

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PETS & SMALL ANIMAL LEVEL
TESTING
LEVEL 1

PASSING SCORE FOR LEVEL 1 IS 70%

The test will include identifying body parts, true/false questions, multiple choice and fill in the blank. All questions will come from the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System - Pet Pals, the pet project 1 activity guide.

Picking the Right Pet

My Favorite Pet

Pets come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. You can learn about pets in many ways — talking to friends, searching the Internet, finding information in a library, attending a pet show or contacting a local animal shelter. In this activity you will gather information about a pet you now have or one you'd like to have someday.



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Discovering your favorite pet
Show of Success: Gathers and shares information about a pet.

Do the Activity

First find information about your favorite pet and its needs. In the space below write your pet's housing needs, health concerns and the food it likes to eat. Then share with someone in your family and at least one friend what you know about your favorite pet.

The kind of pet I have or hope to have: (circle)

- Mammal
- Fish
- Rodent
- Reptile
- Amphibian
- Insect (arachnid)
- Crustacean

Drawing or picture of my pet.

Where my pet lives

What my pet eats

Care my pet needs



An interesting fact about my pet

Why I like my pet

Habits my pet has

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Why do you like this animal for a pet?
- When did you first become interested in this pet?
- How did it feel to share what you know about your favorite pet?

Tell what's important

Where did you find information?

Explore what you learned

Why should the whole family be involved when deciding to get a pet?

Imagine what's next

How can you find more about other pets that interest you?

Here's my favorite pet.



Challenges

1. Draw a picture of your favorite pet, make a paper frame and put it up on the wall with an appropriate title.
2. Write a one-page report or make a one-minute audio tape about the history of your favorite pet and share it with your family and project helper. Start a Pet Challenges Book to keep all the information you gather.

Pet Facts



Kinds of Pets

Pets can be any living creature that lives in or near your home and depends on you for care and feeding. It can be a playful dog, a furry cat or a bouncy frog. It can even be a turtle, lizard, snake, bird or a pocket pet — a rat, a mouse, a hamster, a gerbil or a cavy (guinea pig).

Your Opinion Please



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Selecting a pet
Show of Success: Interviews pet owners.

There are many types of pets you can own and care for...lizards, birds, gerbils, mice and lots of others. Each pet has different needs. Some are more expensive than others and some need extra care. Before choosing a pet you will want to collect as much information as possible.

Good sources of information are friends, family and neighbors who own pets.

What care does your pet need?

Do the Activity

Choose two people to interview whom you know own one or more kinds of pets. Before you talk with these pet owners, write questions you want to ask them. Below are some questions to help you get started. Write in the space provided what you learned. After the interviews don't forget to thank them for sharing their time and experience with you. Just for fun see if you can find the names of nineteen different pets in the Pet Word Find. Good luck!



Pet Word Find

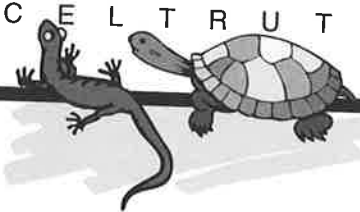
H	E	R	M	I	T	C	R	A	B
E	A	B	R	A	B	B	I	T	A
D	C	D	D	R	A	Z	I	L	M
G	F	G	E	R	B	I	L	E	O
E	E	O	F	H	S	I	F	G	U
H	R	R	G	G	H	S	R	O	S
O	R	F	I	C	J	N	K	D	E
G	E	P	N	Y	R	A	T	A	C
M	T	I	V	N	O	K	P	O	R
S	H	A	M	S	T	E	R	T	V
C	C	E	L	T	R	U	T	C	D

Questions to Ask:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Other Questions

- What does your pet do for you?
- Why did you choose this kind of pet?
- How have you changed your home to meet your pet's needs?
- Would you recommend this pet for others? Why?



#1 Pet owner's name:

#2 Pet owner's name:

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you learn from your interviews?
- How did it feel to interview people about their pets?
- What pets were most interesting?

Tell what's important

How was talking to friends or family about their pets useful in helping you make a decision about the kind of pet you may want to own?

Explore what you learned

How does talking with others about their experiences help you when making an important decision?

Imagine what's next

Think of another time when you had to make an important decision. Who did you go to for help or advice? Why did you go to that person?



Fish are the most popular pets ... then comes cats, dogs and birds.



Challenges

1. Take a survey of the types of pets your classmates own and the names they've given their pets. Share what you find with your family or helper.

2. Take pictures of the pets and people you interview and make a display or include the photos in a Pet Challenges Book. Under each photo list two or three interesting things about the person's pet. Share your display with your helper, family members and the people you interviewed.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---------------|
| bird | gerbil | frog |
| chinchilla | cat | hermit crab |
| rat | dog | turtle |
| mouse | rabbit | pig |
| lizard | fish | (pot-bellied) |
| cavy | ferret | |
| hamster | hedgehog | |
| snake | | |

Family Time



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Selecting a pet
Show of Success: Leads a family discussion.

People choose pets for many different reasons. What will be the cost, space required and the time needed to care for a pet? How will the pet fit into the family? Do family members have allergies, fears or just not like certain types of pets?

In this activity you will talk to your family about any special needs they may have to help you decide on a new pet.

Do the Activity

Decide on a good time to meet with all the members of your family. Tell them you want to have a family discussion about what kind of pet might be best for everyone. Use the questions below or your own to help you lead your family meeting. Record answers to the questions in the bubbles. In the center circle list the pets that would fit best with your family's needs.



What could a pet add to our family?

The Best Pet for Our Family

What are some other things to think about?

What are our favorite pets?

Who would be willing to help care for a pet?

Where would be the best place to keep a pet?



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you learn about your family's ideas about pets?
- How did it feel to lead a family discussion?
- How did it feel to get your family together to talk about pets?

Tell what's important

How did talking to your family help you make a decision on the best pet for everyone?

Explore what you learned

How did talking to the members of your family help you learn more about them and their needs?

Imagine what's next

How does communicating with others help you make good decisions?

