

**PET ANIMAL CHECKLIST****Required for Exhibit**

- _____ Complete Indiana 4-H Club General Record sheet (4-H 528) and turn in to club leader for his or her signature.
- _____ Create your fair exhibit according to the Pet Animal Guidelines

Suggested Activities

- _____ Complete 3-4 activities in appropriate Pet Animal Manual (Levels 1, 2, 3) as listed on page 4 of the manual. Answer all questions in the manual related to chosen activities. Turn into the club leader for his or her review.
- _____ Level 1: Participate in at least 3 learning experiences (found in manual on page 3).
- _____ Levels 2-3: Participate in at least 5 learning experiences (found in manual on page 3).
- _____ All levels: Fill out Planning Guide and Achievement Sheet (both found in manual on pages 3-4) and turn in to club leader for his or her signature.

Resources available in Extension Office

Level 1 Manual—Pet Pals (BU-06359, grades 3-5), Level 2 Manual—Scurrying Ahead (BU-06360, grades 6-8), Level 3 Manual—Scaling the Heights (4HCCS BU-06361, grades 9-12)
www.extension.purdue.edu/elkhart, *Poster Foam Board, *Poster Sleeve

*Items available for sale; contact Extension Office for current prices

Revised 10/2023

Indiana 4-H Club General Record



Project _____
(Fill in name and division of project)

Note: Use this record sheet for projects that do not have record sheets, to replace lost or damaged record sheets, or as your county designates.

Name _____ Grade (as of Jan 1 of current year) _____ Year _____

Name of Club _____

County _____ Year in Club Work _____

Date Project Started _____ Date Project Completed _____

I have reviewed this record and believe it to be correct:

Signature of 4-H Leader _____ Date _____

Signature of 4-H Leader _____ Date _____

Signature of 4-H Leader _____ Date _____

I. Tell about what activities you did to complete your project. List any articles you made.

II. Tell about what you learned while you were working on this project.

III. Time spent, cost, profit/loss, etc.

IV. Give any additional information your leader asks for.



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This material may be available in alternative formats.

4-H GENERAL POSTER EXHIBIT SCORECARD

Name _____ Placing _____

Level/Grade/Division/Club _____

Judge's initials: _____

| CRITERIA FOR JUDGING: | EXCELLENT | GOOD | NEEDS TO IMPROVE |
|--|-----------|------|------------------|
| Meets General Requirements for Exhibit Type <input type="checkbox"/> Were minimum number of activities completed in member manual? (County ONLY), if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Size (poster 22" x 28"), displayed horizontally <input type="checkbox"/> Rigid backed, clear plastic covered <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of 4-H member | | | |
| Descriptive Title | | | |
| Design Components: • Lines, shapes, textures, colors, placement, balance | | | |
| Educational Value • Will the viewer learn something from the exhibit? • Is the information accurate and clearly presented? • Is the amount of information appropriate? | | | |
| Subject Matter: • Does the exhibit meet the stated objectives of the unit and activity? • Has 4-H member demonstrated mastery of concepts? | | | |

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| Subject Matter: • Does the exhibit meet the stated objectives of the unit and activity? • Has 4-H member demonstrated mastery of concepts? | | | |

Additional Comments:

Pet Animal

No State Fair Entries

Description:

Youth can learn about livestock and companion animals through a variety of experiences.

Exhibit Guidelines:

Owning or showing an animal is not required. Members enrolled in any 4-H animal or livestock project can exhibit in this project and are to contact their county 4-H educator to learn if they are to also be enrolled in animal education.

All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

Posters are to be 22"x28" and displayed horizontally and placed in a clear plastic sleeve or covered with clear plastic to protect contents. Display boards should be designed to sit on a table using no more than 36" of tabletop space. Space should be left in the lower right-hand corner to place an exhibit tag provided by Purdue Extension staff.

Judges evaluating exhibits should recognize individual differences and creativity, therefore using information in this document as a guide rather than a requirement.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Beginner (grades 3-5 suggested)

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any specie related topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Check with the Purdue Extension office in your county to determine if enrollment is required in the species project you want to learn about. Owning or possessing an animal is not required.

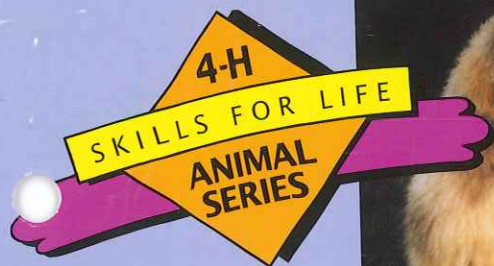
Intermediate (grades 6-8 suggested)

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any specie related topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Check with the Purdue Extension office in your county to determine if enrollment is required in the species project you want to learn about. Owning or possessing an animal is not required.

Advanced (grades 9-12 suggested)

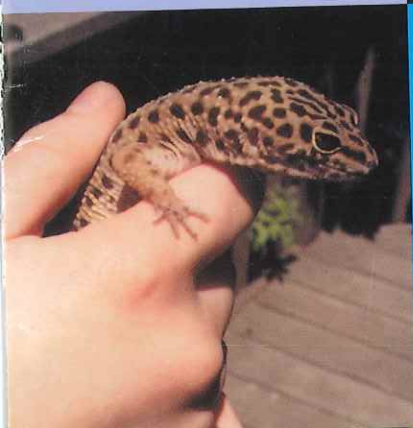
Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any specie related topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Check with the Purdue Extension office in your county to determine if enrollment is required in the species project you want to learn about. Owning or possessing an animal is not required.

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Some manuals are used more than one year. An additional copy will cost \$6.00.

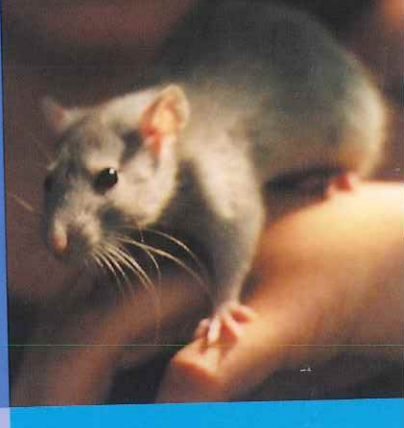
National 4-H Curriculum
BU-06359



Pet Pals

Level 1

Pet Project Activity Guide



Name _____
County _____



Note to the Project Helper

Congratulations! A young person has asked you to be his/her pet project helper. As a helper you are in a great position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about pets and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the *Helper's Guide*
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each achievement program
- Date and initial the activities on the Pet Achievement Program as the youth completes them and the two of you discuss them
- Help them to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

The 4-H Pet Series

This guide, *Pet Pals* is the first in the series of three for youth, that also includes *Pet 2 Scurrying Ahead*, *Pet 3 Scaling the Heights* and the *Pet Group Activity Helper's Guide*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3-4, 5-7 and 6-9 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise.

All activities have several parts: A description of the skills to be practiced, discussion questions, suggestions for additional activities and other helpful information. The "Show of Success" for each activity is an excellent way to evaluate the youth's progress. Each of the guides also includes an achievement program to encourage youth to learn more about pets while developing important life skills. In the *Helper's Guide* you will find another evaluation piece titled "Evaluating the Impact." Use this before beginning each level and after the youth has completed each level. Each activity is designed so the young person has an opportunity to learn by doing before being told or shown how. Your challenge is to "sit on your hands" while the youth explores the activity and learns from the

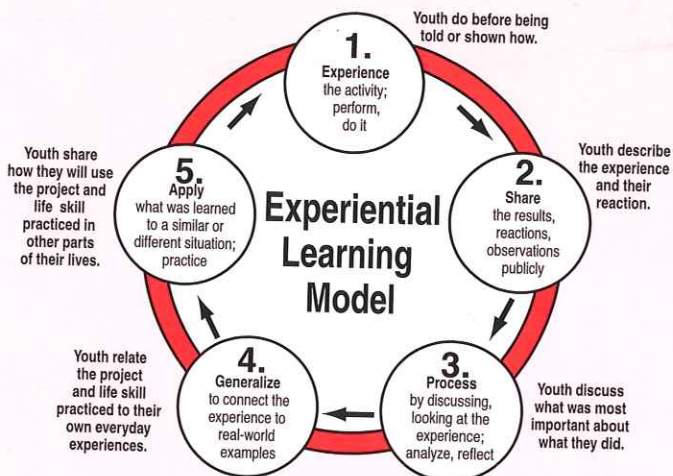
experience, even when it doesn't work the way it's expected to. You can help with the learning most effectively by listening as the young person considers the questions and draws conclusions. At times the activity may call for you to be a resource person for content or ideas.

Pet Helper's Guide

The fourth publication in this series, *Pet Helper's Guide*, provides additional learn-by-doing activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, meeting ideas, as well as answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is utilized in each activity in this series. As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity themselves. After the youth do as much as they can and answer the questions, you then meet together and discuss: What did they do? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced in the future?



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Acknowledgements

Revision Team: This revision of the four pet activity guides was accomplished by the 4-H Pet Design Team comprised of Linda R. Horn, CT and Anita Raddatz, WA, and Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI, editor.

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Original Design Team: Bill Gleason, WI; Roger Holmes, MN; John Skinner, WI; Marcella Remund, SD; Gerilyn Perkins, MN; and Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI.

Your ability to ask additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.

Good luck in your helper role and thank you for contributing to the positive development of youth.

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Pet Pals

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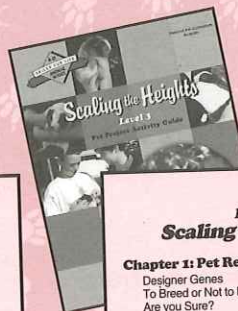
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For more on pets ... look for these other guides in this set.



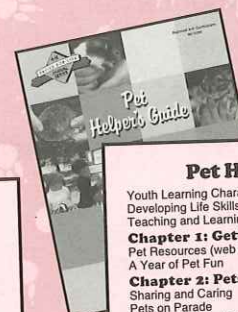
Level 2 Scurrying Ahead

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|--|
| Chapter 1: Getting to Know Your Pet |
| True or False? |
| Once Upon a Time |
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| Scene 2 Take 2 |
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Pet Helper's Guide

| |
|---|
| Youth Learning Characteristics |
| Developing Life Skills |
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| Chapter 1: Getting Organized |
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| Chapter 2: Pets in the Community |
| Sharing and Caring |
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| Dealing with Loss |
| Pet Project Meeting Ideas |
| More Project Ideas |
| Answer Key: Pets 1, 2 and 3 |
| Evaluating the Impact |
| Pet Resources |



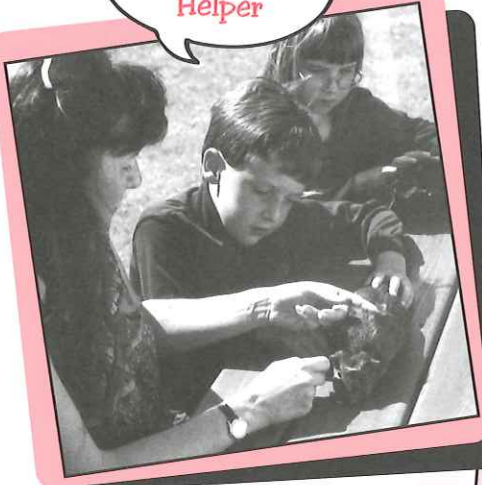
Welcome to Pet Pals

Are you ready to learn more about pets and which pet may be right for you?

Through the activities in this series of books you will learn about kinds of pets, costs to raise them, pet care, showmanship and much more. If you already have a pet, these activity guides can help you to learn more about them. If you are thinking about getting a pet, these activities may help you decide which pet is best for you.

Learning about pets isn't all you will be doing. You will also be practicing important life skills such as how to gather information, make decisions, talk with others, be responsible and plan activities:

You're a great
Pet Project
Helper



Here are some of the activities you'll get to do in *Pet Pals*.

- Find information about a pet
- Interview a pet owner
- Identify pet body parts
- Lead a family discussion about selecting a pet
- Handle a pet safely
- Identify possible pet hazards
- Design a space for a pet
- Invent and design a pet toy
- Write a pet sitter instruction guide
- Comparison shop for a pet product
- Explore a pet's diet
- Determine the origin of pets
- Describe a pet artistically

Pet Pals Project Guidelines

- Set your goals and record project highlights.
- Do a minimum of seven activities in Level 1 of the *Pet Pals* Achievement Program each year and complete the program within three years.
- Participate in a minimum of three of the learning experiences listed on the Planning Guide each year.
- Practice and develop the life skills of relating to others, making decisions, learning to learn and communicating with others.
- Increase your pet knowledge and skills.

Pet Pals Achievement Program

While you are having fun doing the activities, you will also be completing the *Pet Pals* Achievement Program. There are three Achievement Program levels of this program, one in each of the pet project activity guides. This program will help you set goals, keep track of your successes and be recognized for your good work.

Your Project Helper

On your team supporting you and making learning more fun is your project helper. This person may be a parent, project leader or advisor, a neighbor or an older friend who knows pets. The choice is yours. As you do the activities you'll discuss what you did and the questions in the Talk it Over part of each activity with your helper. Sometimes your helper will need to work with you to find resources including people, organizations, events, magazines and books needed to finish an activity. Once you have successfully finished each activity your helper will date and initial your achievement program.

Write the name and phone number of your project helper here:

Your Project Helper _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Good luck with Pet 1 — Pet Pals

Goals and Highlights

My Pet Project Goals

Name _____

Kind(s) of pet(s) _____

My most important goals for the pet project:

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

Learning Experiences

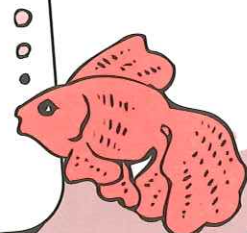
Check when you do any of the following.
Plan to do at least three of these each year.

| Year | Year | Year | Activity |
|------|------|------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Give a demonstration |
| | | | Tour a pet store |
| | | | Attend a pet project meeting |
| | | | Attend a pet show |
| | | | Take pictures of a pet |
| | | | Show a pet at the fair |
| | | | Attend a pet clinic |
| | | | Participate in a pet skillathon |
| | | | Participate in pet showmanship |
| | | | Teach your pet a trick |

Pet Pals Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

Picture of my pet and me.



Achievement Program

Guidelines

1. Do at least seven of the *Pet Pals* activities each year.
2. Complete at least 21 of the *Pet Pals* and More Challenges activities within three year to complete the achievement program.
3. Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete them.

Pet Pals Activities

Complete at least 11 activities.

Date Completed Helper's Initials

Chapter 1 – Picking the Right Pet

My Favorite Pet

Your Opinion Please

Family Time

Chapter 2 – Getting to Know Your Pet

Hang Time

Fur, Fins or Feathers?

Roots

Pet Poses

Daily Diary

Chirp, Hiss, Squeak

Chapter 3 - Caring for Your Pet

TLC

Safe and Secure

Pet Palaces

Home Alone

Chapter 4 - Pet News

Pet Information

Playing Cavy Project Bowl



More Challenges

Select and do any of the More Challenges activities in *Pet Pals* or make up one of your own. Record the page and number of each activity you complete.

Page # Date Completed Helper's Initials

Write your own activity here.

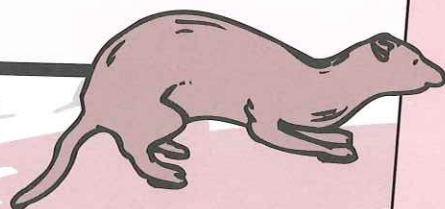
Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____



Level 1
Completion

Pet Pals Completion Certificate

I certify that

_____ has completed all requirements of the
Pet Pals Achievement Program
in the 4-H Pet "Skills for Life" Series.

Helper's Signature _____

Date _____

Place a picture of you
with your pet here.



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)

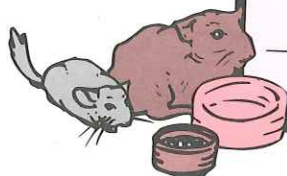
- Mammal
- Fish
- Rodent
- Reptile
- Amphibian
- Insect (arachnid)
- Crustacean

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

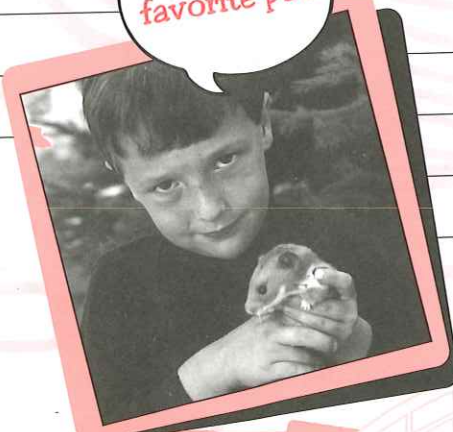
Share with your helper

- 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?

