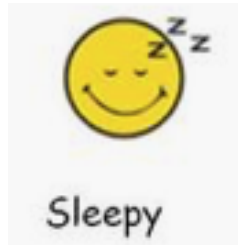
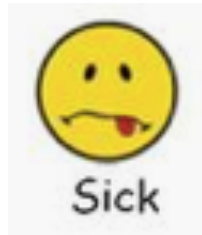


Kindergarten, 1st grade

How do you feel when you listen to music? Circle the face that shows how you feel.



One animal doctor uses music to help animals feel happy and calm. Her name is Pamela.

Pamela uses classical music by Beethoven. She also uses songs you know, like, “Three Blind Mice.”



Tina tried the radio for her animals, but it did not work. People on the radio yelled about sports or the news. So Tina uses Pamela’s music now. She says it makes them happy. The dogs don’t bark, and the cats sit by the speakers.



Do you have a pet at home? Try to play some music and see if your pet likes it.

2nd grade, 3rd grade

Read the story and answer the questions.

Music helps pets in shelters feel less stressed

Can music help to hush puppies and calm kittens?

An animal doctor, or veterinarian, thinks so. Dr. Pamela Fisher has put music in more than 1,100 animal shelters. She says that it helps the cats and dogs be calm. It even helps the dogs bark less.

Dr. Fisher started this project over four years ago. She asked artists to donate music. She put the music on MP3 players. She used songs by Beethoven and Mozart, and songs like "Three Blind Mice." Some songs sound like ocean waves and wind. The MP3 players are free for animal shelters.

Dr. Fisher is from Ohio. She uses music in her vet clinic. She also uses smells to help animals feel safe and calm.

One fan is Tina Gunther. She works at a shelter in Montana. She says the animals at her shelter like the music better than the radio. The radio had news and sports, with people yelling. But the music is much better. When the cats hear a song they like, they go and sit by the speakers.

Animal shelters use other things to help the animals feel calm. They give them toys, treats, and food. And they also spend time with them.

1. What did the doctor give the animals to help them feel calm?
2. What did the cats do when they liked a song?
3. Why do you think the music helped the animals?

4th grade, 5th grade

Read the story and answer the questions.

Music reduces pet stress in shelters
By Sue Manning

Can music tame the savage beast? Can it hush puppies and calm kitties? A veterinarian thinks so. Dr. Pamela Fisher has put music in over 1,100 animal shelters. She says that it calms dogs and cats. And it even cuts down on barking.

Fisher started the nonprofit Rescue Animal MP3 Project nearly four years ago by asking artists around the world to donate dog- and cat-friendly music. The result was MP3 players packed with 30 hours of classics. The songs included music by Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin and nursery rhymes like "Three Blind Mice." They also included harps, pianos and violins mimicking ocean waves and gentle breezes. She gives them free to animal shelters, sanctuaries and spay-and- neuter clinics.

"I have used therapeutic music in my practice and wanted to figure out a way to help the shelter animals in my own community," said Fisher. She is a veterinarian in North Canton, Ohio. Her "community" has grown to include shelters in all 50 states. They house over 115,000 dogs and cats.

One fan is Tina Gunther. She is vet tech at the Cut Bank Animal Shelter near Cut Bank, Montana. She also is its sole volunteer (there are no paid employees). Winter temperatures at the rural shelter for six dogs and six cats regularly run well below zero. And "the wind blows nearly every day. We call them black blizzards - the top soil is just blown away," Gunther said.

To calm the animals, Gunther tried the radio. But sometimes they had bad reception, and the news and sports had people yelling. Then the project MP3 player was installed for the dogs on one side. "The difference has been dramatic," she said. She and her husband had to buy a second player for the cats. "When we play songs they like, they go and sit by the speakers," Gunther said.

Some people have studied how music and noise in general affect animals. People at Colorado State University found that dogs were more likely to sleep and less likely to bark when Mozart, Beethoven and other classical artists were playing. But not when heavy metal and other sounds were playing.

Tania Huycke-Phillips works at Bay Area Humane Society in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "The music just de-stresses them. They are still happy and wiggly. They just aren't barking," she explained.

Beyond the music, the shelter staff does all it can to reduce stress for the dogs, including giving them toys, treats, and food. And they also spend time with them. "Reducing stress shows off their personalities and they get adopted quicker," she said.

To buy the MP3 players, Fisher applies for grants. She also collects donations and holds fundraisers.

The music also helps relax staff members and that helps the animals too, said Fisher. She grew up singing and playing folk music on the guitar.

The project brought Fisher a new best friend, but it took a look, not a sound, to seal the deal. She was installing the music system at Summit County Animal Control in Akron, Ohio, in 2012 when she met a dog named "Lili." Fisher fell in love with Lili and adopted her

Animal Shelter Article Questions

1. What is the name of the non-profit in the article? Who founded it?
2. What inspired the Cut Bank Animal Shelter to start using music for their animals?
3. Why do you think music helps the animals?