My guinea pig needs something to chew.



Challenges

1. Find information about two kinds of pets you know very little about. Include in your Pet Challenges Book your notes about the pet's behavior, diet, health needs, estimated cost and anything unusual. Share this information with your family and helper.

2. Make a collage of different types of pets using pictures you've drawn or pictures from magazines. Describe what you included to your family or helper.

Pet Facts

Rodent Teeth

A rodent's teeth (rats, mice, hamsters and cavies) will continue to grow throughout its life. That is why these pets should be given hard objects to gnaw on. Gnawing will help keep their teeth the right length.

Getting to Know Your Pet

Hang Time

Spending time with family and friends can be a lot of fun! When you spend time with someone you learn a lot about that person and you develop a special relationship. Spending time with your pet also helps you develop a special relationship. Some people call this bonding. When your pet bonds to you it begins to trust you.

Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Exploring things to do with your pet
Show of Success: Completes the activity list.

This means it will *want* to spend time with you. You may also find that you can teach your pet to do neat tricks. In this activity you will observe your pet's behavior and decide three things you and your pet can do together.

Do the Activity

Begin by watching the things your pet likes to do. Next, think of things you like to do for fun and list them under "Things I like to do". Put a check mark in the box if this activity is something you could do with your pet. Some examples of activities are shown.



I like ...

Things I like to do	Could also do with my pet		
	Yes	No	Maybe
Watch TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listen to music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What things do you like to do?
- What are activities you and your pet can do together?
- How did making a list of things you like to do help you think about different ways to spend time with your pet?

Tell what's important

Why is it important to spend time with your pet?

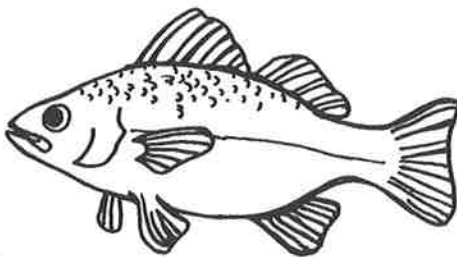
Explore what you learned

How does thinking about possibilities help you make better decisions?

Imagine what's next

What would happen to your relationships with friends and family if you didn't spend time with them?

Fish



did you
know?

There are many kinds of diseases that can attack your fish. Most diseases can be traced to a certain event such as a drop in temperature, careless maintenance, a wound or a new addition to the tank as an aid in balancing.

More

Challenges

1. Teach your pet a fun trick. Remember that the best way to train an animal is with patience and positive reward. Show your family and helper the trick you taught your pet to do.

2. Create a scrapbook about your type of pet. Find pictures from magazines, the Internet, or photos you take showing your pet in its natural habitat, playing or at a show. Enter your poster or scrapbook in a fair or hang it on your wall.

know Your Pets

Fish

Aquarium fish are the most numerous of all household pets. They are inexpensive to feed, easy to care for and fun and calming to watch. There are many different colors, sizes and shapes. Each has its own special features that make it an interesting pet.

Housing: Fish are kept in a water-filled tank called an aquarium that needs a heater to regulate the temperature for several kinds of tropical and salt water fish.

Popular Aquarium Fish: Guppies, zebras, platyps, neons, glow-light tetras, blue platies, kuhlii loaches, corydoras catfish, Chinese algae-eaters, angel fish, kissing gouramis, swordtails and cardinal tetras.

Diet: Depends on the kind of fish. Most pet food stores have balanced diets. Goldfish will also eat bread crumbs, bits of hard boiled egg and vegetables or finely chopped meat. Some tropical fish prefer live shrimp that need to be hatched daily in a shrimp hatcher. Overfeeding is the leading cause of death. One rule of thumb is to feed fish no more than they can eat in five minutes.

Diseases: There are many kinds of diseases that can attack your fish. Most diseases can be traced to a certain event such as a drop in temperature, careless maintenance, a wound or a new addition to the tank as an aid in balancing.

Fur, Fins or Feathers?

A turtle has a shell for protection. Every living creature has a body with many different parts. Each part has an important purpose or function. For example birds have wings to fly and feathers to maintain body temperature.



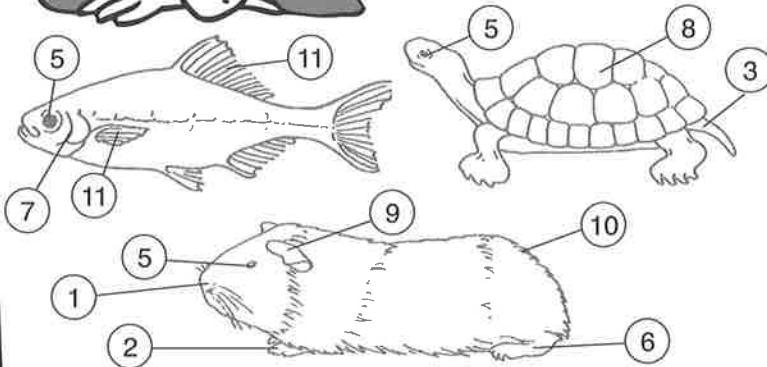
Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Identifying pet body parts
Show of Success: Completes the crossword puzzle and names the uses of certain parts.

Do the Activity

Complete the pet parts crossword puzzle and then match the parts in the Pet Parts Word Bank with words that describe their most important use to a pet. Connect the part and the function with a line.