Here's my favorite pet.



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?



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

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.



Life Skill:

Communicating with others

Pet Project Skill: Selecting a pet

Show of Success: Interviews pet owners.

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!

Questions to Ask:

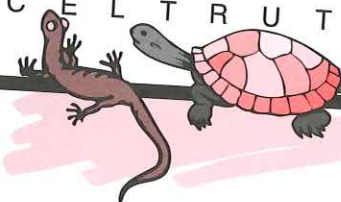
- _____
- _____
- _____

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?

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 |



#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

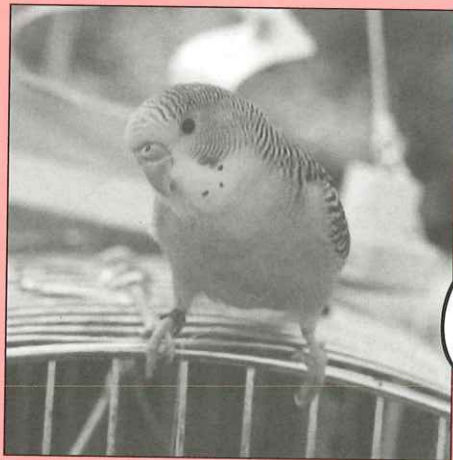
How was talking to friends or family about their pets useful in helping you make a decision about the kind of pet you may want to own?

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 kind of pet would be best for everyone?



What could a pet add to our family?

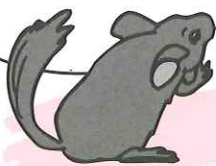
The Best Pet for Our Family

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.

You are fun to play with.

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

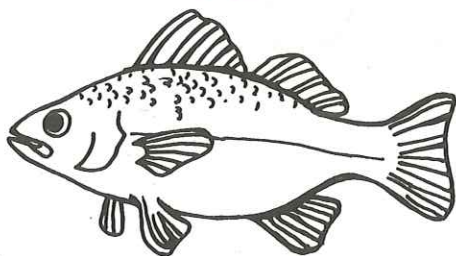
Share with your helper

- 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?

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.

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?

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.

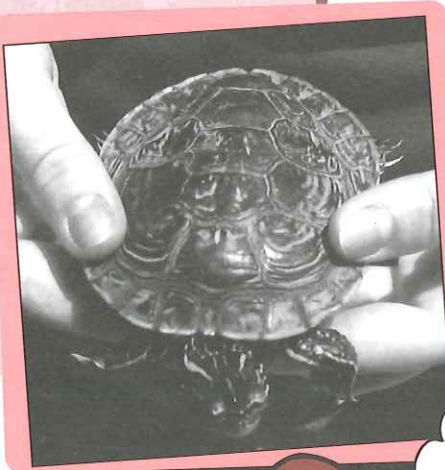
Popular Aquarium Fish: Guppies, zebras, platyps, neons, glow-light tetras, blue platies, kuhlii loaches, corydoras catfish, Chinese algae-eaters, angel fish, kissing gouramis, swordtails and cardinal tetras.

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:

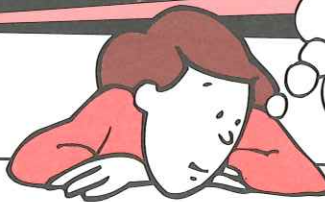
Pet Project Skill:

Learning to learn
Identifying pet body parts

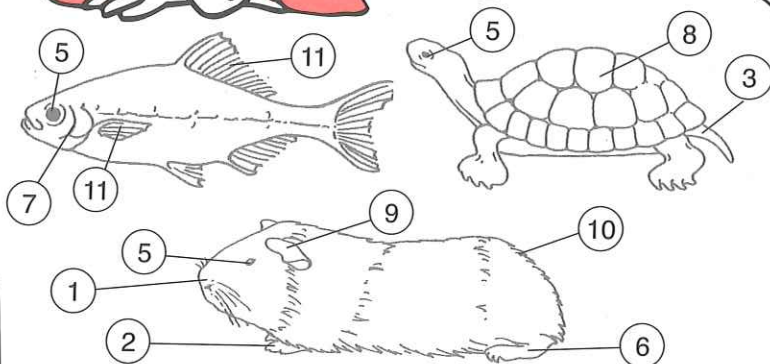
Show of Success: Completes the crossword puzzle and names the uses of certain parts.

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.

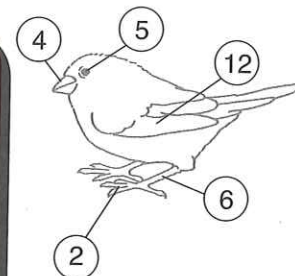
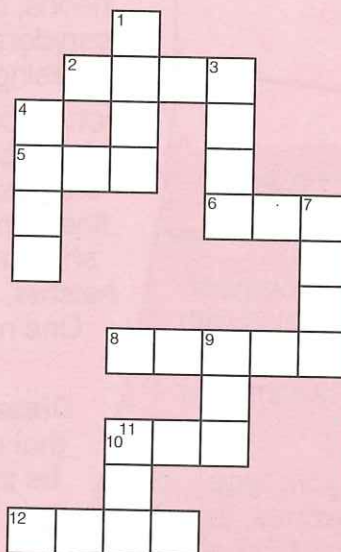


Pets can do things I can't do.



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

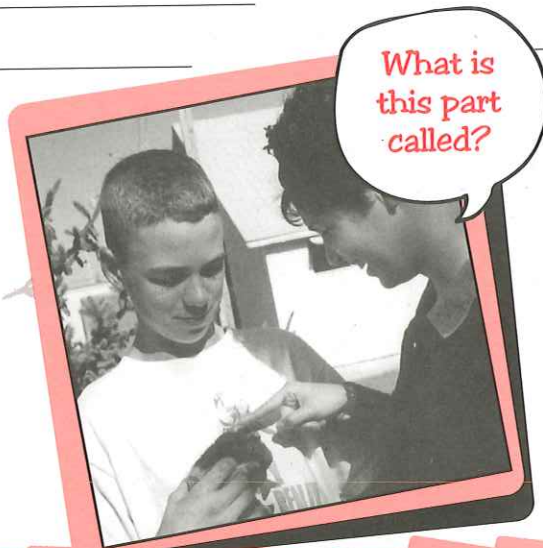
Why is learning about your pet's body parts important?

Explore what you learned

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

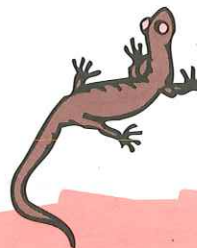
Imagine what's next

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?

Silly as a
Pet Rap:



More

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.

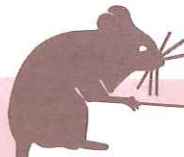
2. Now that you are familiar with your pet's outside (external) body, look for information about your pet's inside (internal) body. Make an "X-ray" view drawing of your pet that shows the organs and skeleton. Label the major parts and briefly describe their functions.

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).

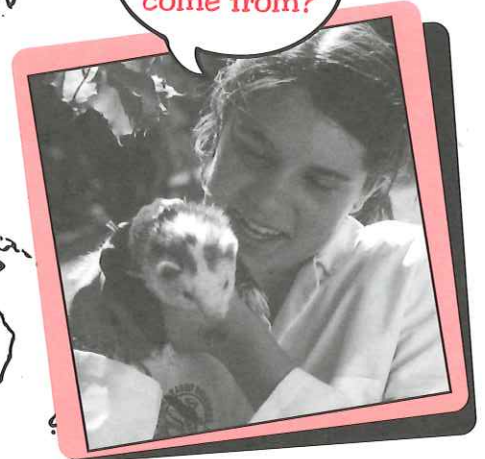
Florida shoreline - red

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?

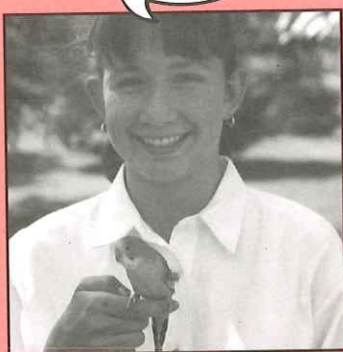
Explore what you learned

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.

Pet Poses



Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Drawing a pet
Show of Success: Draws and colors a pet.

Pets can inspire your creativity! The colors, height and length, of their bodies, tails, and eyes vary a little from animal to animal. Each animal has unique physical features and personalities. Close your eyes and visualize your pet. Remember some of the special ways it looks and acts when eating, sleeping, or cleaning itself. it looks and acts when eating, sleeping, or cleaning itself.

Do the Activity

In the space below, create an artistic expression of what your pet is like. Try to create the feeling of the personality of your pet and the feelings you have for your pet. Remember, an artistic expression does not have to look exactly like your pet — that's why it's called art. Use any medium you want: water colors, pencil, charcoal, paint, or make

a collage from magazine pages. You might want to write a poem or song. You're the artist and your pet is your inspiration. Or, cut out a picture of your pet and attach it here. Draw a background for your pet either showing it's natural environment (where it came from) or where it is living now.



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?

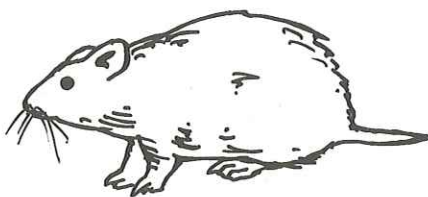
Explore what you learned

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.

Daily Diary

What does your pet do all day? Have you ever just quietly watched and listened to your pet? If you have, you probably learned that your pet can teach you many things. By watching your pet closely you can tell when it's hungry, bored, playful or sick. Have fun practicing your observation skills as you do this activity.



Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Studying pet behavior
Show of Success: Records a pet's behavior.

Do the Activity

Quietly observe your pet for 30 minutes each day on three different days at three different times. Write in the diary what you see or hear your pet doing. Some items you might want to record include eating habits, how it exercises, when it sleeps, how it interacts with other people or pets, plus anything unusual.



My Pet's Diary



Day 1

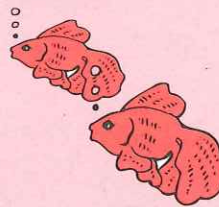
Date: _____ Time: _____

What Pet Did:

Day 2

Date: _____ Time: _____

What Pet Did:



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!



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?



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.

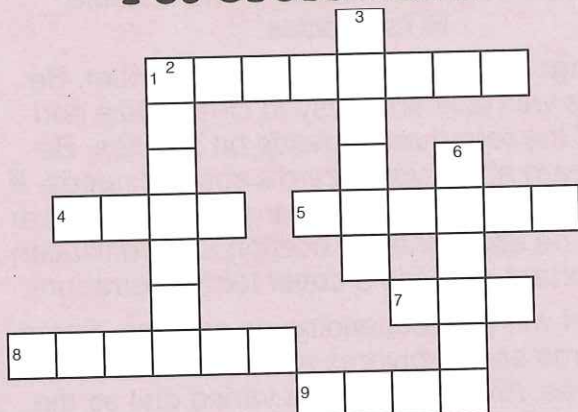
3. I will often let you know how I feel by talking or squeaking.

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

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



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

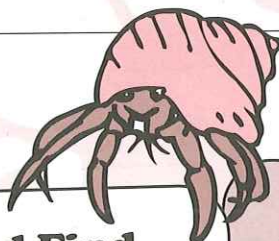
Why is it helpful to know how animals communicate?

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



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

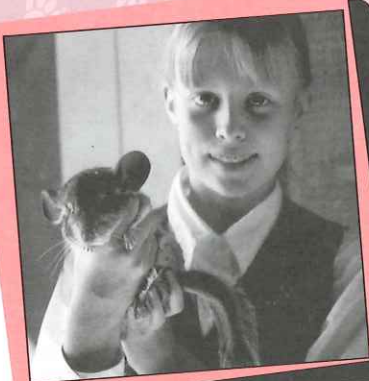
A snake uses its forked tongue to pick up scent particles. These particles are applied by the tip of the tongue to the sacs of the Jacobson's organs that are connected to the olfactory nerves and send a message to the brain telling the snake of the presence of prey, of danger, of water or of a mate.

Caring for Your Pet

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.

a. **EGBLIR**

b. **ROFG**

c. **MERAHST**

d. **KNEAS**

e. **HCMAEEOLN**

f. **EAUGIN IGP**

Handling tips for

pet's name

1.

2.

3.

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.

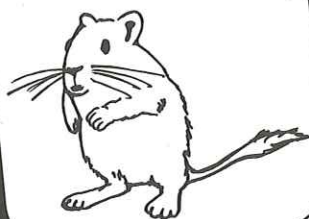
Housing: The essentials of a good home are that it is spacious, escape-proof, easy to clean and loaded with useful items. Provide a cage with a wheel fitted to the side of the cage, a nesting box, plastic tubes for tunneling and wood shavings or shredded paper floor covering.

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



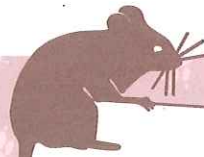
did you
? know



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:

Pet Project Skill:

Planning and organizing
Provide a safe environment
for a pet

Show of Success: Determines what possible
hazards are in your home.

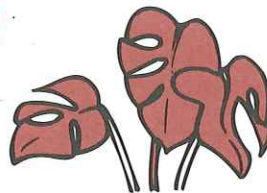
As a pet owner you have made the decision to be responsible for your pet's needs. Being responsible means planning a safe environment for your pet to live in. Keeping your pet healthy and safe from disease and making sure friends or family members who play with your pet know how to handle it correctly 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

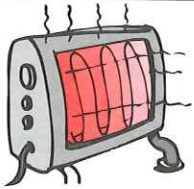
Here are pictures of possible safety hazards found in the home. In the space next to each picture describe how this might be a hazard for a pet. Then check your pet's environment for any possible unsafe situations.

1





2



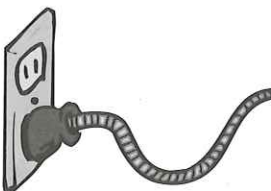
3



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?

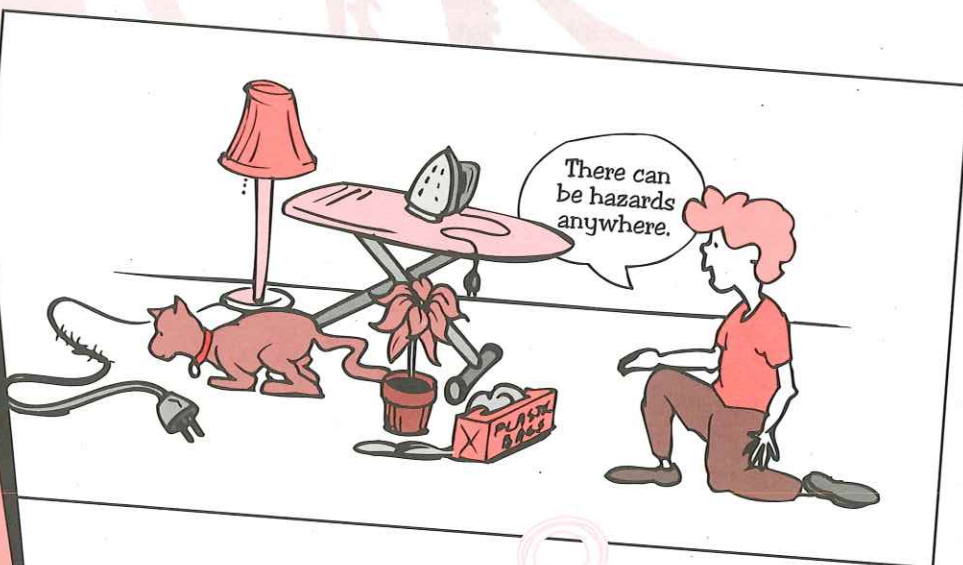
Explore what you learned

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.



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?

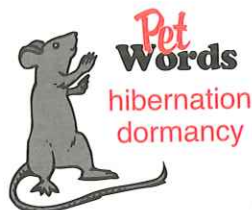
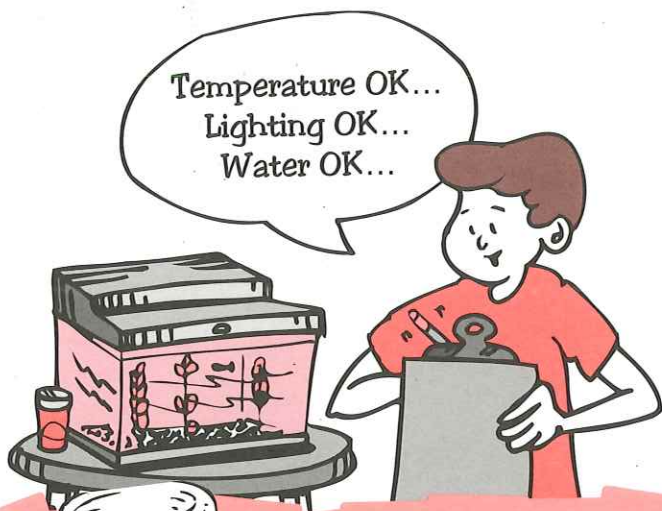
Explore what you learned

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



More

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

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



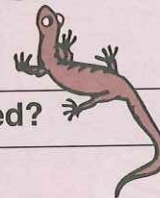
Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Pet Project Skill: Outlining a pet's daily needs
Show of Success: Writes an instruction guide for a pet sitter.

