

What's Wild?

Directions: Read the stories below aloud. You may choose to use the felt figures and a flannel board to illustrate each story as you read it or have the children act out various parts of the stories.

A Day in the Life of a Dog

I wake up in the morning and the sun is shining. I stretch out my legs and trot into the kitchen. My owner is there with a bag of dog food. Oh boy! My tail wags so hard my whole body wiggles. Food tumbles into my dish. I munch it all up. Crunch, crunch, crunch. Now I'm thirsty so I turn to my water dish. I stick my tongue in and drink with a lap, lap, lap.

My owner brings out my leash. Oh boy! My tail wags so hard my whole body wiggles. We go out the front door. There are many smells to smell! My nose goes sniff, sniff, sniff. What's that I smell? A squirrel! I run as fast as I can, pulling my owner behind me. Woof, woof, woof! The squirrel scampers up a tree and scolds me. Chitter, chitter, chitter!

I'm tired now, so we walk home. My owner goes to work, and I spend the rest of the day napping and waiting.

In the evening, my owner returns and grabs the leash. Oh boy! My tail wags so hard my whole body wiggles. We go out the front door and along the sidewalk to the dog park. I'm off the leash. Oh boy! I run and play with the other dogs. My tail wags so hard my whole body wiggles.

I'm tired now, so we walk home. Back in the house, my owner pours more food in my dish. Oh boy! My tail wags so hard my whole body wiggles. I eat all the food with a crunch, crunch, crunch and drink all the water with a lap, lap, lap. Now it's time to rest. I find my favorite place on the living-room carpet and curl up into a ball. Snore, snore, snore...

A Day in the Life of a Squirrel

I wake up in the morning and the sun is shining. I stick my head out of my nest and look around. Left, right, left. Looks safe! I scurry along the branch to the trunk of the tree. Did anything see me? I look left, right, left. Looks safe! I scamper down the tree to the ground. I look left, right, left. Looks safe!

I'm hungry. I begin my search for food. I search high and low, near and far—then suddenly, acorns! Oh boy! My tail twitches so much my whole body shakes. I run as fast as I can to the acorns and grab one. Nibble, nibble, nibble. I put one in my cheek pouch for later.

Now I'm thirsty. I look left, right, left. Looks safe! I search for water. I search high and low, near and far—then suddenly, a puddle! Oh boy! My tail twitches so much my whole body shakes. I run as fast as I can to the puddle. Did anyone see me? I look left, right, left. Looks safe! I stick my tongue in the water and drink. Lap, lap, lap. What's that I hear? A dog! Oh no! Run, run, run! I run as fast as I can to the nearest tree. I climb as fast as I can to the highest branch. The dog is barking, woof, woof, woof! I reply with chitter, chitter, chitter!

I pull out the acorn I had hidden in my cheek. Oh boy! My tail twitches so much my whole body shakes. I eat the acorn quickly. Nibble, nibble, nibble.