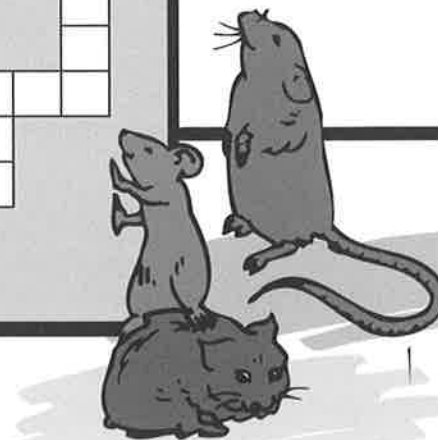
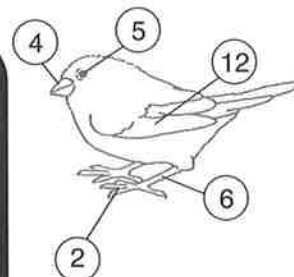
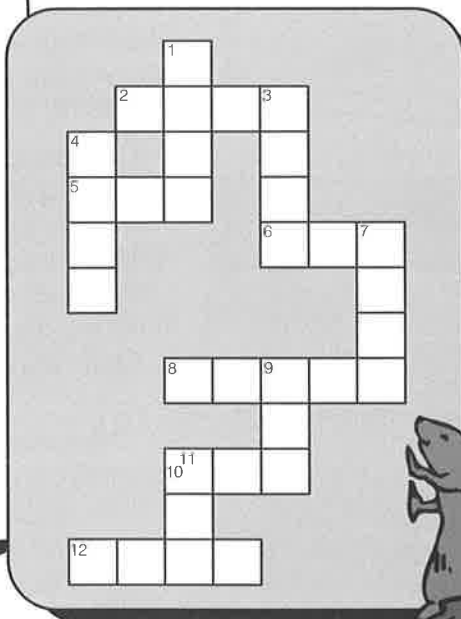


Pets can do things I can't do.



Pet Parts Word Bank

Part	Function
1. Beak	a. Breathing
2. Ear	b. Hearing
3. Eye	c. Protecting
4. Fin	d. Balancing
5. Foot	e. Crushing
6. Fur	f. Seeing
7. Gill	g. Running
8. Leg	h. Smelling
9. Nose	i. Flying
10. Shell	j. Swimming
11. Tail	k. Keeping warm
12. Wing	l. Grasping



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What parts did you identify?
- What was the function or use of each of the parts?
- Why does your pet have some body parts different than yours? What is the function for these parts?
- Which parts of your pet's body are similar to your own?

Tell what's important

Why is learning about your pet's body parts important?

Explore what you learned

How does learning about your pet's body parts help you become a responsible pet owner?

Imagine what's next

How could you use your knowledge of your pet's body parts next time you take your pet to the veterinarian?



What is this part called?

Pet Rap:
Silly as a



Challenges

1. Draw a poster of your pet or cut one from a photo in a magazine that looks like your pet. Identify and label all the body parts you can. Be sure to include the function of that part. Share the poster with your helper.
2. Now that you are familiar with your pet's outside (external) body, look for information about your pet's inside (internal) body. Make an "X-ray" view drawing of your pet that shows the organs and skeleton. Label the major parts and briefly describe their functions.

Pet Facts

Lizards

Lizards use their tongues for drinking and cleaning their mouths after they eat. They also use their tongues for smelling. The quick darting of the lizard's tongue is like the excited sniffing of a dog.

Roots



Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Researching information about pets
Show of Success: Searches for answers about the origin of pets.

Have you ever wondered where your ancestors came from? Every family has an origin or someplace where they came from. Your family may have moved from another city or state. Your grandparents or ancestors may have come from another country. Learning about your family history can tell you a lot about yourself. What countries are your ancestors from?

Learning about your pets past or where it came from can help you better understand

your pet's behavior and needs. Where did your pet's ancestors come from? Was the country's climate hot or cold? Was it forested or desert-like? In this activity you will trace the history of various pets as you practice learning how to learn.

Do the Activity

You will need to gather information about the items listed below and then answer 1–5. With different colored pencils or crayons draw arrows from the country the animal originally came from to your home on the map of the United States.



You're from South America.

1. When frightened this animal curls up into a tight ball. It's thick spiny-like fur protects it from harm.

Africa - blue

2. This common pet from the rodent family needs vitamin C added to its diet because it is unable to produce vitamin C on its own.

South America - yellow

3. This long furry pet has a scent gland that it uses when frightened. The gland can be surgically removed.

Europe - green

4. If this animal is kept as a pet it should be provided with many homes (shells).

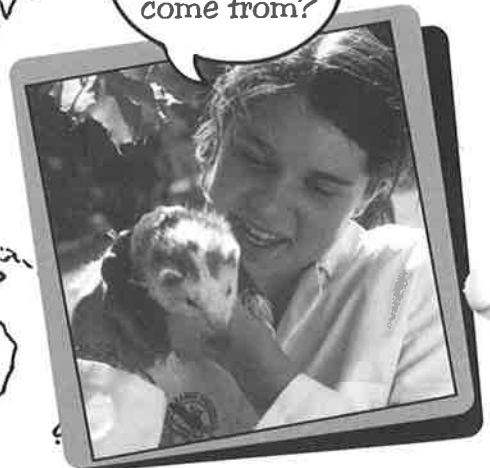
Florida shoreline - red

5. In the wild this active, long tailed rodent lives in underground tunnels.

Asia - black

6. Add a description for your pet and show the country of its ancestors.

Where did you originally come from?



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did you find the answers to the questions?
- What countries were difficult to find?
- How can learning about your pet's origin help you understand its behavior?

Tell what's important

How does learning about a pet's history help you provide for your pet's needs?

Explore what you learned

How does learning about the past help you today?

Imagine what's next

What will people know about you and your family 10 years from now? How about 50 years from now?

Can your bird talk?



Pet Facts

Exotic Animals

Not all animals should be kept as pets.

"Pets are domesticated animals, which means that humans have learned which animals can be bred and raised by people. Although all of the pets we have might be found in the "wild," people should not go out into the environment and capture animals to become their pets.

Some animals are endangered or protected, which means they should not be captured and other animals may be carrying pests or diseases which can affect humans.

Pets should be acquired from pet stores and pet breeders."

More

Challenges

- 1.** Read a book on the country or area your pet came from. Take special note of the people, traditions and other types of animals that live in that area. Design a poster showing your pet's origin.
- 2.** Find out why it's not a good idea to keep animals caught in the wild as pets. Prepare a talk about this topic and present it to your family, schoolmates or friends.

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did it feel to describe your pet artistically?
- What did you find most challenging?