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.

You need clean fresh water every day.



Pet Care Instructions for _____

| | How much? | How often? | Why needed? |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Food | | | |
| Water | | | |
| Exercise | | | |
| Cleaning area | | | |



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?

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.

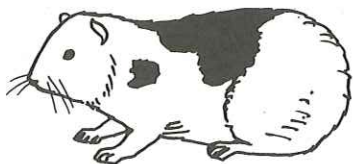
Housing: Cavies prefer a clean, safe, dry cage in a well-ventilated but not drafty area with a temperature between 60 and 80 degrees F. At least one to two square feet of floor area is recommended. Bedding must be clean, nontoxic, absorbent, relatively dust-free and easy to replace. Shredded paper, wood 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.

Cavy

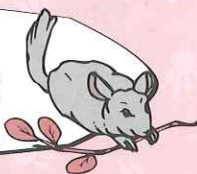


More

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.

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 pits 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 Resources

The following are examples of resources to help you complete the activities and learn more about this exciting project. The Extension Service does not endorse any non-extension resources.

Associations and Societies and Clubs

Contact pet shop managers or check pet magazines for information on caged bird societies, pigeon clubs, aquarium societies, etc.

County Humane Societies

Books

Books are available from bookstores, libraries and pet-related shops on every kind of pet. Catalogues of pet publications may be requested from these publishers:

T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
One T.F.H. Plaza
Third and Union Aves.
Neptune, N.J. 07753

Audubon Publishing
One Glamore Court
Smithtown, N.Y. 11787

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Blvd.
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

Animals

Careers for Animal Lovers, Louise Miller

Chinchillas, Jack Harris

Frogs and Toads, Jay Pyrom

Gerbils, M. Ostrow

Guinea Pigs, Margaret Edward

Hamsters, Mervin Roberts

Rats, Susan Fox
T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Fish

Aquarium Plants, Holgar Windelov

Aquarium, Setting Up, Jim Kelly

Tropical Fish, C.W. Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Del Encyclopedia of Tropical Fish, T.W. Julian, Dell Publishing Co.

Aquarium Fishes, Jens M. Madsen, MacMillan Publishing Co.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Salamanders and Newts, Byron Bjorn

Snakes, Mervin Roberts

Tarantulas, Al David

Turtles and Terrariums, Jo Cobb

Chameleons, Robert Anderson

Iguanas, Jack Harris

Tortoises, Christine Adrian

Beginning the Terrarium, Mervin F. Roberts
T.F.H. Publications

Reptile Study, Roger Conant,
Boy Scouts of America

Other Species

Pot-Bellied Pigs, Lisa Huckaby
T.F.H. Publications

Smaller Livestock for Home and School, F.J. Bolger
Blanford Press

Pets For Children, Stephanie and Ken Denarm
Hamlyn Publishing Group

Pets, Francis N. Chrystie
Little, Brown and Co.

Standard Book of Household Pets, Jack Baird
Halcyon House

Land Hermit Crabs, Paul J. Nash
T.F.H. Publication Inc.

Standard of Perfection (Rabbits are Cavies)
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 426
Bloomington, IL 61702-0426

Birds

Budgerigars, Tony David

Cockatiels, Elaine Radford

Lovebirds, George Radtke

Zebra Finches, John Corbett

Fish Diseases, Gottfried Schubert

Tropical Fish, Cliff Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Pigeon, W. Levi
Levi Publishing Co.

Cage Bird Identifier, Helmet Bechtel
Sterling Publishing Co.

The Right Way To Keep Pet Birds, Sonia Roberts
Gramercy Publishing Co.

This Is the Parrot, Plath and Davis
T.F.H. Publications.

Magazines

Caged Bird Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, N.J. 07753-0427

Birds USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Bird Talk
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 57347
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Bird Breeder
P.O. Box 420235
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Cat Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 52864
Boulder, CO 80323-2864

Cats USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Reptiles
P.O. Box 58700
Boulder, CO 80322-8700

Aquarium USA
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Tropical Fish Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, J.J. 07753-0427

Dog Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 53264
Boulder, CO 80322-3264

Cooperative Extension Service Pet Publications

4-H Animal Science Series

BU 08148 Cat 1 —
Purrfect Pals

BU 08149 Cat 2 —
Climbing Up

BU 08150 Cat 3 —
Leaping Forward

BU 08151 Cat Helper's
Guide

BU 08166 Dog 1 —
Wiggles 'n Wags

BU 08167 Dog 2 —
Bounding Ahead

BU 08168 Dog 3 —
Pointing the Way

BU 08169 Dog Group Activity
Guide

BU 06359 Pet 1 —
Pet Pals

BU 06360 Pet 2 —
Scurrying Ahead

BU 06361 Pet 3 —
Scaling the Heights

BU 06362 Pet Group Activity
Guide

Small Animals Leader Guide
Small Animals Member's Manual
North Carolina Cooperative
Extension Service
North Carolina State University

Other Resources

CEN/SHARE
(Human Animal Relationships
and Environments)
80 Ford Hall, Box 1570 Mayo
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108

State, National and International Clubs

Every kind and breed of pet has one or more clubs. Check the pet magazines for current addresses.



Discover over 180 National 4-H Curriculum titles in mission areas of Science, Engineering and Technology; Healthy Living; and Citizenship. Youth activity guides are filled with fun, engaging experiences that cultivate abilities youth need for everyday living as they progressively gain knowledge about subjects that interest them.

All titles have been reviewed and recommended by the National 4-H Curriculum Jury Review process, signifying their excellence in providing hands-on learning experiences for youth.

Science, Engineering and Technology

Agricultural Science

- Afterschool Agriculture

Animal Science

- Beef
- Cat
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goat
- Dog
- Embryology
- Entomology
- Exploring Farm Animals
- Meat Goat
- Pets
- Poultry
- Rabbit
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science
- Horse

Engineering and Technology

- Aerospace Adventures
- Electric Excitement
- Computer
- Exploring 4-H Robotics
- Geospatial
- Sewing Expressions
- Small Engines
- Woodworking Wonders

Environmental Science

- Exploring Your Environment
- Forestry—Forests of Fun
- Fishing for Adventure
- Outdoor Adventures

Plant Science

- Down-to-Earth—Gardening in the Classroom
- Gardening

Science Discovery

- Science Discovery Series

Healthy Living

Health and Fitness

- Bicycle Adventures
- Child Development—Kids on the Grow
- Keeping Fit and Healthy

Nutrition

- Foods
- Microwave Magic

Citizenship

Communication and Expressive Arts

- A Palette of Fun
- Communications—Express Yourself!
- Photography
- ¡Qué Rico! Latino Cultural Arts
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts

Community Action

- Citizenship—Public Adventures
- Service Learning

Leadership

- Exploring 4-H
- Step Up To Leadership

Personal Development

- Consumer Savvy
- Financial Champions

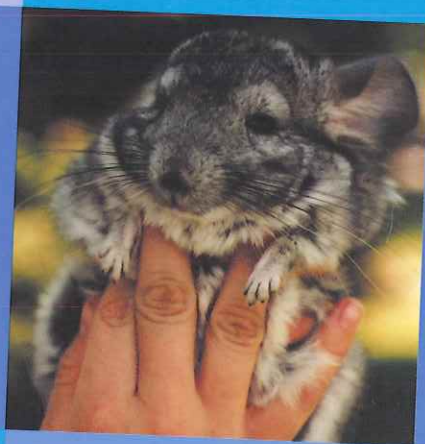
Workforce Preparation

- Be the E—Entrepreneurship
- Get in the Act!

Resources

- Experiential Learning Video

Find more about **Pets**
and other projects online at:
www.4-hcurriculum.org



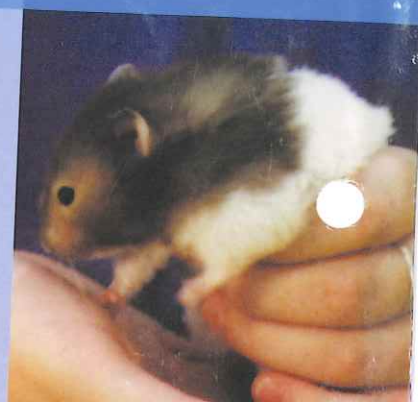
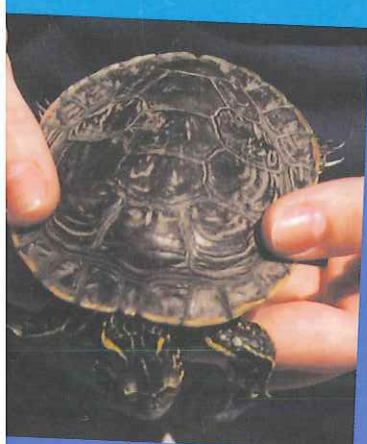
The 4-H Pledge

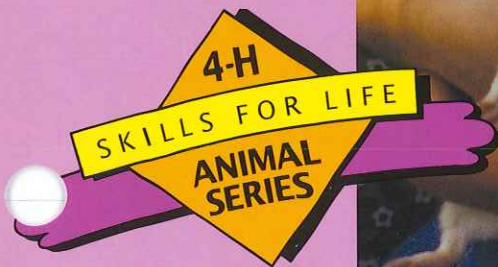
I pledge
my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service, and
my Health to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



Explore more curriculum
projects online at:

www.4-hcurriculum.org





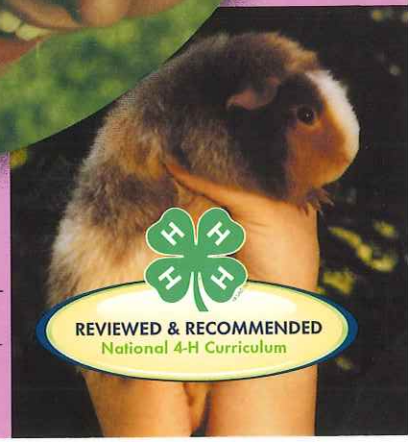
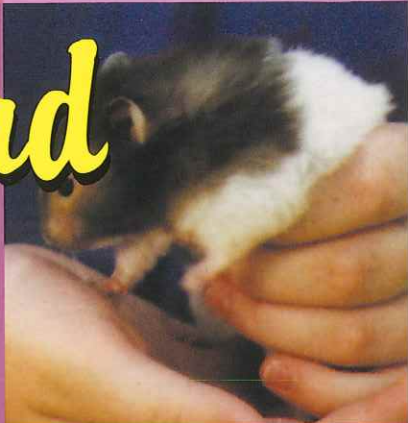
National 4-H Curriculum
BU-06360

Some manuals are used more than one year. An additional copy will cost \$5.50

Scurrying Ahead

Level 2

Pet Project Activity Guide



Name _____
County _____



Note to the Project Helper

If you were a project helper for one or more youth involved in completing *Scurrying Ahead* you know what a great experience this important role is. As the Helper you are in a perfect position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about pets and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the *Pet Helper's Guide*
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each achievement program
- Date and initial the activities on the Pet Achievement Program as they are completed and the two of you discuss them
- Help youth to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

The 4-H Pet Series

This guide, *Scaling the Heights* is the third in the series of three for youth that also includes *Pet Pal*, *Scurrying Ahead* and the *Pet Helper's Guide*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3–4, 5–7 and 6–9 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise.

All activities in the guides have several parts: A description of the skills to be practiced; discussion questions, suggestions for additional activities and additional helpful information. The Show of Success listed for each activity is an excellent way to evaluate the youth's success. Each of the guides also includes an achievement program to encourage youth to learn more about pets while developing important life skills. In the *Helper's Guide* you will find another evaluation piece titled "Evaluating the Impact." Complete this before the youth begins each level and after completing each level.



Acknowledgements

Revision Team: This revision of the four pet activity guides was accomplished by the 4-H Pet Design Team comprised of Linda R. Horn, CT and Anita Raddatz, WA, Co-coordinators; Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI, editor.

Design Illustration and Production: Northern Design Group, White Bear Lake, MN.

Word Processing: Sue Teeters, MI.

Photographers: Motion Media Productions and Tom Zurcher

Financial Support: A grant was provided by National 4-H Curriculum.

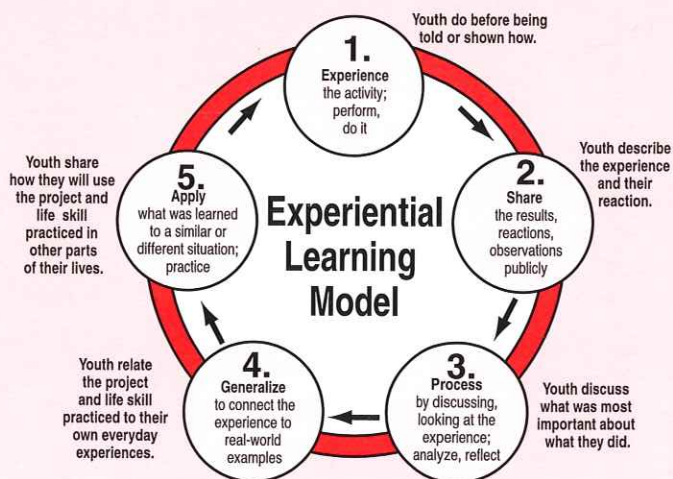
Original Design Team: Bill Gleason, WI; Roger Holmes, MN; John Skinner, WI; Marcella Remund, SD; Gerilyn Perkins, MN; and Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI.

Each activity is designed so the young person has an opportunity to learn by doing before being told or shown how. Your challenge is to "sit on your hands" while the youth explores the activity and learns from the experience, even when it doesn't work the way it's expected to. You can most effectively help with the learning by listening as the young person considers the questions and draws conclusions. At times the activity may call for you to be a resource person for content or ideas.

The fourth publication in this series, *Pet Helper's Guide*, provides additional learn-by-doing activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, meeting ideas as well answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is included in each activity in this series.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity without assistance. After the youth do as much as they can you then meet together and discuss: What they did? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced in the future? Sample questions are included following each experience. Your ability to ask additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.

Good luck in your helper role and thank you for contributing to the positive development of youth.

What's Inside?

Scurrying Ahead

| | |
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| Note to the Project Helper | Inside Cover |
| What's Inside? | 1 |
| Welcome to <i>Scurrying Ahead</i> | 2 |
| Goals and Highlights | 3 |
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For more on pets ... look for these other guides in this set.



Level 1 Pet Pals

Chapter 1: Picking the Right Pet

My Favorite Pet
Your Opinion Please
Family Time

Chapter 2: Getting to Know Your Pet

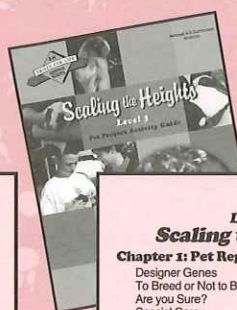
Hang Time
Fur, Fins or Feathers?
Roots
Pet Poses
Daily Diary
Chirp, Hiss, Squeak

Chapter 3: Caring for Your Pet

TLC
Safe and Secure
Pet Palaces
Home Alone

Chapter 4: Pet News

Fun with Guinea Pigs
Pet Talk 1
Pet Resources



Level 3 Scaling the Heights

Chapter 1: Pet Reproduction

Designer Genes
To Breed or Not to Breed?
Are you Sure?
Special Care

Chapter 2: Careers and Leadership

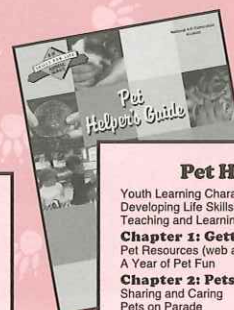
Pets-N-Us
The Right Fit
Go Ahead, Try
Let's Explore Together
Cheese Please
Look to the Future

Chapter 3: Pet Issues and Ownership

The Perfect Pet
Enviro-Pet
Let's Debate

Chapter 4: Pet Science

Taxing Taxonomy
Fun with Cockatiels
Getting to Know Hamsters



Pet Helper's Guide

Youth Learning Characteristics
Developing Life Skills
Teaching and Learning Experientially

Chapter 1: Getting Organized

Pet Resources (web activity)
A Year of Pet Fun

Chapter 2: Pets in the Community

Sharing and Caring
Pets on Parade
Visiting an Animal Shelter

Chapter 3: Pet Games

Pets A to Z
Play Pet Bingo
On the Record
Bowling for Pets
Pet Pyramid

Chapter 4: Pet Events and Activities

Presenting...Pets!
Pet Skillathon Fun
Let's Get Acquainted

Chapter 5: Sharing Pet Stories

You Won't Believe
Pet Talk Fun
Dealing with Loss

Pet Project Meeting Ideas
More Project Ideas
Answer Key: Pets 1, 2 and 3
Evaluating the Impact
Pet Resources



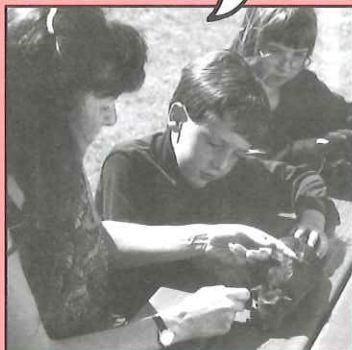
Welcome to *Scurrying Ahead*

Let's get started! This guide is an important part of the pet project. *Scurrying Ahead* offers you new challenges and opportunities to explore a wide range of activities related to pets. You'll also have fun meeting new people, becoming better acquainted with your community and expanding your interests and goals. Like in *Pet Pals*, an achievement program is included to guide your efforts and provide you with an opportunity to be recognized for meeting your goals.