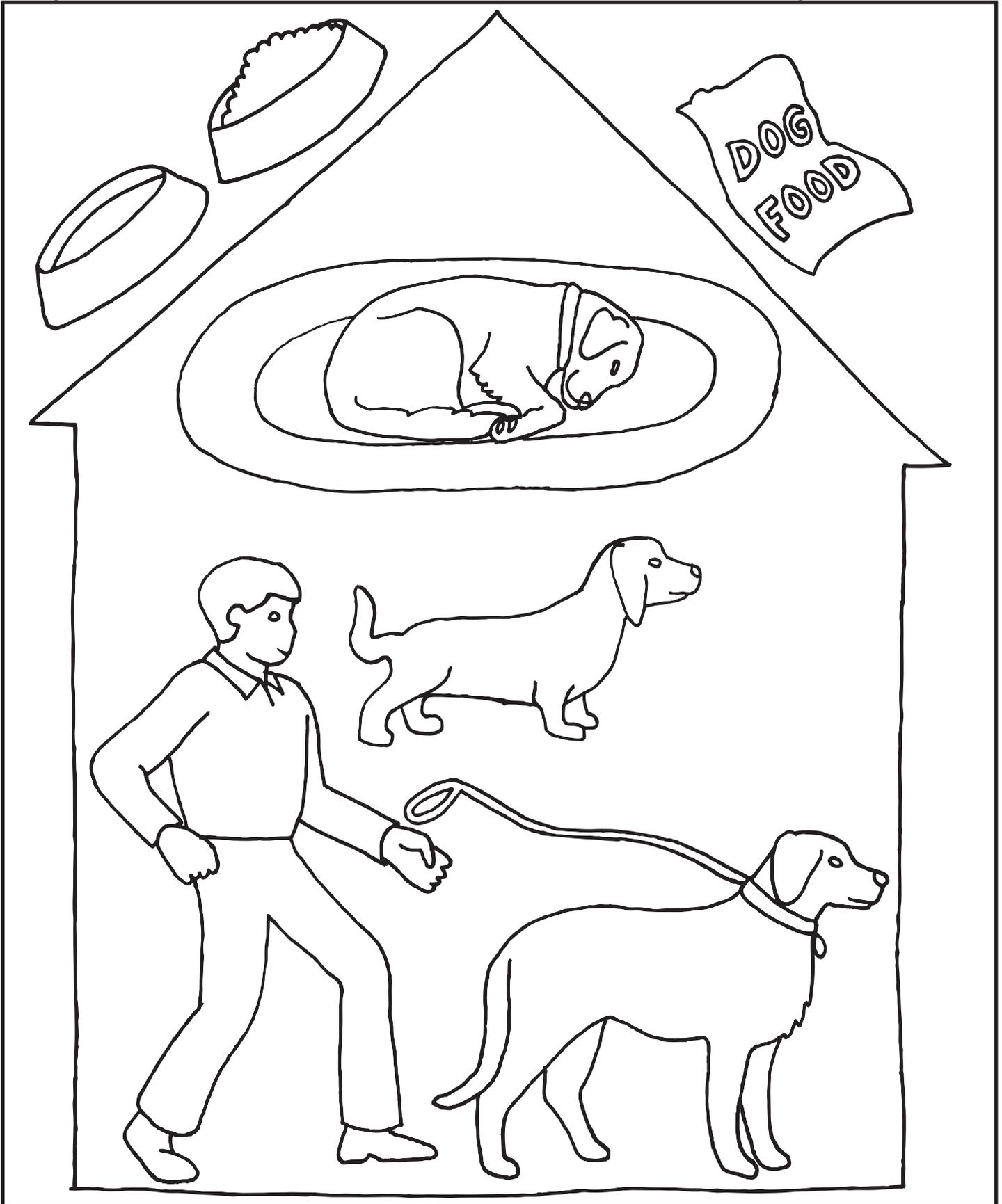
I spend the rest of the day searching for and eating nuts—and running from dogs and cats.

In the evening, I'm tired so I go back to my nest. I made it out of sticks and moss and leaves. I feel safe here in my treetop home. Now it's time to rest. I curl up in my nest and go to sleep. Snore, snore, snore...

Note: Some children may have dogs that live outside while others may provide food or water for local squirrels and wild birds. You may use these seeming discrepancies to encourage children to further explore and refine their definitions of the differences between “wild” and “tame” or “domesticated.”

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Directions: There are a number of ways to make figures for use with a flannel board. One way is to trace and cut the figures directly from felt of different colors. Glue individual pieces together using felt glue to create finished characters. You may wish to enlarge the figures first. Some detail may be hard to replicate and creating the set will take time, but the felt figures will adhere well to the flannel board and offer children the tactile stimulation of working with textured fabric.



Another method of creating figures is to copy them onto card stock, color if desired, then laminate. Attaching small pieces of felt or Velcro to the back of each figure will allow them to “stick” to the flannel board.

If you don’t have a flannel board and don’t wish to make one, you might choose to use a piece of laminated poster board as a story board and adhere figures using “ticky tack” or similar adhesive.

You may also forego the story board altogether by using laminated figures as puppets. Children can use the puppets to help you act out the story.