Tell what's important

What skills do you think an artist needs?

Explore what you learned

How does drawing help you be more creative?

Imagine what's next

How do you think you best learn something new to you?

Hamster



Know Your Pets

Hamsters

Hamsters are very calm if handled frequently and gently. They have very little cage odor.

Selection: Select an animal between five and eight weeks old. Signs of good health are soft fur, bright eyes and a plump body. Males are often more gentle than the females.

Diet: Commercial hamster food is available. Adults require only one tablespoon of food each day. They also can be fed small amounts of lettuce, carrots, celery and other vegetables.

Health: Hamsters should have sleek, shiny coats. A dull, rough coat may mean an illness. Skin problems may be caused by mites or infections. Hamster urine is light yellow and thick, something like pus. The corner where the hamster urinates needs to be cleaned daily and the entire cage washed with soap and water once a week.

Housing: Keep hamsters in cages with clean, dry bedding such as shredded paper, cedar shavings or any other absorbent materials. A metal cage with a removable bottom works well. An upstairs platform with an exercise wheel is a must.

did you
know?

Hamsters sleep during the day and are often active at night. They may bite if startled and can escape and disappear easily.

Pet Rap: Happy as a



Challenges

1. Visit a gift shop or art gallery and make a list of all the types of collectables and art that include pets. Share what you find with your helper.

2. Find a book about drawing pets and practice drawing for at least three hours. Share your sketches with your family.

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you observe?
- How does the time of day make a difference in your pet's behavior?
- What did you notice that was unique about your pet's behavior?

Tell what's important

What new things did you learn by observing your pet?

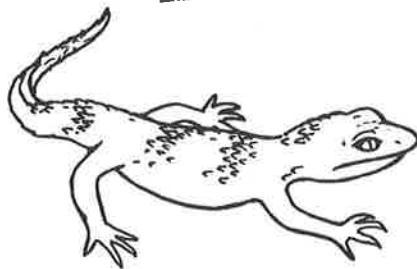
Explore what you learned

How does carefully watching and listening help you learn?

Imagine what's next

How did you best learn how to do an activity that is new to you?

Lizard



That's the first time I've seen you do that!



More

Challenges

1. With a friend attend a show that has animals. Write down what you learn by watching the people and their pets at the show. Keep a record of the event and share it with your helper.

know Your Pets

Lizards

Lizards are cold blooded. That means their body temperature is influenced by the temperature in their environment. Different species require different temperatures. It's important to provide your lizard with a temperature that is stable and suitable to its species.

Housing: Your lizard will need a terrarium. Be sure it's well built and easy to clean. Size and type of the terrarium depends on species. Be sure to learn about your lizard's specific needs. If it's territorial, free ranging or large, your terrarium needs to be appropriate. Location and ventilation are important. Provide a cover for the terrarium.

Diet: Diet will vary depending on species. Some lizards are herbivores while others are omnivores. Always provide a varied diet so the lizard gets essential vitamins and minerals.

Health: Illness can be avoided with proper care. For lizards captured from the wild, annual fecal exams are important. If a lizard shows signs of illness take it to a veterinarian immediately.

A lizard's life span varies from species to species.

Chirp, Hiss, Squeak...

Have you ever heard a fish? How about a hermit crab? Animals communicate in many different ways. Some communicate by using body movement, by secreting scent from glands or by making noises or sounds that sometimes cannot be heard by the human ear. How does your pet communicate? Can you tell how your pet feels by watching, listening or touching it? In this activity you'll learn how different pets communicate.



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Learning how pets communicate
Show of Success: Records how a pet communicates and completes a crossword puzzle and a word find.

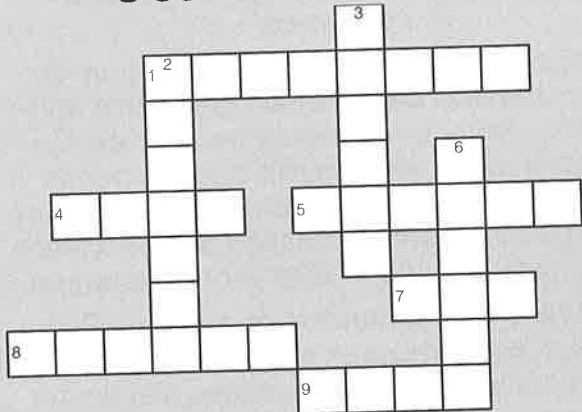
How do you communicate with other crabs?



Do the Activity

First record all the ways your pet communicates with you, other pets or just for fun. Then see if you can tell what pet is being described by the clues and complete the crossword puzzle. You can find the nine pet species in the Pet Species Word Find.

Pet Crossword



Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. When frightened I will let you know by curling up in a tight ball.

4. I can be heard by listening with a hydrophone.

5. I sometimes communicate by changing my skin color.

7. When I'm frightened I let out a high-pitched screech that cannot be heard by humans.

8. When I'm feeling ill my coat gets unusually oily.

9. When I am good I like to squeak and grunt.

Down

2. I frighten easily if disturbed from my sleep and will often bite if I'm suddenly awakened.

3. I will often let you know how I feel by talking or squeaking.

6. When I am content I like to sing by whistling.



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What were the answers to the crossword puzzle?
- How did you find the answers?
- How does your pet communicate?

Tell what's important

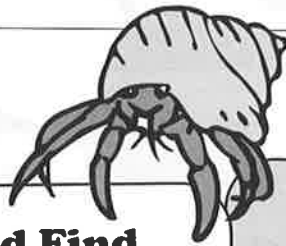
Why is it helpful to know how animals communicate?

Explore what you learned

What are different ways you communicate to others?

Imagine what's next

Was there ever a time you felt someone misunderstood what you were trying to communicate? What happened? How did you resolve it?