Here are some of the many activities you can choose to do in *Scurrying Ahead*:

- Keep pet records
- Invent and design a toy for a pet
- Create a commercial about pet ownership or care
- Compare information about pet costs
- Compare costs of pet supplies
- Plan and conduct a scavenger hunt
- Make a plan to show a pet to the public
- Identify and label the parts of a pet's digestive system
- Read a pet food label and plan a pet's diet
- Explore a pet's diet
- Examine a pet
- Identify pet diseases and symptoms
- Identify skeletal bones

Thanks for asking me to be your pet project helper.



You'll be surprised how many fun and interesting things you'll learn. Don't be afraid to jump right in, and don't give up if the activity doesn't work out the first time. You're still learning, right? The most important thing is to try. Once you try, discuss what happened or didn't happen and why.

***Scurrying Ahead* Project Guidelines**

- Do a minimum of seven activities in *Scurrying Ahead* of the *Scurrying Ahead* Achievement Program each year and complete *Scurrying Ahead* within three years.
- Practice and develop the life skills of making decisions, leading self and others, relating to change and planning and organizing.
- Participate in a minimum of five of the learning experiences listed on the Planning Guide each year.
- Keep the Planning Guide current by setting project goals and recording project highlights you experience.
- Increase your pet knowledge and skills

***Scurrying Ahead* Achievement Program**

The activities will challenge you to explore areas of the project you perhaps haven't experienced before. Do your best to complete each activity and answer the questions. Work with your helper to complete each experience. You may need additional resources to complete some of the activities. Pet magazines, internet sites, books, tapes, commodity groups, feed and equipment manufacturers and marketing groups are good resources.

Remember, this is your own personal project activity guide. As you complete the activities, answer the questions and record your project highlights you'll realize how much you have accomplished in this project. Have fun!

Your Project Helper

The choice is yours! The person you choose to be your project helper needs to be willing to support your efforts to complete the *Scurrying Ahead* Achievement Program. Your helper will meet with you to set goals, plan activities, suggest resources to use, discuss each activity with you and date and initial your achievement program each time you have successfully complete an activity. Write the name, phone number and E-mail address of your project helper here:

Your Project Helper: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____



Goals and Highlights

My Pet Project Goals

Name _____

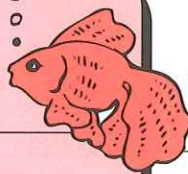
Kind(s) of pet(s) _____

My most important goals for the pet project:

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____



Pet Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

Scurrying Ahead Achievement Program Goals

List here the chapter numbers and letters of the activities from the *Scurrying Ahead* Achievement Program you plan to complete each year (for example 1a, 3c, etc.).

| Year | Activities |
|------|------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Learning Experiences

Complete at least five of these activities each year.

| Year | Year | Year | Activities |
|------|------|------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Give a demonstration |
| | | | Attend three pet project meetings |
| | | | Help organize a pet show |
| | | | Recruit a pet project member |
| | | | Take pictures of a pet |
| | | | Exhibit your pet at a fair or show |
| | | | Teach a pet clinic |
| | | | Conduct a pet skillathon |
| | | | Organize a pet showmanship contest |
| | | | Help a younger project member |

Picture of my pet and me.

Scurrying Ahead Completion Certificate



I certify that _____ has completed all requirements of the *Scurrying Ahead* Pet Achievement Program.

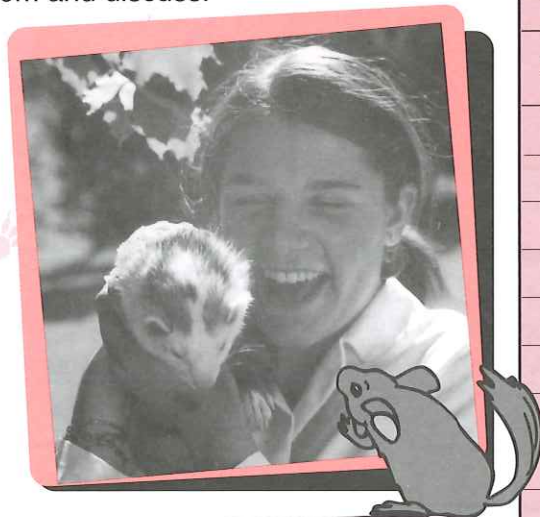
Project Helper's Signature _____

Date _____

Achievement Program

Directions

1. Do at least seven of the *Scurrying Ahead* and Pet Challenges activities each year.
2. Complete at least 21 of the *Scurrying Ahead* and Pet Challenges activities within three years.
3. Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete them and discuss.



Scurrying Ahead Activities

| Scurrying Ahead Activities | | Date Completed | Helper's Initials |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Chapter 1 Getting to Know Your Pet | | | |
| True or False? | | | |
| Once Upon a Time | | | |
| Play Time | | | |
| Scene 2 Take 2 | | | |
| Pet Cents | | | |
| The Price Is Right | | | |
| Pet Store Search | | | |
| Chapter 2 Fitting and Showing Your Pet | | | |
| Show Time | | | |
| Chapter 3 Feeding Your Pet | | | |
| Bottomless Pit | | | |
| Chow Time | | | |
| Fit-n-Trim | | | |
| Chapter 4 Keeping Your Pet Healthy | | | |
| What's Up Doc? | | | |
| Keeping Healthy | | | |
| Bones, Bones, Bones | | | |



Challenges

Select and do any of the Pet Challenges activities in *Scurrying Ahead* or make up your own. Record the page and number of each one you complete and your helper initials.

[illegible]

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Getting to Know Your Pet

True or False?

People who aren't familiar with pets hear things that may or may not be true. Here is your chance as an experienced pet enthusiast to help others learn about pets in a fun way. You'll also be practicing your teaching and discussion techniques.

Life Skill: Leading a discussion
Pet Project Skill: Debating pet sayings
Show of Success: Using cards, discusses popular pet facts and misconceptions.

This activity will be fun to do with my friends.

Do the Activity

Photocopy and cut out the "True or False" cards from pages six and seven. Then give your own answers to each of the statements before you check the answer key. Lead a discussion in which the participants work together to decide if the statements on the cards are true or false and why. If you have a large group form teams of two to three people. Give each group a set of cards. Ask

them to make a decision on each one and be ready to share it with the other teams. When each team is ready lead a discussion that will involve everyone. After the group has debated and decided what they believe the answer should be, ask your pet project helper to check the answers on page 35 of the Pet Helper's Guide. Have fun!

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did it feel to lead a discussion?
- What did you learn about pets?

Tell what's important

Why is it often hard not to express your own opinion when leading a discussion? What happens when you do?

Explore what you learned

What special responsibilities did you as a discussion leader have?

Imagine what's next

What did you learn about leading a discussion that will help you the next time you have a chance to do so?



More

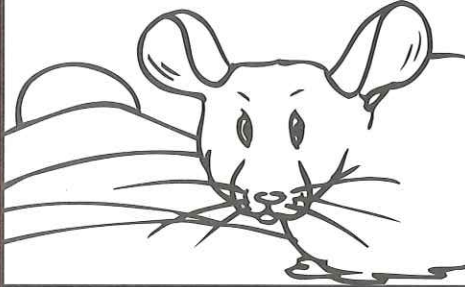
Challenges

1. Use the cards to lead others doing pantomimes or playing charades.
2. Create a set of "True or False?" cards about your pet.

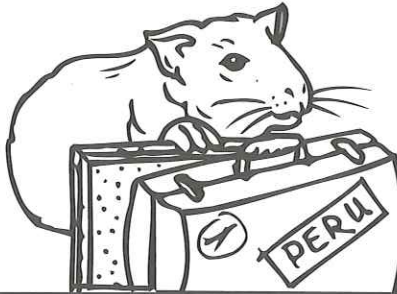
True or False?



1. Because the chinchilla is a desert animal its fur coat is thin.



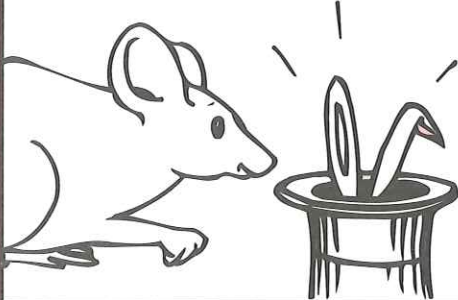
2. Guinea pigs originally came from Peru.



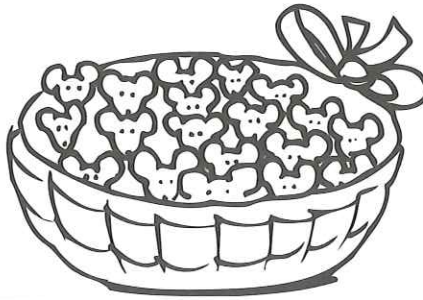
3. Hamsters are nocturnal.



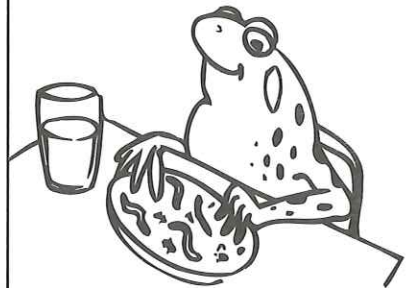
4. Rats are smart and can be trained to do tricks.



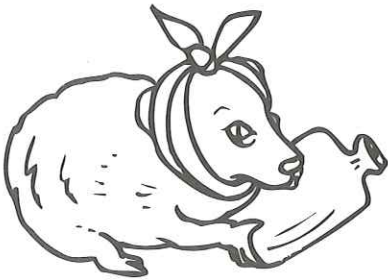
5. Some rodents have over 15 babies a litter.



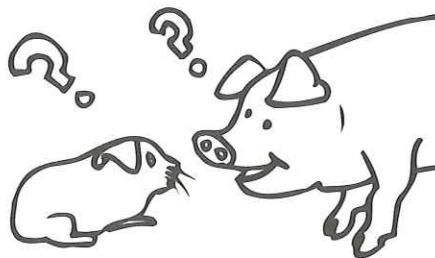
6. Pets need fresh food and water every day.



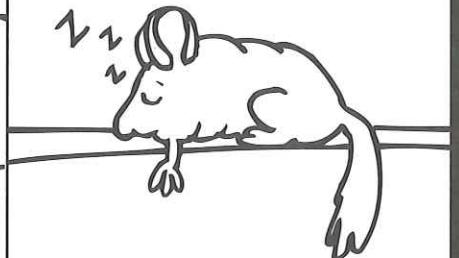
7. Pets don't need to go to the veterinarian unless they are sick.



8. Guinea pigs are related to the large pigs seen on farms.



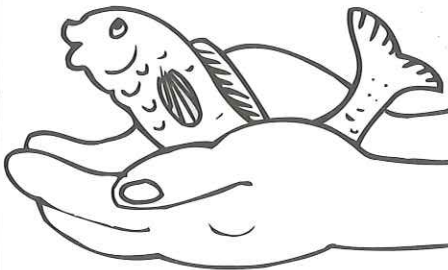
9. Pets that are spayed get fat and lazy.



10. All rodents live in underground burrows.



11. Fish love to be picked up.



12. All pets should become parents.



13. Chinchillas take dust baths.



14. A rodent's front teeth keep growing as long as it lives.

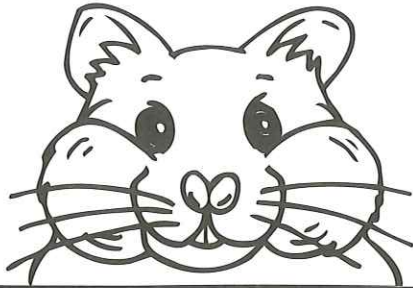


15. Birds have the same feathers for life.

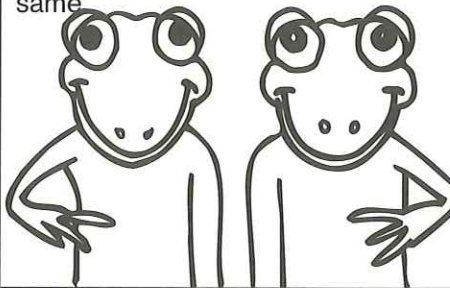


True or False?

16. Hamsters have cheek pouches that are used for carrying food.



17. Toads and frogs look the same.



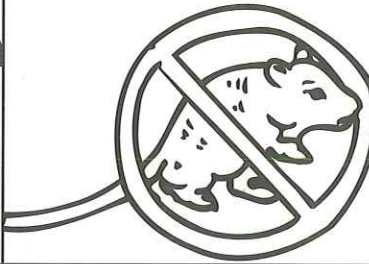
18. Guinea pigs are also called cavy.



19. Macaw parrots can live 60 years or more.



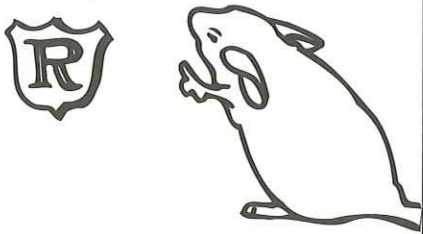
20. Gerbils are popular pets, but it is illegal to keep them in some states.



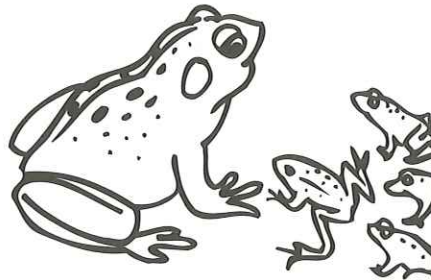
21. A bird's ear is located near the top of its head.



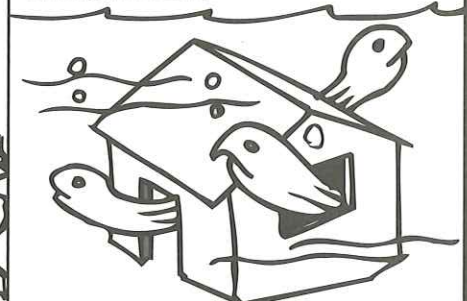
22. Prairie dogs, porcupines, chipmunks, chinchillas, moles and gophers are all rodents.



23. A frog's young look like baby frogs when born.



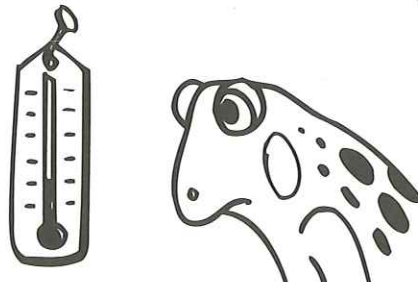
24. Turtles, terrapins and tortoises all live in water.



25. Pet mice are usually too fragile and frightened to enjoy being handled.



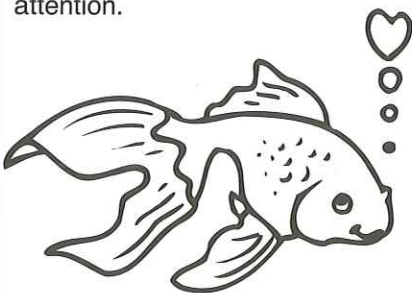
26. Frogs hibernate when the temperature is less than 40°F.



