogs being carried around in hand bags instead of walking?
- What kind of food do you think dogs should eat?
- Do you think dog owners should be punished for leaving their dogs out chained up in the yard all day?
- Do you think it's okay to die a dog's hair to look like another animal?
- If you owned an apartment building, would you allow pets?
- Do you think it's okay for people to hold their dogs in their laps when driving? Why or why not?
- What are some things that dogs do that you don't like? Why do you think dogs do those things?

### **Cultural Perspective**

- If someone wants a dog, do you think that they should have to get the dog from an animal shelter or are you okay with them buying the dog from a private breeder?
- What do you think of dog fighting?
- Did you know that in some countries it's legal and a cultural tradition to eat dog because they believe it wards off heat in the summer months? What do you think about that?
- Would you ever try dog meat if you were over there? Considering it's their custom and you don't want to offend them, what kind of face would you make if you saw someone at your table eating dog meat? How could you try to control your facial expression so you don't offend someone in their own country?
- Did you know that Americans eat frog legs? Do you think people from other countries might find that repulsive?
- Did you know that French people can order horse meat off the menu at some restaurants? Would you ever try horse meat if you were in France?
- Is there anything that Americans do that you think other countries would find offensive?
- Is there anything that you do in your culture / family that someone from another culture / family might not understand (e.g. food, traditions, language)?

### **Raising Awareness**

- If your dog chewed up your favorite pair of shoes, what would you do?
- What are some things that owners do to discipline their dogs (when their dogs do something that their owners don't like)?

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- What are some things that you could do if you saw someone treating a dog in a way that is harmful to the dog?
- Do you know of any celebrities who care about dogs?