Pet Species Word Find

F	E	R	R	E	T	A	G	B
R	H	P	A	R	R	O	T	C
C	A	V	Y	D	H	U	F	L
E	M	T	G	E	R	B	I	L
P	S	F	G	T	G	Z	S	H
I	T	D	L	C	A	T	H	I
G	E	E	Y	R	A	N	A	C
H	R	J	D	E	S	U	O	M

Pet Species Word Bank

canary
cat
cavy
ferret
fish
gerbil
hamster
hedgehog
lizard
mouse
parrot
pig
rat
turtle

More

Challenges

1. Train your pet to communicate with you. For example train a bird to talk, a rodent or fish to accept food from your hand etc. Remember the best way to teach or train an animal is through positive feedback with praise or food.
2. In your Pet Challenges Book, make a list of pets and ways they communicate with their senses or parts of their bodies.

Pet Facts

Snake's Tongue

A snake uses its forked tongue to pick up scent particles. These particles are applied by the tip of the tongue to the sacs of the Jacobson's organs that are connected to the olfactory nerves and send a message to the brain telling the snake of the presence of prey, of danger, of water or of a mate.

TLC

Have you ever done something special for a friend? How did it make you feel? It is also important to treat your pet with kindness. One way you can do this is by handling your pet properly and showing others how to do the same. If an animal like a rodent is mistreated or handled wrong it will protect itself by scratching, biting or hissing. You will also find that the next time you want to handle your pet it may not want you to disturb it. In this activity you will help others learn how to properly handle it will protect

Here's how I hold my pet.



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Handling your pet
Show of Success: Helps others handle a pet safely.

itself by scratching, biting or hissing. You will also find that the next time you want to handle your pet it may not want you to disturb it. In this activity you will help others learn how to properly handle your pet.

Do the Activity

Begin by completing the word scramble and matching game below. Unscramble each of the animal names and draw a line from the animal to the handling tip for that animal. Check the Pet Word Find if you need help. Write three to four helpful tips for handling your pet. Show your family and friends this list and help them learn to properly handle your pet. Post a copy of these tips near your pet's cage. This will help remind others how to handle your pet when you're not around.

Handling tips for

pet's name

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

a. **EGBLIR**

b. **ROFG**

c. **MERAHST**

d. **KNEAS**

e. **HCM AEEOLN**

f. **EAUGIN IGP**

1. This soft, furry, short-tailed rodent likes to sleep during the day. When handling it is best to gently wake it before you pick it up.
2. This reptile should never be picked up by its tail or it might break off. (It will grow back.)
3. This long-tailed rodent is very quick and active. When handled it should be cupped in your hands and held securely.
4. This amphibian needs moist skin to keep healthy. It is usually best not to handle it very often.
5. This tailless rodent should be handled by placing the animal on your forearm and hand, with your free hand supporting its back. It will usually grunt and squeak to tell you how it feels.
6. This reptile prefers to hold you. When handling this animal you need to move slowly and gently.

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What tips did you include on your handling list?
- How did you help your family members properly handle your pet?
- What are some other things you could share with family or friends about your pet?
- How can you tell when a pet is not feeling comfortable and safe?

Tell what's important

What are some other ways you show kindness towards your pet?

Explore what you learned

How do people act toward you when you are kind?

Imagine what's next

What hazards could be outdoors for your pet?

know Your Pets

Gerbils

These small, active, inquisitive rodents originated in the dry regions of Asia and Africa. They consume little food, require minimum space, are hardy, have little odor, are prolific breeders and rarely, if ever, bite. Their life span is often five or more years of age.

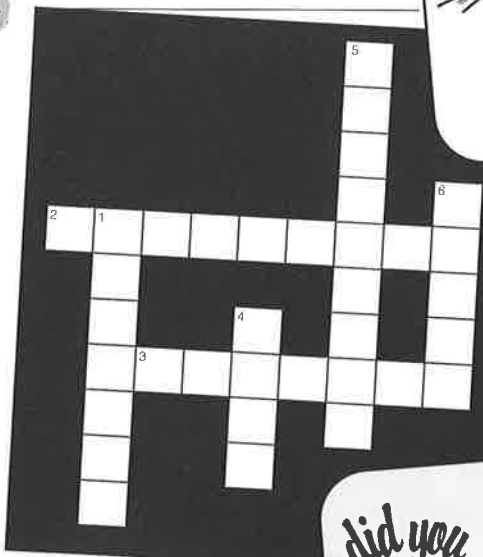
Housing: The essentials of a good home are that it is spacious, escape-proof, easy to clean and loaded with useful items. Provide a cage with a wheel fitted to the side of the cage, a nesting box, plastic tubes for tunneling and wood shavings or shredded paper floor covering.

Diet: As vegetarians they prefer a diet of cereal, grains and seeds with fruit or vegetables on occasion. A block of wood or some green twigs to chew on are appreciated. Commercial food is available.

Colors: Presently there are about ten different colors of gerbils: agouti, Candian White Spot, dark-tailed white, black argente, lilac, blue, cream, gray agouti.

Health: Isolate and carefully check newly acquired gerbils a minimum of 14 days. Wash food and water containers *every* day. Possible health problems include abscesses, colds, diarrhea, parasites, heatstroke, malocclusions and sterility.

Gerbil



did you
? know



More Challenges

1. If you have a pet in your classroom, look for information on how to handle the pet properly. Give a demonstration to classmates on how to handle the pet.

Safe and Secure



Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Pet Project Skill: Provide a safe environment for a pet
Show of Success: Determines what possible hazards are in your home.


As a pet owner you have made the decision to be responsible for your pet's needs. Being responsible means planning a safe environment for your pet to live in. Keeping your pet healthy and safe from disease and making sure friends or family members who play with your pet know how to handle it correctly is all a part of being a responsible pet owner. In this activity you will look at pictures of safety hazards and tell why they are hazardous.

I'll make sure you stay safe.

Do the Activity

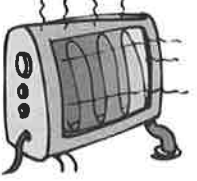
Here are pictures of possible safety hazards found in the home. In the space next to each picture describe how this might be a hazard for a pet. Then check your pet's environment for any possible unsafe situations.