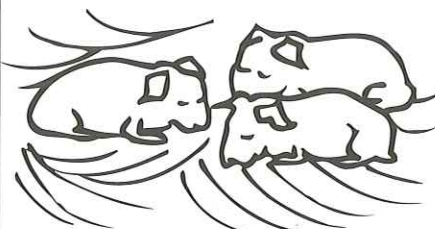
27. Pet frogs and snakes make good terrarium buddies.



28. All pets need love and attention.



29. Baby cavy are born blind and stay in the nest for at least ten days.



30. (Your choice)

"Once Upon a Time..."

Have you ever read a really good book? What made you want to keep reading it? A book or short story is one way people communicate. The author usually has a message he or she wants to share with the reader. In school you often write papers to communicate something about a particular topic. In this activity you will share something special about your pet by writing a



Life Skill:

Communicating with others

Pet Project Skill:

Creating a short story

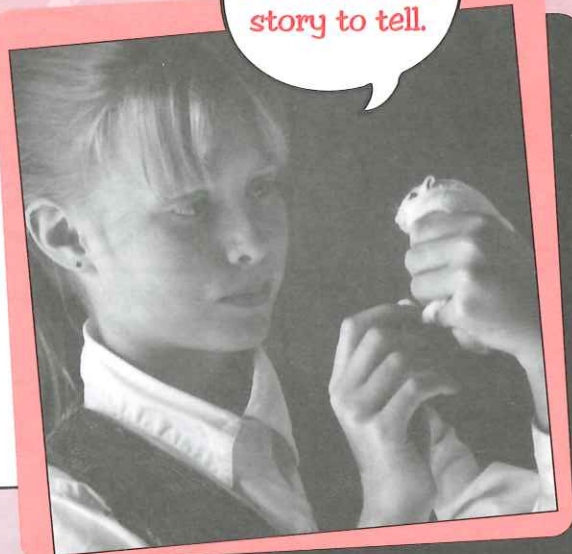
Show of Success:

Writes and illustrates a short story about your pet.

Do you and I ever have a story to tell.

Do the Activity

Think about something you would like to share with others about your pet and write a short story. It could be a true story or fiction. Maybe you want to teach or maybe you just want to entertain the reader. It might be helpful to think about a special time you had with your pet. Maybe it was the day you brought your pet home for the first time or a trick you taught your pet. In the space provided write your brief story. Be creative!



My Story...

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you write about?
- What did you most want to tell the reader/listener?
- Read your story to your helper.

Tell what's important

What does your story communicate to the reader/listener?

Explore what you learned

How is written communication different than spoken communication?

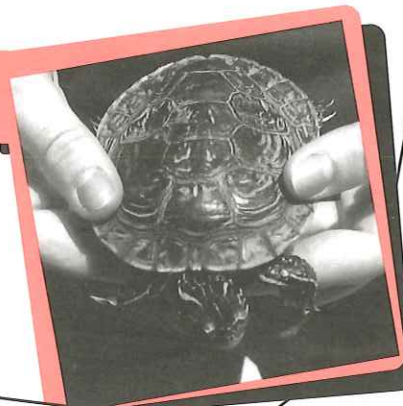
Imagine what's next

Today's world is brimming with a lot of new technologies that help us communicate more effectively and efficiently. How might these technologies change the way people communicate in the future?



Challenges

1. Design a collage that communicates a message about your pet. Use pictures or photos from old magazines etc. The pictures might represent something about your pet, such as a heart for love, etc. Share your collage with a parent(s). See if they can figure out what you are trying to say about your pet through the pictures you have chosen.



Turtle



Snake



Know Your Pets

Snakes and Turtles

Not everyone considers these cold-blooded (poikilothermic) reptiles very cuddly pets. Still, snakes and turtles are enjoyed by many and make interesting additions to households.

Snakes

Housing: Terrariums make excellent homes for snakes. A cage made with a wooden frame surrounded by a wire screen also works. Be sure the top or lid can be locked to prevent an escape. Make hiding places of bark, stone or pieces of plastic pipe. Keep the temperature at 75–80°F and provide about two hours of sunlight a day.

Diet: A snake likes to catch its food live and swallow it whole. Feed it one or two live frogs or mice each week depending on the snake's size.

Care: Keep the snake's cage or terrarium clean and provide fresh, clean water each day.

Turtles

Housing: A 10-gallon or larger aquarium that includes both water and land areas plus available short periods of direct sunlight with shade available is ideal. Temperatures of about 75 to 85°F are best for most turtles.

Diet: Turtles are omnivores (both meat and plant eaters). They like meat, canned dog or cat food, lettuce, fruit bits and leafy vegetables. Vitamin A and D are needed to prevent pneumonia, depression and swollen joints. Stir vitamin supplement, bone meal or oyster shell flour into the dog food. Provide fresh, clean water daily.

Caution: Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling a turtle. Turtles can carry a bacterium called salmonella that can make people sick.

Turtle as Pets: Turtles are easy going. The most common ones in pet stores are the pond sliders and the box and painted turtles. They will not bite.



Play Time

You stay healthy by eating the right foods and staying active. Your pet also needs nutritious food and activity. Having fun things for your pet to do when you're not around is important for its well being. In this activity you will watch your pet's behavior and design a toy.

Life Skill:

Planning and organizing

Pet Project Skill: Observing behavior

Show of Success: Invents and designs a toy for a pet.

Do the Activity

Begin by watching your pet. Pay special attention to the things it likes to do: jump, dig, chew, hide, etc. List the things you observe. Next make a toy for your pet. Think about things you have around the house that could be used. If your pet likes to tunnel, what could you use to make tunnels? Be creative. Keep in mind the objects you use must be clean and safe (no sharp edges or chemical residues). Be sure they can't get tangled up. Don't use anything that might bring harm if they chew on it.

In the space below, paste a picture or draw the toy you made for your pet and paste or draw pictures of your pet's other favorite toys.

Things my pet likes to do:



Most pets enjoy playing and performing



My Pet's Toy

Name of pet toy _____

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What kinds of things does your pet like to do?
- What toy did you make for your pet?
- How did you make the toy?

Tell what's important

Why was it helpful to watch your pet's behavior before you designed the toy?

Explore what you learned

How does a toy help keep your pet healthy?

Imagine what's next

Why is it important to first make plans before you begin an activity?



Pet Rap: Stubborn as a _____

1. Using the toy you made for your pet, design a plan for marketing or selling your idea to other pet owners. With a friend or your helper put together a flyer that shows a picture of the toy and tells what it is, how much it costs and how people can make their own or get information for making or buying the toy. Share your flyer with other pet owners or classmates.

2. Visit a store that sells pet toys and select a toy for your pet. Examine the toy, what it is made of, how your pet would use it, how long it would last and how much it costs. With your helper decide if it would be better to buy the toy or make something similar at home.

Know Your Pets

Rats

Rats are intelligent animals and can be trained to do tricks. They have tiny claws for grabbing and long strong tails for balancing and bracing. In the wild can swim, climb trees and run along telephone wires.

Scene 2...Take 2

You could be “discovered” and become a radio personality or television star! Companies use both of these media to sell their products or services. The commercials you see and hear every day that grab your attention and convince you to buy are often only a few seconds long. Here you have an opportunity to write, direct and star in your own commercial.

Life Skill:

Communicating with others

Pet Project Skill:

Promoting a product or service

Show of Success:

Creates a commercial about pet ownership or care.

Have you ever seen a hamster take a dust bath?

Do the Activity

Write, direct and present a 15-second commercial on some aspect of pet ownership or care. Outline your commercial in the space provided. Sketch in the storyboard boxes shown eight scenes that you will include in your commercial. Write a sentence below each one with the words you will use when this picture is shown to your audience.



My Commercial

Audience _____

Title (subject) of Commercial _____

Actors _____

Information to be Included _____

Storyboard

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | | | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What is your message?
- Where did you find your information?
- How did you communicate your message?

Tell what's important

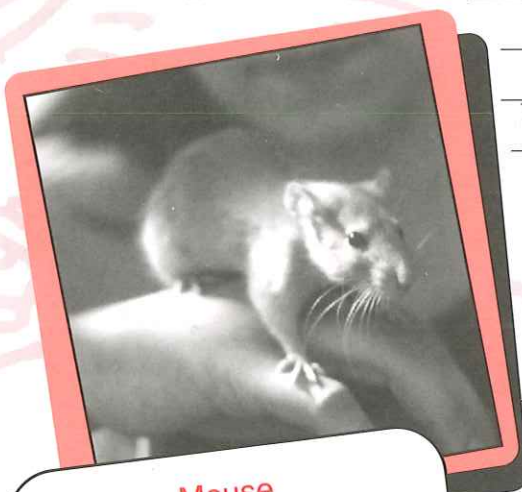
What can you do to get your audience's attention?

Explore what you learned

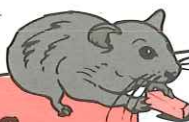
What kinds of commercials do you remember best? Why?

Imagine what's next

How can you become an even better communicator?



Mouse



know Your Pets

Mice

Mice are friendly little creatures that seldom bite. If kept healthy a mouse will live two to three years.

Colors: Fawn, sable, white, cinnamon, blue, black, brown to name a few.

Housing: A minimum cage size of 16" x 12" x 9" with a cover and no openings greater than 5/16". Must be well ventilated, provide opportunity for exercise and be kept at a stable 64–68°F.

Diet: Prefer starchy foods like seeds, grains and rice. Commercial foods are available. Also enjoy bread, crackers, carrots, apples, grapes and raisins. Fresh water must always be provided.

Offspring: Most mice are not homozygotic (purebred) so a breeding pair can produce a variety of colors.

More

Challenges

1. Write a short children's story about your pet. Include drawings or photographs with the story. Put the story together like a book. When you are finished, read the story to a younger child.
2. Contact an advertising agency and make an appointment to show them your commercial. As if you could watch how a commercial is made.
3. Watch commercials on TV and observe how many different shots occur during a single commercial.

Making decisions

Exploring costs of pet ownership

Compares information on pet costs.

Do the Activity

Comparing prices can save money.

Comparing prices can save money.

14

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did your shopping list include?
- Why was it helpful to have a friend help you with this activity?
- Why do you think stores have different prices on the same items?

Tell what's important

How does shopping at more than one store help you save money on pet supplies?

Explore what you learned

When making a decision, why do you think it's important to consider different choices or possibilities?

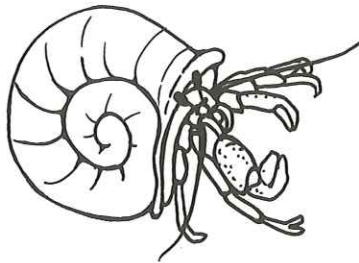
Imagine what's next

What will you consider the next time you shop for something?

I wonder who has the best price?



Hermit Crabs



Know Your Pets

Hermit Crabs

Hermit crabs are "decapods," that is, they have 10 legs. The front pair is different from each other. The larger (usually purple) has a pincher used for defense and climbing and the smaller is used for eating and climbing. The next four legs are used for walking. The remaining four legs are used to hold the crab in its shell and never extend outside the shell.



More

Challenges

1. For one month collect coupons on pet supplies. Coupons can be found in newspapers, magazines, special mailings, pet stores, etc. At the end of the month count them. How many can you use for your pet? How much money could you save if you used coupons to buy pet supplies? If you collect more coupons than you can use before the expiration date, share with your friends and with the animal shelters

Pet Rap: Eyes like an _____

The Price is Right

How good a shopper are you? Do you try to find the best quality at the best price? Sometimes it's worth making an extra effort to purchase a real value. Shopping for items for your pet gives you an excellent opportunity to compare products and practice making informed decisions.

Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Shopping for pet supplies
Show of Success: Compares costs of pet supplies.

Do the Activity

With a friend, select two different sources that sell pet supplies. One of your sources should be a pet store. Other sources might include magazines, classified ads, internet sites, catalogues, etc. From the list of items on the shopping list select six and write the cost of these items from two different sources in the space provided.

I carry all my pet supplies in this case



Shopping List

- three pound bag of guinea pig food
- ten-gallon aquarium
- book on hamster care
- five-pound bag of gravel for a fish tank
- three shells for a hermit crab
- climbing device for a snake
- bag of shavings for a pet rat
- nesting box for a bird
- heat source for a lizard
- food dish and water bottle for a ferret
- your choice _____

| Source 1 | | Source 2 | |
|----------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| Item | Price | Item | Price |
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| | Total Cost _____ | | Total Cost _____ |

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What sources of pet supplies did you use?
- What were the differences in prices?
- Why do you think some prices were different?

Tell what's important

How does comparing prices of different pet supplies help you save money?

Explore what you learned

How does careful shopping help you make better decisions?

Imagine what's next

When you have wanted to buy something that was really expensive, what criteria did you use in making your decision to buy the item or not?

What kind of bird is this?



Know Your Pets

Caged Birds

Many members of the bird family make excellent pets. Most popular are finches, canaries, budgerigars, cockatiels, cockatoos, lovebirds and parrots.

Housing: A cage large enough for the bird to fly and flap its wings without touching the cage. Rectangular cages offer more flying room than tall cages. Add grit or sand to the bottom of the cage. Accessories must include perches high in the cage for sleeping and resting and placed near the food and water containers. A water container big enough to bath in plus toys and soft music will keep the bird content and healthy.

Diet: A variety of seeds such as millet, thistle, rape seed and canary grass seed as well as fruits and insects. Provide a cuttlefish bone for calcium and to keep the bird's beak trimmed.

Health: Examine the bird carefully for signs of cots and parasites. Signs to look for include: fluffed feathers, less activity, hunched up body, lifeless dull eyes and appearance. Sick birds should be taken to a veterinarian immediately.

Life Expectancy: Some birds can live longer than people. Examples of longevity include: finches, 2 to 8 years, Canaries 8 to 15 years, Cockatiels 10 to 25 years, Cockatoos and some Parrots 77 to 100 years.



Challenges

1. Keep the receipts of all the supplies you buy for your pet (food, bedding, toys treats, etc.) for six months. At the end of that time total the amount you spent. Think of ways you could reduce your costs but still provide your pet with the quality of care it deserves. Share your ideas with a parent or helper.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Life Skill: | Planning and organizing |
| Pet Project Skill: | Exploring pet products and the pet industry |
| Show of Success: | Plans and conducts a scavenger hunt in a store that sells pet products. |

Arrange transportation and other details. Form teams of two for the actual scavenger hunt. Distribute a list of items to find to each team. Allow about 30 minutes for the teams to search for the items. Follow with a discussion of what the teams learned doing this activity. Record below what was included in your plan.

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ger
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SCAVENGER HUNT ITEMS

- Type of fish
- Toy for a gerbil
- Pet for sale
- Medication for a dog
- Something on a shelf
- A favorite food

A food for birds
Type of fish
Toy for a gerbil
Bedding material
Plants for an aquarium
Medication for a pet
Something from a foreign
country
Something on sale
Pet for sale
A pet food with fish in it
A book about turtles
Brands of cavy food

[illegible]

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you find in the store?
- What products were new to you?
- How successful was the plan for the activity?

Tell what's important

What did you know about pet products?

Why is it important to plan purchases and carefully check items before you purchase them?

Explore what you learned

How can you become a better consumer?

Imagine what's next

How would you change the plan to make this an even better educational experience?

Know Your Pets

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a good example of "convergent evolution." That means they have developed habits and physical features of different types of animals. For defense a hedgehog has spines like a porcupine and curls up into a tight ball like an armadillo.

Housing: Hedgehogs are territorial and do best when living alone. A hedgehog's home should be kept between 65°–90°F. If it's any colder than 65, the animal will go into hibernation.

Hedgehogs are clean animals so providing them with a litter box in their pen will make it easier for you to clean up after them. They prefer a sleeping area that is private and dark. A PVC pipe with a 4" diameter works well. The pipe should be cut 10"–12" in length with a cap at one end and braced so it doesn't roll around.

Diet: Hedgehogs are insectivores (insect eating). Their diet could include live food such as meal worms, crickets, grasshoppers and small frogs. A mixture of high quality canned dog food and cottage cheese, 5:1 ration and dry cat food can also be fed. Provide fresh water daily.

Health: With a varied diet, supplemental vitamins and a clean environment, the hedgehog should live out a life span of ten years or more. If the animal stops eating, its stools are not normal or you notice strange behavior, contact a veterinarian.

Hedgehog



Hedgehogs are a little different kind of pet.



Challenges

1. Have the group tour or conduct a scavenger hunt type of activity at a zoo or farm.
2. Arrange for a tour of a veterinarian's office and observe what the medical profession recommends as plan-ahead (or preventative) practices to keep pets healthy.