1






2



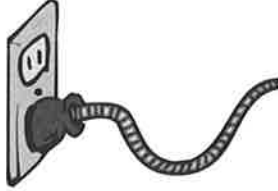
3



4



5



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What hazards did you find in the pictures?
- What possible hazards did you find in your pet's environment?
- What did you do to eliminate these hazards?

Tell what's important

Why is it important to make your pet's environment free from hazards?

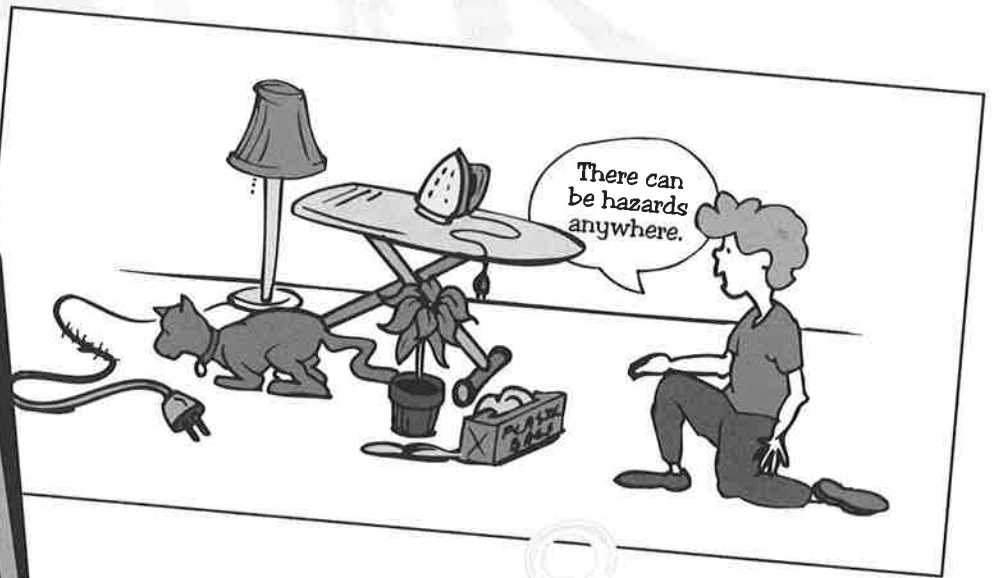
Explore what you learned

How does planning ahead help you provide your pet with a safe and secure environment?

Imagine what's next

How does planning ahead help you avoid safety hazards for yourself?

This presentation helped me find hazards in my home.



More

Challenges

- 1.** Discuss with your helper the five most common household hazards for your pet and how you would correct them.
- 2.** Select a pet you don't have and make a chart listing the hazards for that pet. Place it into your Pet Challenges Book after you have discussed it with your helper.

Harmful Household Plants

Common household plants such as English Ivy, Elephant Ear, Philodendron and Azaleas are poisonous and harmful to your pet if eaten. Safe plants include the Spider Plant, Swedish Ivy and Dracaena.

Pet Palaces

Every living thing has a home. A home can be a house, a tree, a hole, etc. Your home is different than your pet's home in size, looks and location. But your home makes you feel secure and comfortable, and that's how your pet's home should make it feel.

What is it about your home that makes it right for you? Does your home give you space for sleeping, eating and playing? Does it protect you from bad weather and rain? Your pet's home should provide the same types of things. This activity will help you identify your pet's housing needs as you practice your planning skills.



Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Pet Project Skill: Designing your pet's space
Show of Success: Designs a space that meets your pet's needs.

I'll need to lock you in your home so you'll be safe.

Do the Activity

First think about what your pet's home should include. Use the Pet Shelter Checklist to help. Then design a home for your pet and label what you include.



My Pet's Home

Pet Shelter Checklist

- light source
- safety features (lid, lock, etc.)
- ventilation
- proper temperature
- bedding area
- location of pet's home in your house
- food/water containers
- exercise space
- other needs (perch, chewstring, tunnels, etc.)



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you include in your pet's space?
- What was the most difficult part of designing your pet's living space?
- Why is it important to plan your pet's home?

Tell what's important

How did designing your pet's home help you use your planning and organizing skills?

Explore what you learned

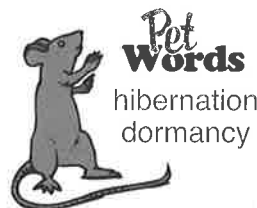
What are the differences between your space and your pet's living space?

Imagine what's next

How can planning ahead for an event help you be more prepared?

Pet Rap: Flies like a

Temperature OK...
Lighting OK...
Water OK...



Challenges

- 1.** Design the "perfect space" for yourself. On paper, draw a picture of your "perfect space". Include items like the location of windows or doors, entertainment center, decorations, furniture, etc.
- 2.** Make a Toad House. A friendly toad will gobble up many harmful bugs that come into your garden. You can try to get toads to move in by making toad houses. Use a scissors and two plastic cottage cheese containers. Carefully cut a half-circle doorway out of the top edge of one cottage cheese container. The opening should be big enough for a toad to fit through. Turn this container upside down, near the edge of your garden. This is the toad's house. Next to the toad house, dig a hole big enough for the other container to fit in, right side up. Fill this container with water and it becomes the toad's swimming pool. Now the house is ready. Put a sign outside the house "Toad House for Rent," and hope a toad moves in.

Pet Facts

Hibernation

Many animal species hibernate. This means they enter a period called dormancy. They sleep through this period and do not eat. Hibernation is brought on by changes in weather and less available food and water. Hedgehogs, hamsters and frogs will hibernate if their home environment temperatures drop below certain temperatures. Animals that hibernate will survive as long as they store up fat before they hibernate.

Home Alone



Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Pet Project Skill: Outlining a pet's daily needs
Show of Success: Writes an instruction guide for a pet sitter.

All animals have basic needs. These needs include food, water, air and space. These four things make up your pet's "habitat." Your pet cannot live without them, and it relies on you to get them. There may be a time when you are gone and can't be home to take care of your pet. You will need to plan ahead and teach

a family member or a friend what to do. In this activity you will make a plan for caring for your pet when you are not home.