Fitting and Showing Your Pet

Show Time

Being able to show your pet to others is fun to do. Sometimes you'll show your pet to friends and visitors and other times you may want to take your pet to more public places such as pet shows or to school. In order to prepare both yourself and your pet you will want to plan ahead.

Life Skill: Planning and organizing
Pet Project Skill: Making public appearances
Show of Success: Makes a plan for showing pet to the public.

Showing a pet to others is a fun experience.



Do the Activity

Pretend that you plan to enter your pet in a pet show or take your pet to school in three months. The show will include opportunities for strangers to talk to you about your pet as well as for them to touch and possibly hold your pet. Use the "My Show Plan Checklist" to organize how you will prepare. Then write in your own words what you did to prepare for the show.

My Show Plan Checklist

Training My Pet

- ☐ Pet will accept being handled by strangers
- ☐ Pet will be comfortable in strange locations
- ☐ I will be prepared to talk about my pet and answer questions
- ☐ I will know how to properly show my pet

Housing, Transportation and Supplies

- ☐ Carrier to transport pet to and from show
- ☐ Something interesting in which to exhibit pet at show
- ☐ Supplies needed for show and showing
- ☐ Health requirements and entry forms

Preparing the Pet

- ☐ Groom your pet

What I did to Prepare for the Show:



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you include in your plan?
- How did you find additional information to complete your plan?

Tell what's important

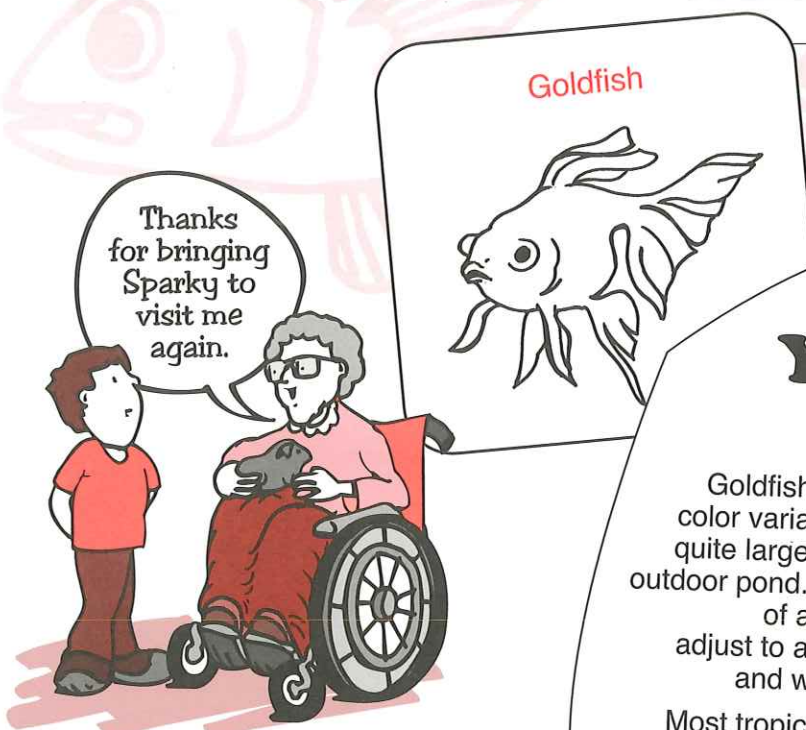
What might happen if you don't prepare both your pet and yourself for a public show?

Explore what you learned

How does developing a plan help you be more prepared?

Imagine what's next

What could you do to be better organized?



Know Your Pets

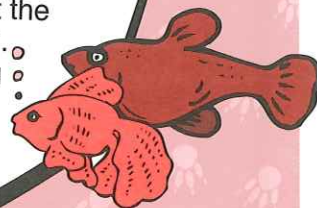
Fish

Goldfish exist in several shape and color variations. Many of them will grow quite large if kept in a large aquarium or outdoor pond. Goldfish are the most adaptable of all the fishes. They can adjust to a wide range of temperatures, and will eat a variety of foods.

Most tropical fish are quite small and the variety of colors and shapes is almost endless. Their aquariums should always be equipped with a heater. Guppies are inexpensive and the best choice for beginners.

Fish that are native to the oceans require the aquarium to be filled with salt water. The concentration of salt in the water must be kept constant and at the level existing in the ocean.

Salt water fish are among nature's most colorful creatures. They are not good for beginners.



More Challenges

1. Role play with friends a show experience. Take turns playing the role of someone who isn't familiar with your pet and someone who is judging you and your exhibit. Oh, don't forget to invite your pet!
2. Attend a pet show that features your type of animal. Your local humane society will have a schedule of shows in your area. Interview at least two people about how they prepare for the show. Share what you learn with your helper.

Bottomless Pit

When the ancestors of your pet were in the wild they found and ate a wide variety of food. Your pet relies on you to provide all the nutrients it needs each day such as the right amounts of protein, fat, carbohydrates,

vitamins, minerals and water. Understanding your pet's digestive system will help you select the foods that will meet your pet's nutritional requirements and be good tasting.

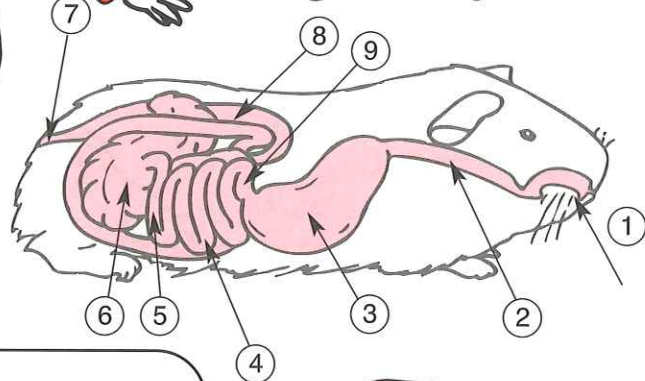
Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Exploring digestion
Show of Success: Identifies and labels the parts of the digestive system of a hamster.

Do the Activity

Match the numbered parts shown on the hamster's digestive system with the names shown in digestive system parts. Then find a picture that shows your pet's digestive system and tape or draw the picture in the space below. Label each part of the digestive system.

I wonder what happens to food in the small intestine?

Guinea Pig's Digestive System



My Pet's Digestive System

Digestive System Parts

- _____ a. Anus (Rectum)
- _____ b. Esophagus
- _____ c. Large intestine
- _____ c-1. Cecum
- _____ c-2. Colon
- _____ d. Mouth
- _____ e. Small intestine
- _____ e-1. Duodenum
- _____ e-2. Jejunum
- _____ e-3. Ileum
- _____ f. Stomach

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What do the different parts of your pet's digestive system do?
- What parts of the hamster's digestive system are similar or different than your pet's digestive system?

Tell what's important

Why is it important to learn about your pet's digestive system?

Explore what you learned

How does understanding your pet's digestive system help you make good decisions about your pet's diet?

Imagine what's next

How does understanding your pet's digestive system help you make good decisions about your pet's diet?

Pet Facts

Inner Workings

Mouth - The teeth break the food into small particles and an enzyme begins carbohydrate digestion.

Esophagus - Muscle contractions move the food from the mouth to the stomach.

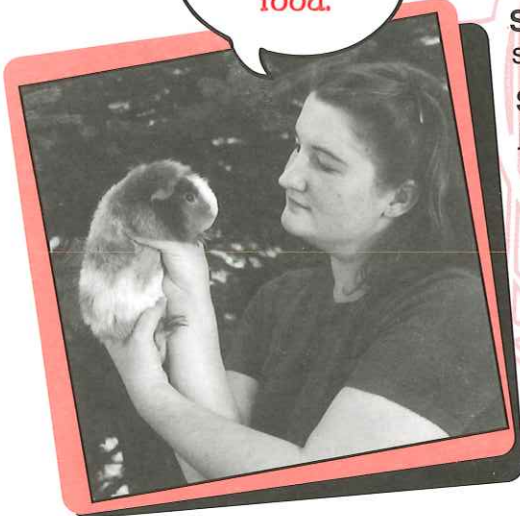
Stomach - Serve as a vat where chemicals are added to the food to start the digestion of fats, protein and carbohydrates.

Small Intestine - In this very complex, very long tube composed of a jejunum, duodenum and ileum, digestion and absorption continue. More nutrients are absorbed here than anywhere else.

Large Intestine - Composed of the cecum and ileum the main function is to absorb water. It also adds mucous material to the remaining food to aid in movement of food through the tract.

Anus - The opening through which the undigested portion of the food is eliminated.

Now I know
how you
digest your
food.




Challenges

1. Draw a picture of the internal anatomy of your pet on a poster board. Label the parts and tell what role or function the different parts have. Ask permission to display the poster in a veterinarian's clinic.

Chow Time

What is your favorite meal? Have you ever thought about the nutritional value of that food? Does it contain all the necessary nutrients your body needs each day to stay healthy? Could you eat it every day for a week, for a month, for a year?

Some pets are given the same diet every day for their entire lives! You'll want to make sure your pet is fed a diet that meets its



Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Feeding pets
Show of Success: Examines a pet label and plans a diet.

requirements. Sometimes a wider variety of foods is necessary to supply all the vitamins, minerals, energy and protein needed. One way to select feed is to compare the labels on your pet's feed with other similar products.

Do the Activity

Clip the nutrition label from a box or bag of pet food. Tape the label in the space provided. Answer the questions about your label.



My Pet Food Label

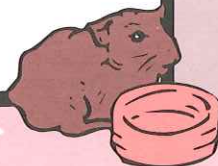
Pet Food Facts

- Q. What animal should eat this food?

- Q. How much should the animal eat each day?

- Q. What feed ingredients are used to supply:
energy _____
protein _____
minerals _____
vitamins _____
- Q. What other food might be needed to make sure your pet receives a "balanced" diet each day?

- Q. What foods are appropriate to provide variety to your pet's diet?



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What does a food label tell you?
- What foods do you include in your pet's diet?
- What foods did you select as supplements and why?

Tell what's important

How does providing your pet a diet with a variety of foods help keep it healthy?

Explore what you learned

How does making decisions about the kinds of foods you eat help keep you healthy?

Imagine what's next

How does comparing similar items help you make better decisions?

Pet Facts

Ferrets

Ferrets are intelligent animals that can be trained to walk on a leash and can be litter trained. Their intelligence has been compared to that of dogs.

More

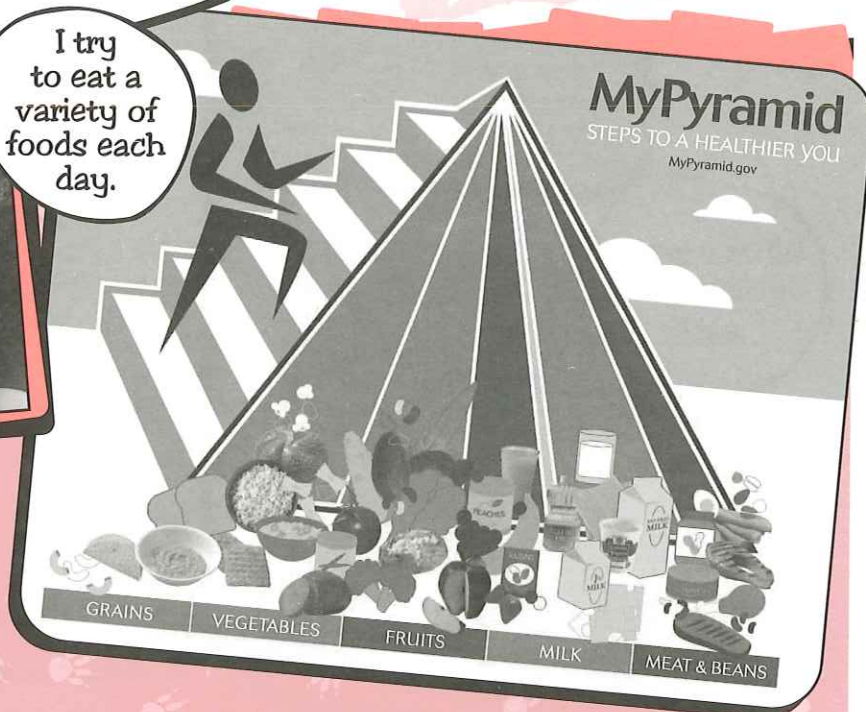
Challenges

1. Scan a series of photos of your pet into the computer. Create a Power Point™ presentation about pets or your pet to show to younger members.

2. Write down everything you eat for one day. Record the number of servings for each food group on the Food Guide Pyramid. Share what you learned about your diet with your family.

3. Select two or three samples of different brands of commercial pet food. Compare the ingredients and cost. Conduct a test to see which brand your pet prefers. Share your results with your helper.

I try to eat a variety of foods each day.



Fit-n-Trim



Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Choosing nutritious food for your pet
Show of Success: Explores a pet's diet.

All animals need good nutrition. Nutrition means getting the right kind of food in the right amounts to keep the body healthy. Nutrients include vitamins, minerals, protein, water and energy. Your pet relies on you to provide it with a nutritious diet. Just as you need energy to grow and stay active, so does your pet. Calories measure the energy food provides. If you eat too many calories for your activity and growth you gain weight. When you eat fewer calories,

compared to your activity and growth level, then you lose weight. The same is true for your pet. A balance of calories and activity are important to keep you and your pet healthy. This activity will help you discover your pet's nutritional needs.



Do the Activity

Below is a list of ingredients that can be found in many different pet foods. Begin this activity by checking the box next to the ingredient that is included in your pet's diet. (Hint: read the ingredient label on your pet's food box or bag to find the answer.) Then complete the Feed Ingredient Word Find by using all the words from the Word Bank. Finally, finish this activity by completing the menu box.

Feed Ingredient Word Bank

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yeast | <input type="checkbox"/> Peas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat | <input type="checkbox"/> Seed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potato | <input type="checkbox"/> Oats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alfalfa | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish (meal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Molasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shrimp | <input type="checkbox"/> Barley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Milo |
| (meal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zinc | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Feed Ingredient Word Find

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | Y | M | U | I | C | L | A | C | A |
| O | E | L | T | P | M | I | R | H | S |
| Y | A | S | Z | O | B | Z | I | N | C |
| B | S | L | S | T | A | I | R | O | P |
| E | T | H | S | A | R | N | O | E | E |
| A | B | S | A | T | L | R | N | P | A |
| N | M | I | L | O | E | O | A | T | S |
| O | E | F | T | L | Y | C | M | A | F |
| I | S | N | I | M | A | T | I | V | L |
| L | V | O | A | F | L | A | F | L | A |
| T | A | E | H | W | D | E | E | S | X |

Menu Box

In this space write your pet's diet.

Main Meal:

Treats:

Don't forget fresh water daily!

What's in the pellets you eat?



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Why is it important to know your pet's nutritional needs?
- What are the best sources for finding nutritional information for your pet?

Tell what's important

What would happen to your pet's health if you didn't make the right decisions about the types of food to feed it?

Explore what you learned

Why is it helpful to make good decisions about what you feed your pet?

Imagine what's next

What can you do to make good decisions about your own diet?

Chinchilla



Know Your Pets

Chinchillas

Chinchillas are an attractive fur animal from South America. They are interesting animals to watch. Chinchillas enjoy cleaning themselves in a dust bath (of finely ground clay), are very clean and like guinea pigs, have very little odor. Chinchillas are vegetarians. They do tend to be quite nervous and unpredictable and do not enjoy being handled. These characteristics plus the relatively high cost of purchasing chinchillas usually make them a poor pet for children.

More

Challenges

1. Put together an educational display on commercial pet foods. Collect small samples of the foods and put them in plastic sandwich bags. Attach the bags to a poster board. Under the bag print the type of food and its main ingredients.

2. On the Food Pyramid record the number of servings you ate in one day of each of the food groups. Discuss with your helper what you discover.

Keeping Your Pet Healthy

What's Up, Doc?

Remember the last time you saw a doctor for a check up? Your eyes, ears, reflexes, temperature, pulse and respiration were probably checked. When your pet visits the veterinarian many of the same things are examined. You can help your pet stay healthy by carefully checking your pet and being able

Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Exploring animal health
Show of Success: Examines a pet.

to recognize a healthy animal so you can spot potential problems. In this activity you'll practice developing your examination skills.

Do the Activity

Pretend you have been asked over the phone by your veterinarian to describe how your pet looks. The veterinarian has asked all the items listed on the chart. With a friend complete the chart. Add additional items to check such as teeth and toes (if your pet has toes). After you have recorded all the symptoms of a healthy pet, list at least one symptom of a sick pet for each item.

How do
his eyes look
to you?