Do the Activity

Complete the instructions below for your pet. After you fill in the chart, go through the directions with someone who might care for your pet. Post a copy near your pet's cage.



Pet Care Instructions for _____

	How much?	How often?	Why needed?
Food			
Water			
Exercise			
Cleaning area	X		



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What are your pet's needs?
- What directions did you include on your chart?
- How will you decide who is the best person to care for your pet if you cannot do it yourself?

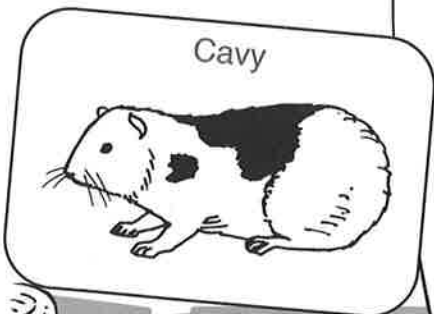
Tell what's important

Why is it helpful to plan ahead for your pet's care?

Explore what you learned

How does planning help you become more responsible?

Pet Rap: Swims like a



Challenges

1. Choose an animal that lives in the wild. Look for information on that animal and its basic needs. Find out how that animal's needs are met. Share the information you find with your helper and add it to your pet Challenges Book.

Imagine what's next

What happens when people do not follow through with their responsibilities?

Know Your Pets

Cavies (Guinea Pigs)

These loveable, popular rodents are native to South America where they live wild in the mountains of Chile. They are affectionate, social animals that prefer to be kept in pairs.

Breeds: American, Abyssinian, Peruvian, White Crested, Teddy and Silkie. The Cavy Standard of Perfection listed on page 36 gives complete information on the ideal type, fur, color, markings and condition for all breeds.

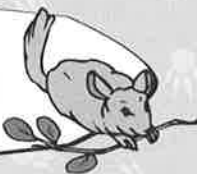
Housing: Cavies prefer a clean, safe, dry cage in a well-ventilated but not drafty area with a temperature between 60 and 80 degrees F. At least one to two square feet of floor area is recommended. Bedding must be clean, nontoxic, absorbent, relatively dust-free and easy to replace. Shredded paper, wood shavings (except cedar) and processed corn cobs are preferred bedding materials. A hiding place should be included.

Diet: Commercial pellets and a source of vitamin C such as small amounts of orange pulp, parsley or lettuce to prevent hair loss and scurvy are preferred. Fresh, clean water must be readily available at all times.

Health: The enclosure and all cage "furniture" should be cleaned and disinfected once weekly. Food and water containers should be cleaned and disinfected once daily.

Breeding: Animals must be bred between four and six months of age or their pelvic bones fuse together. Pregnancy last an average of 68-70 days.

Guinea Pigs



Would you recognize a cavy if you saw one? Cavies, or guinea pigs, in this country are from six to nine inches long and weigh 34 to 42 ounces when full grown. Except for their little ears and staring eyes, they look like little balls of fur. They have four toes on each front foot but only three toes on each hind foot. And they have no tail.

The guinea pig is not a pig and does not come from Guinea. It's a cavy (rhymes with navy), a rodent related to the porcupine. Cavies originally came from South America. They naturally live in the South American regions of the Brazilian grasslands, plains of Argentina and in Peru. In this country you will see them in homes as caged pets and in laboratories where they are used for experimental work.

Kinds of Guinea Pigs

There are 13 recognized breeds of guinea pigs in this country. The American breed is by far the most common and comes in a variety of markings ranging from solid colors to various mixtures. You could buy a Peruvian guinea pig, but if you do, figure on spending a lot of time with it. It has a dust mop coat. Its long hair needs daily combing and brushing. The Abyssinian is a fancy variety too and must be groomed. The hair of this guinea pig grows in little swirls or rosettes.

Making Your Guinea Pig a Home

You can keep guinea pigs in almost anything, but make sure their house is ready before you buy your pet. A box or pan about two feet square with 5- or 6-inch sides can be used for one or

two guinea pigs. Use metal if you can. It's the easiest to clean. The best guinea pig home will have a solid floor rather than a wire-mesh floor. The important thing to remember is that your guinea pig needs an even temperature living environment that has adequate ventilation yet is

free from cold drafts or heat extremes. Guinea pigs like separate sleeping quarters. Divide your box into compartments if you can. Pine shavings are the most common bedding used and should be changed on a weekly basis. If the cage space is available, items such as colorful plastic tubes, wood hide boxes, and other toys can be added.

Feeding Your Pet

Commercial food is best for guinea pigs. Buy small amounts at a time so it stays fresh. Place the food in a heavyweight bowl or crock. Other foods such as grass, carrot and celery tops, dandelions, lettuce, hay and rolled oats may be fed as treats but should not make up the majority of the diet. Too much grass or other greens can give guinea pigs diarrhea. If their droppings are unusually soft, stop feeding them greens. The food should be changed daily. In addition to food, your guinea pig needs fresh water every day. Change the water each time you feed your pet. A normal feeding schedule is twice daily, with a small morning snack and water followed by a larger evening meal.



A piece of wood, preferable soft pine, also should be placed with your guinea pig. Your pet will gnaw on it and scratch on it, keeping its constantly growing incisor teeth and nails trimmed.

Training Your Guinea Pig

Once the friendship between you and your pet is established, you may begin a training session. Guinea pigs can learn a variety of tricks and will respond positively to offers of treats during the training period. Begin by teaching your pet to stand up and “beg” for food. It is an easy trick to learn. From that trick you can teach your pet to sway or waltz on its hind legs, and eventually teach it to make a circle while following the treat you offer in your hand.

Grooming Tips

Regular grooming and dental care needs to be given. Brushing with a soft bristled brush will provide a shiny coat and help remove shedding hair.

General Care

Make sure your pet’s pen stays clean. Change the bedding every two days, and give the pen a general cleaning about twice a week. Wash out the entire pen with soap and water frequently.