Pet Examination Chart

Species _____
Name _____
Date _____

| | Healthy Pet | Unhealthy Pet |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Eyes | | |
| Nose | | |
| Skin or Fur | | |
| Body Temperature | | |
| Respiration Rate | | |
| Pulse Rate | | |
| Overall Appearance | | |
| Behavior | | |
| Appetite | | |
| Vaccinations required | | |
| | | |
| | | |



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What are the signs that your pet is normal?
- What might change if your pet is sick?
- Where could you find more information on the health of your pet?

Tell what's important

Why is it important to know the signs of a healthy pet?

What could cause the pet's vital signs to change?

Explore what you learned

How does being able to tell when something is not normal keep you from getting into dangerous situations?

Imagine what's next

When else can good observation help you learn about subjects that are new to you?

Pet Facts

Vital Signs

Temperature

If the body temperature raises or lowers dramatically, something may be wrong. Your normal temperature is 98.6°F. Normal temperature: birds (105–110°F); rodents (102–104°F).

Pulse Rate

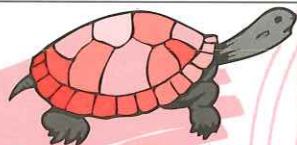
The pulse rate can be felt each time the heart beats and forces blood through the arteries causing them to expand. The number of heart beats is equal to the pulse rate. A smaller animal has a higher heart beat than a larger one. Normal pulse rates: guinea pigs (240–280 beats/minute); birds 300; hamsters 450.

Respiration Rate

Respiration is breathing. Counting the number of times the ribs or flanks rise and fall in one minute equals the respiration rate.

Normal rates:

guinea pigs 60–90 per minute;
birds 12–110;
hamster 74.



Challenges

1. Compare the signs of health of two species of pets. Share your comparisons with your helper.
2. Take the body temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate of your pet one time each week for four weeks. Graph the results and share with your family.
3. Select a disease that would affect your pet's vital signs. Write a brief summary about the disease and how it can be prevented.

Keeping Healthy

Pets require the right diet, environment and care to stay healthy and contented. When any one of these is not adequate, sickness and disease may result. Immediate action is necessary for some diseases or the pet may die. Being able to recognize the symptoms of possible diseases will help you keep your pet healthy. In this activity you'll be introduced to diseases and symptoms of several different pets.



Life Skill:

Making decisions

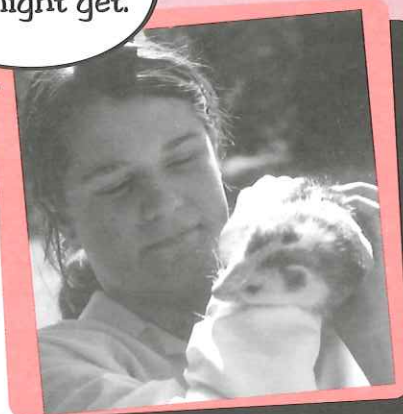
Pet Project Skill:

Keeping a pet healthy

Show of Success:

Decides the species and course of action for each pet disease or symptom.

I need to learn what diseases you might get.



Do the Activity

First match the disease/symptom with the species and treatment. Then make a matching card game to share with your project group or family that includes at least five additional diseases and what to do for your favorite pet.

Pet Diseases and Symptoms

| Disease/Symptom | Species | Treatment |
|---|---------|---|
| 1. Lice or mites | Bird | a. Vaccinate for protection |
| 2. Ich — white spots on the body | | b. Keep the terrarium clean and give fresh water |
| 3. Swollen or red eyelids | | c. Clean, dry, ventilated cage and medication |
| 4. Lesions on the skin | Cavy | d. Give Maracyn, a medicine |
| 5. Cage paralysis — can't move head or claws | | e. Turn off the aquarium light for several days |
| 6. Skin necrosis — abscesses in the skin | Frog | f. Use approved powders and sprays |
| 7. New Castle Disease — a bad cold then unable to stand | | g. Antibiotics or sulfa therapy. Lower terrarium temperature at night |
| 8. Fin and tail rot — ragged fins | Fish | h. Raise the aquarium temperature to 80°F |
| 9. Dry, husky cough | | i. Apply a warm weak boric acid wash to eyes |
| 10. Pneumonia — bubbles at nostrils and sneezing | Lizard | j. Lance and disinfect wound with 3% hydrogen peroxide solution |
| 11. Popeye — swollen eyes | | k. Proper diet, vitamin D and exercise |



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did you decide the matching answers?
- What diseases were new to you?
- Why is knowing about diseases important?

Tell what's important

What's most important to do to keep your pet healthy?

How do you decide when to treat something yourself and when to consult a veterinarian?

How do I tell if you have a disease?



More

Challenges

1. Make a list of the most important diseases, symptoms and treatments for your pet.
2. Visit with a veterinarian or someone who raises your kind of pet about possible disease problems. Share what you discover with your helper.

Explore what you learned

What do you do to keep yourself healthy?

Imagine what's next

What decisions do you make that affect your own health and safety?

How can you make better decisions about your health and safety in the future?

Pet Facts

Disease Prevention Tips

- Clean pen and food container weekly
- Feed a balanced diet
- Provide fresh water daily
- Never transfer water or feed containers from one pen to another
- Protect from cold, drafts and excessive moisture

Bones, Bones, Bones

Knowing the bones of your pet or someone else's pet will help you understand how it moves, how it eats, its ability to protect itself and its conformation or shape. You will also learn about the names of similar bones that you have.

Life Skill:

Planning and organizing

Pet Project Skill:

Identifying bones

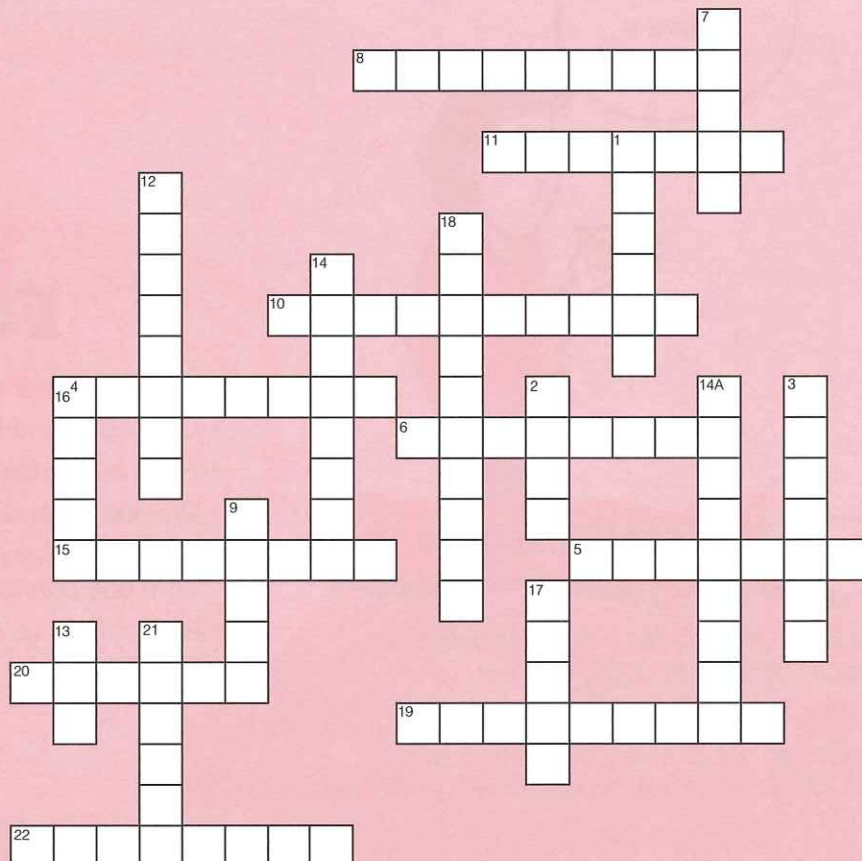
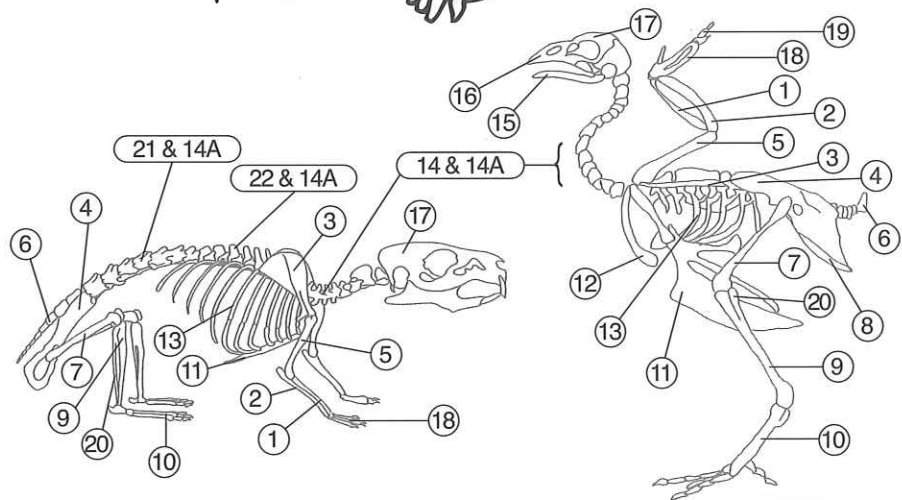
Show of Success:

Completes the crossword puzzle and organizes an identification activity.

Many bones are the same.

Do the Activity

First complete the crossword puzzle for the bird and cavy. You may need to find a good reference to identify some of the parts. Once you know most of the parts, organize a fun bone identification activity for your family or project group. You could make a matching game, conduct charades, bone name on the back game or any other game so everyone who plays learns the name and location of at least 15 bones in their own bodies or that of a favorite pet.

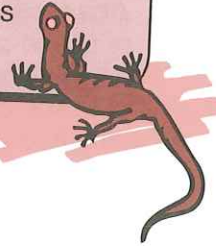


Skeleton Word Bank

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cervical vertebrae | <input type="checkbox"/> phalanges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clavicle | <input type="checkbox"/> pubic bone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> femur | <input type="checkbox"/> radius |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fibula | <input type="checkbox"/> rib |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humerus | <input type="checkbox"/> scapula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ilium | <input type="checkbox"/> skull |
| <input type="checkbox"/> incise | <input type="checkbox"/> sternum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lumbar vertebrae | <input type="checkbox"/> tail bone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mandible | <input type="checkbox"/> thoracic vertebrae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> metacarpus | <input type="checkbox"/> tibia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> metatarsus | <input type="checkbox"/> ulna |

Bird Bones

The **femur**, **fibula**, **metatarsus** and **tibia** are in the leg. The **metatarsus** bone is comparable to the foot in people. Eggs pass between the two **pubic** bones. The mandible and incisive make up the beak/bill of fowl. The **humerus**, **metacarpus**, **phalanges**, **radius** and **ulna** are in the bird's wing or front leg of mammals. The **phalanges** are similar to fingers in people. The **clavicle** is also known as the wish bone. The **sternum** (also known as the breast bone) is the largest bone in the fowl.



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What bones are similar in both pets and people?
- How are some pet's skeletal structures different than people's skeletons?

Tell what's important

How did you organize the bone identification activity?

Explore what you learned

What jobs require knowing the parts of the skeleton?

Imagine what's next

What can you do in the future to be a better planner and organizer of activities?



Challenges

1. Make a poster or a model of your pet's skeleton and give a talk to your pet group or class at school.
2. Develop a skillathon learning station on identifying the bones in a pet's skeleton.

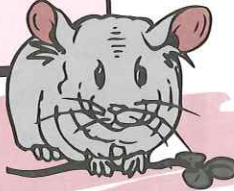
Know Your Pets

Fish

A fish breathes by taking in water (H₂O) through the mouth. The water is then pumped across the gills. Gills take the O₂ from the water.

Pet Talk 2

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



A

Abscess - A localized collection of pus in any part of the body usually caused by breakdown of tissue and surrounded by an inflamed area.

Aeration - Mechanical release of air at the bottom of an aquarium that results in the exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen at the surface of the water.

Absorption - The movement of materials that have been digested in the alimentary canal to the blood and lymph vessels.

Afterbirth - The placenta and membranes that are expelled from the uterus after the birth of the fetus.

Agouti - A pattern in which individual hairs have several bands of light and dark pigment with black tips.

Albinism - A heritable condition that results in pure white animals without pigmentation in the skin, eyes and hair.

Alimentary canal - The pathway food takes from the time it enters the mouth until it leaves the body. It is composed of the mouth, pharynx, esophagus or gullet, stomach, small intestine and large intestine.

Assimilation - The body cells take from the blood whatever nutrients they require for growth and repair.

Avian - Pertaining to birds; a bird.

Aviary - A building or enclosure for breeding, rearing and keeping of birds.

B

Bedding - Material used for animals to sleep on. Can be straw, sawdust, woodchips, newspaper, etc.

Breed - The mating of a male and female of a species to produce offspring.

C

Cloaca - The common opening for the colon, urethra and reproductive tract in birds and egg-laying mammals.

Colony - A group of the same kind or species such as ants.

Coprophagy - When an animal eats its own waste.

D

Dermatology - Study of the skin and its disorders.

Digestion - The process of breaking food down from complex into simpler compounds through the action of digestive juices and bacterial activity.

Disinfectants - An agent (often a chemical substance) that destroys infection-producing organisms.

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

Dystocia - A difficult labor.

E

Embryo - The young before hatching from an egg.

Estrus - The period of time when a female is receptive to receiving a male for sexual mating.

Estrous cycle - The complete cycle of reproductive changes in female mammals.

Ethnologist - Person who studies the behavior of animals.

H

Homeothermic - Warm-blooded; able to maintain a relatively constant and warm body temperature that is independent of the temperature of the surroundings.

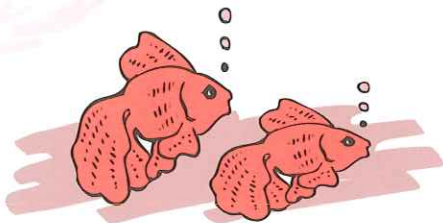
I
Ichthyology - The science that deals with fishes.

Inbreeding - The mating of closely-related animals.

L
Large intestine - A tube-like organ in the digestive system. The main function is to absorb water. It also adds mucous material to the remaining food to aid in movement of food through the digestive tract.

M
Mating - Sexual union between male and female.

Mutation - A sudden unpredictable change in the genes (carriers of inheritance) that appear suddenly and may be inherited.



N
Neuter - To castrate or spay an animal.

O
Ovary - The gonad or sexual gland of the female in which ova are formed.

Oviduct - Tubular passage that carries ova to the uterus.

Oviparous - Animals that lay eggs.

Ovoviviparous - Bearing live young that hatch from eggs within the mother's body, as in lizards.

Ovum (ova) - The female reproductive cell, an egg.

P
Parasite - An organism that lives on or in a different organism. It contributes nothing to the survival of its host. Parasites can live inside a body (internal parasite) or outside a body (external parasite).

Pet-assisted therapy - The use of animals as an addition to conventional therapy, especially for seriously ill and recuperating persons and persons with psychological problems.

Puberty - Time at which an animal achieves sexual maturity and can reproduce.

Q
Quarantine - Restrictions placed on entering or leaving premises to avoid the spread of disease.

R
Rectum - The portion of the large intestine that ends at the anus.

S
Skillathon - A series of learning stations where teams are presented with a realistic situation and a task to accomplish.

Small intestine - A very complex, very long tube composed of a duodenum and ileum, in which digestion and absorption continue. More nutrients are absorbed here than anywhere else.

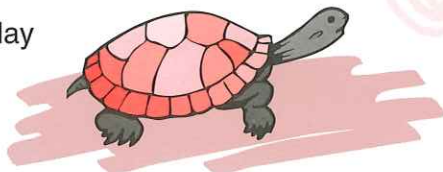
Stomach - The main function is to serve as a kind of vat where chemicals are added to the food to start the digestion of fats, protein and carbohydrates. Some nutrients are absorbed through the wall into the bloodstream.

T
Territory - Area patrolled and defended by an animal which it considers to be its own.

U
Uterus - The part of the reproductive tract in female mammals in which the fetus develops during pregnancy; also called a womb.

W
Warm blooded - Able to maintain a relatively constant and warm body temperature that is independent of the temperature of the surroundings.

Weaning - Converting a young animal from a milk diet to solid foods.



Pet Rap: Stubborn as a mule.
Eyes like an eagle.

Pet Resources

The following are examples of resources to help you complete the activities and learn more about this exciting project. The Extension Service does not endorse any non-extension resources.

Associations and Societies and Clubs

Contact pet shop managers or check pet magazines for information on caged bird societies, pigeon clubs, aquarium societies, etc.