Your guinea pig will become a friendly pet if you treat it gently and kindly. When you pick up your pet, take care not to grab it by the shoulders or the top part of its body. You should always support your guinea pig from beneath when carrying or transporting. Slide your hand under its body, palm up and gently lift it with its chest and front legs resting on your wrist. As you handle your pet more, the more it will become accustomed to you.

Keeping Your Pet Healthy

If you sneeze, you don’t think much about it. But if your guinea pig sneezes, you had better be concerned. It may be the start of a virus infection. Put your pet in a separate pen. Always keep an eye out for these signs of sickness: breathing difficulties, bedraggled fur, loss of appetite, discharge from nose and eyes, diarrhea, burying its head in a corner and other unusual actions.

Another concern is lice or mites. If your guinea pig is scratching excessively or appears to be suffering, the proper treatment should be applied. Be sure to follow the instruction on the container. Also remove and replace all bedding and clean the cage when treating your pet.

Shopping List

- Guinea pig cage
- Heavy bottomed food dish
- Hanging water bottle
- Aspen bedding
- Guinea pig food (with Vitamin C)
- Play toys
- Chew toys
- Brush
- Treats
- Books and care sheet



Pet Talk 1

This is the first of three Pet Talk glossaries for you to use to increase your "pet" vocabulary. See how many of these words your family knows.



A

Amphibians - Animals of the class Amphibia. They live parts of their lives in water and parts on land. They hatch as aquatic larvae, breathe by using gills and grow to adult forms with air-breathing lungs. Frogs and toads are amphibians.

Anatomy - The study of body parts of an animal or plant.

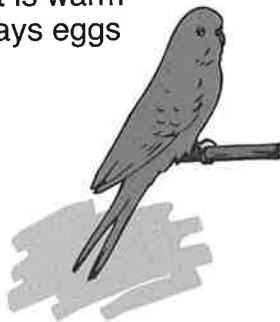
Ancestor - A person or animal from whom others came later. Grandparents and great grandparents are one's ancestors.

Aquatic - Living or growing in or near water.

Aquarium - A water-filled container in which aquatic plants and animals live.

B

Bird - An animal that has wings and a body covered with feathers. It is warm blooded, lays eggs and has a backbone.



Breed - A certain kind of animal. A poodle is a breed of dog.

Boar - A male cavy.

C

Calories - Energy value of food.

Captivity - Held in a certain place. Not allowed to run free.

Carapace - A hard, bony outer shield covering the back or part of the back of some animals, such as turtles.

Carnivore - An animal that eats only meat.

Caudal - The tail region of an animal.

Cavy - See guinea pig.

Characteristics - A unique quality of a person or animal.

Chinchilla - A small mammal, rodent; not recommended as a pet for children.

Claws - A sharp, curved nail on the foot of a bird or animal.

Cold-blooded - Having a body temperature that changes with the air or water around it.

Cuttlebone - A block of minerals, such as calcium, for birds.

D

Decapod - Living creature with ten legs.

Degus - A small mammal, a rodent, from Chile.

Digits - Fingers or finger-like body parts.

Domesticated - To tame or train so it can live comfortably with humans.

Dormancy - Not active for a period of time.

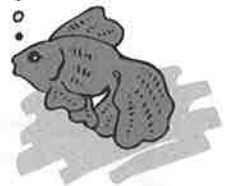
F

Ferret - A long, furry animal that looks somewhat like a weasel.

Fish - Animals belonging to the class Pisces (Latin for fish). They usually have fins, gills and a streamlined body.

Frog - A tailless, amphibian that lives mostly in water.

Function - The purpose for what something was designed.



G

Gerbil *Gerbillus iateronia* - A small mammal, a rodent belonging to the order Rodentia.

Gestation period - The time when a female animal is pregnant or having young growing in her body.

Guinea pig - (Cavy) A small mammal, a rodent, belonging to the order Rodentia.

H

Hamster - A small mammal, a rodent, belonging to the order Rodentia.

Herbivore - An animal that eats only plants.

Hob - A male ferret.

Humane Society

An organization that helps find good safe homes for animals.



Hutch - A pen or coop for small animals.

J

Jill - A female ferret.

M

Malocclusion - The improper meeting of teeth (eg. buck teeth, wolf teeth).

Mammals - Animals that belong to the class Mammalia. They have self-regulating body temperature, hair and unborn young that develop inside the mother animal's body.

Mouse - A small mammal, a rodent, that belongs to the order Rodentia.

N

Nocturnal - Active at night.

Nutrient - Minerals, vitamins, carbohydrates, etc. needed by plants, animals or humans in order to live and grow.

O

Omnivore - An animal that eats both meat and plants.

Origin - The source or place from where something came.

P

Pet - A non food animal included in a household as a companion and on a status almost that of people.

Plastron - The part of the turtle's or tortoise's shell that covers the belly.

Polydactyl - A cavy with extra toes on its hind feet.

R

Rodent - Any of a number of animals (mammals) that have a pair of large front teeth for gnawing.

S

Skeleton - A framework of bones that supports the body of all animals with backbones.

Species - A classification that groups plants and animals that have certain characteristics, for example, lions and tigers are two different species of cat.

Sow - A female cavy.

T

Tadpole - The larval form of a frog or toad.

Terrarium - An enclosure in which small animals are kept.

Toad - A tailless amphibian resembling a frog. It lives mostly on land.

Tortoise - Any of the terrestrial, or land turtles.

Toxemia - A complication of pregnancy.

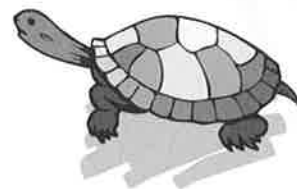
Turtle - A reptile that belongs to the order Chelonia. It has a bony or leathery shell.

V

Vertebrate - An animal with a backbone.

W

Warm-blooded - Having a body temperature that stays nearly the same no matter what the temperature of surrounding air or water.



Pet Rap: Quick as a bunny.
Slow as a turtle.
Silly as a goose.
Happy as a clam.
Quiet as a mouse.
Flies like a bird.
Swims like a fish.