County Humane Societies

Books

Books are available from bookstores, libraries and pet-related shops on every kind of pet. Catalogues of pet publications may be requested from these publishers:

T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
One T.F.H. Plaza
Third and Union Aves.
Neptune, N.J. 07753

Audubon Publishing
One Glamore Court
Smithtown, N.Y. 11787

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Blvd.
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

Animals

Careers for Animal Lovers, Louise Miller

Chinchillas, Jack Harris

Frogs and Toads, Jay Pyrom

Gerbils, M. Ostrow

Guinea Pigs, Margaret Edward

Hamsters, Mervin Roberts

Rats, Susan Fox
T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Fish

Aquarium Plants, Holgar Windelov

Aquarium, Setting Up, Jim Kelly

Tropical Fish, C.W. Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Del Encyclopedia of Tropical Fish, T.W. Julian, Dell Publishing Co.

Aquarium Fishes, Jens M. Madsen, MacMillan Publishing Co.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Salamanders and Newts, Byron Bjorn

Snakes, Mervin Roberts

Tarantulas, Al David

Turtles and Terrariums, Jo Cobb

Chameleons, Robert Anderson

Iguanas, Jack Harris

Tortoises, Christine Adrian

Beginning the Terrarium, Mervin F. Roberts
T.F.H. Publications

Reptile Study, Roger Conant,
Boy Scouts of America

Other Species

Pot-Bellied Pigs, Lisa Huckaby
T.F.H. Publications

Smaller Livestock for Home and School, F.J. Bolger
Blanford Press

Pets For Children, Stephanie and Ken Denarm
Hamlyn Publishing Group

Pets, Francis N. Chrystie
Little, Brown and Co.

Standard Book of Household Pets, Jack Baird
Halcyon House

Land Hermit Crabs, Paul J. Nash
T.F.H. Publication Inc.

Standard of Perfection (Rabbits are Cavies)
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 426
Bloomington, IL 61702-0426

Birds

Budgerigars, Tony David

Cockatiels, Elaine Radford

Lovebirds, George Radtke

Zebra Finches, John Corbett

Fish Diseases, Gottfried Schubert

Tropical Fish, Cliff Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Pigeon, W. Levi
Levi Publishing Co.

Cage Bird Identifier, Helmet Bechtel
Sterling Publishing Co.

The Right Way To Keep Pet Birds, Sonia Roberts
Gramercy Publishing Co.

This Is the Parrot, Plath and Davis
T.F.H. Publications.

Magazines

Caged Bird Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, N.J. 07753-0427

Birds USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Bird Talk
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 57347
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Bird Breeder
P.O. Box 420235
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Cat Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 52864
Boulder, CO 80323-2864

Cats USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Reptiles
P.O. Box 58700
Boulder, CO 80322-8700

Aquarium USA
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Tropical Fish Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, J.J. 07753-0427

Dog Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 53264
Boulder, CO 80322-3264

Cooperative Extension Service Pet Publications

4-H Animal Science Series

BU 08148 Cat 1—
Purrfect Pals

BU 08149 Cat 2—
Climbing Up

BU 08150 Cat 3—
Leaping Forward

BU 08151 Cat Helper's
Guide

BU 08166 Dog 1—
Wiggles 'n Wags

BU 08167 Dog 2—
Bounding Ahead

BU 08168 Dog 3—
Pointing the Way

BU 08169 Dog Group Activity
Guide

BU 06359 Pet 1—
Pet Pals

BU 06360 Pet 2—
Scurrying Ahead

BU 06361 Pet 3—
Scaling the Heights

BU 06362 Pet Group Activity
Guide

Small Animals Leader Guide
Small Animals Member's Manual
North Carolina Cooperative
Extension Service
North Carolina State University

Other Resources

CEN/SHARE
(Human Animal Relationships
and Environments)
80 Ford Hall, Box 1570 Mayo
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108

State, National and International Clubs

Every kind and breed of pet has one or more clubs. Check the pet magazines for current addresses.



Discover over 180 National 4-H Curriculum titles in mission areas of Science, Engineering and Technology; Healthy Living; and Citizenship. Youth activity guides are filled with fun, engaging experiences that cultivate abilities youth need for everyday living as they progressively gain knowledge about subjects that interest them.

All titles have been reviewed and recommended by the National 4-H Curriculum Jury Review process, signifying their excellence in providing hands-on learning experiences for youth.

Science, Engineering and Technology

Agricultural Science

- Afterschool Agriculture

Animal Science

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • Beef | • Meat Goat |
| • Cat | • Pets |
| • Dairy Cattle | • Poultry |
| • Dairy Goat | • Rabbit |
| • Dog | • Sheep |
| • Embryology | • Swine |
| • Entomology | • Veterinary Science |
| • Exploring Farm Animals | • Horse |

Engineering and Technology

- Aerospace Adventures
- Electric Excitement
- Computer
- Exploring 4-H Robotics
- Geospatial
- Sewing Expressions
- Small Engines
- Woodworking Wonders

Environmental Science

- Exploring Your Environment
- Forestry—Forests of Fun
- Fishing for Adventure
- Outdoor Adventures

Plant Science

- Down-to-Earth—Gardening in the Classroom
- Gardening

Science Discovery

- Science Discovery Series

Healthy Living

Health and Fitness

- Bicycle Adventures
- Child Development—Kids on the Grow
- Keeping Fit and Healthy

Nutrition

- Foods
- Microwave Magic

Citizenship

Communication and Expressive Arts

- A Palette of Fun
- Communications—Express Yourself!
- Photography
- ¡Qué Rico! Latino Cultural Arts
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts

Community Action

- Citizenship—Public Adventures
- Service Learning

Leadership

- Exploring 4-H
- Step Up To Leadership

Personal Development

- Consumer Savvy
- Financial Champions

Workforce Preparation

- Be the E—Entrepreneurship
- Get in the Act!

Resources

- Experiential Learning Video

Find more about **Pets**
and other projects online at:
www.4-hcurriculum.org



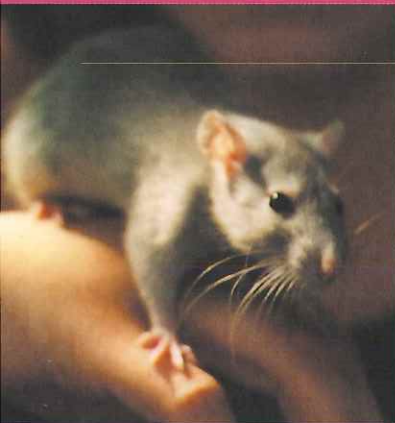
The 4-H Pledge

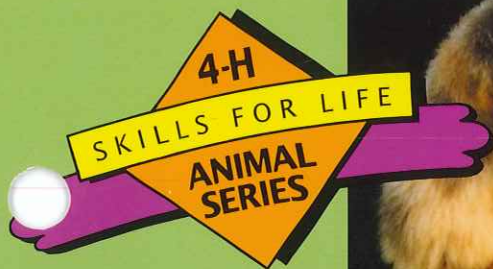
I pledge
my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service, and
my Health to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



Explore more curriculum
projects online at:

www.4-hcurriculum.org





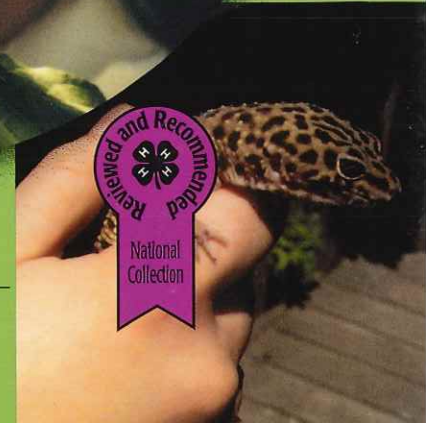
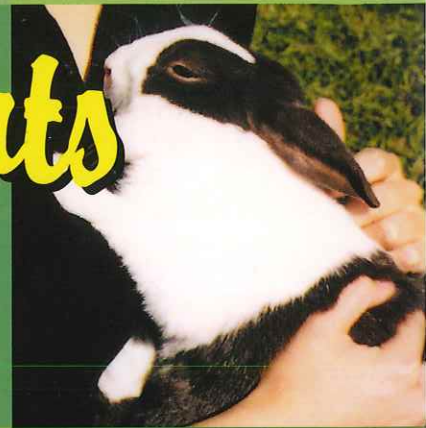
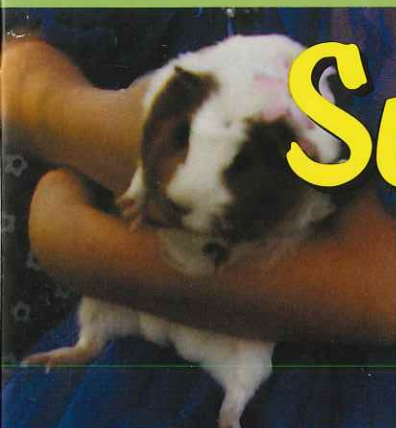
Some manuals are used more than one year. An additional copy will cost \$5.50

4-H Cooperative Curriculum System
CS BU-06361

Scaling the Heights

Level 3

Pet Project Activity Guide



Name _____
County _____



Note to the Project Helper

If you were a project helper for one or more youth involved in completing *Scurrying Ahead* you know what a great experience this important role is. As the Helper you are in a perfect position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about pets and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the *Pet Helper's Guide*
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each achievement program
- Date and initial the activities on the Pet Achievement Program as they are completed and the two of you discuss them
- Help youth to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

The Pet "Skills for Life" Series

This guide, *Scaling the Heights* is the third in the series of three for youth that also includes *Pet Pal*, *Scurrying Ahead* and the *Pet Helper's Guide*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3–4, 5–7 and 6–9 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise.

All activities in the guides have several parts: A description of the skills to be practiced; discussion questions, suggestions for additional activities and additional helpful information. The Show of Success listed for each activity is an excellent way to evaluate the youth's success. Each of the guides also includes an achievement program to encourage youth to learn more about pets while developing important life skills. In the *Helper's Guide* you will find another evaluation piece titled "Evaluating the Impact." Complete this before the youth begins each level and after completing each level.



Acknowledgements

Revision Team: This revision of the four pet activity guides was accomplished by the 4HCCS Pet Design Team comprised of Linda R. Horn, CT and Anita Raddatz, WA, Co-coordinators; Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI, editor.

Design Illustration and Production: Northern Design Group, White Bear Lake, MN.

Word Processing: Sue Teeters, MI.

Photographers: Motion Media Productions and Tom Zurcher

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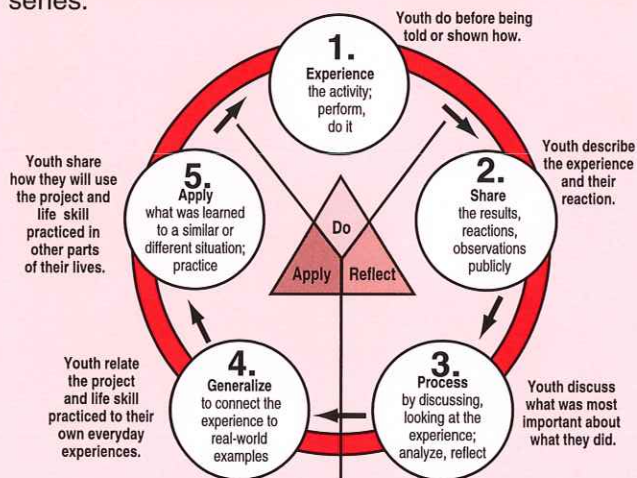
Original Design Team: Bill Gleason, WI; Roger Holmes, MN; John Skinner, WI; Marcella Remund, SD; Gerilyn Perkins, MN; and Tom Zurcher, PhD, MI.

Each activity is designed so the young person has an opportunity to learn by doing before being told or shown how. Your challenge is to "sit on your hands" while the youth explores the activity and learns from the experience, even when it doesn't work the way it's expected to. You can most effectively help with the learning by listening as the young person considers the questions and draws conclusions. At times the activity may call for you to be a resource person for content or ideas.

The fourth publication in this series, *Pet Helper's Guide*, provides additional learn-by-doing activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, meeting ideas as well answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is included in each activity in this series.



As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity without assistance. After the youth do as much as they can you then meet together and discuss: What they did? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced

in the future? Sample questions are included following each experience. Your ability to ask additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.

Good luck in your helper role and thank you for contributing to the positive development of youth.

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Scaling the Heights

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For more on pets ... look for these other guides in this set.



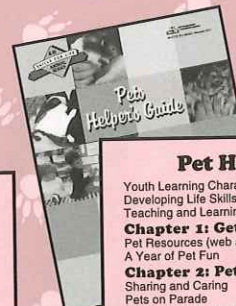
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| |
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Pet Helper's Guide

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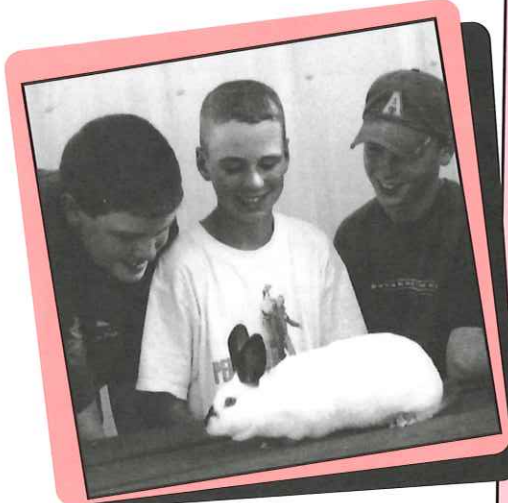


Having Fun with the Pet Project

By now you are nearly an expert on pets, or certainly know more than you did when you started this project. Whether you raise one or several pets, you are in an excellent position to share your experiences with others. *Scaling the Heights* provides several opportunities for you to develop your leadership skills as you strive to complete the Scaling the Heights Achievement Program.

Here are some of the things you'll do:

- Make a decision to breed or not to breed a pet
- Identify the parts of male and female rodents' reproductive systems
- Complete a genetic problem
- Care for a new litter
- Complete a self-analysis profile
- Design and team a lesson using the experiential process
- Help a youth complete a pet activity
- Tell a pet story through pictures
- Interview people in animal-related careers
- Help a friend make a decision about pet ownership
- Classify four species of animals



Scaling the Heights Project Guidelines

- Do a minimum of seven activities of the Scaling the Heights Achievement Program each year and complete this level within three years.
- Participate in a minimum of five of the learning experiences listed each year.
- Practice and develop the life skills of leading others, making decisions, and planning and communicating, while you learn to think creatively, use community resources, explore careers and take responsibility.
- Keep your planning guide current.
- Share your pet knowledge and skills with others.
- Have fun!

Scaling the Heights Achievement Program

If you completed *Pet Pals* and *Scurrying Ahead*, you know each chapter contains pet-related activities that encourage you to practice a certain life skill while doing the activity. In many cases, because this is an activity guide and not a resource manual, you will need to research other sources of information to complete a particular activity. The page of pet resources in the back of this guide and the 4-H Pet Projects online web page is a good place to start, but you'll also want to work closely with your project helper. You'll find an abundance of information on the Internet with literally thousands of sites containing information on pets and pet products.

Remember this is your own personal guide. Feel free to use it to record your thoughts and ideas. Most questions will not have a "right" answer. The questions will help you explore the subject and your own ideas in more depth. Additional activities are included in the *Pet Helper's Guide*. Many of these are fun experiences for you to use with other youth as you develop your leadership skills.

Your Project Helper

Choose your own helper. This person might be a project leader or advisor, teacher, family member, neighbor, friend or anyone who has the interest to work with you to complete *Scaling the Heights*. Meet with your helper to set goals, plan and complete activities in this guide. Discussing each activity with your helper and having this special person date and initial your achievement program will make this project more interesting and fun.

Write the name, phone number and e-mail address of your project helper here:

My Project Helper: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

**Good luck with Pet 3
—Scaling the Heights**

Goals and Highlights

Scaling the Heights Pet Project Goals

Name _____

Kind(s) of pet(s) _____

My most important goals for the pet project:

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

Learning Experiences

Complete at least five of these activities each year.

| Year | Year | Year | Activity |
|------|------|------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Give a presentation |
| | | | Be a member of a pet organization |
| | | | Organize a pet project meeting |
| | | | Participate on a judging team |
| | | | Create a video presentation |
| | | | Exhibit at a fair |
| | | | Judge a pet show |
| | | | Conduct a pet skillathon |
| | | | Organize a pet showmanship contest |

Pet Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

Scaling the Heights Pet Achievement Program



I certify that _____ has completed
all requirements of the *Scaling the Heights* Pet Achievement Program.

Project Helper's Signature

Date

Achievement Program

Scaling the Heights

Directions

1. Do at least seven of the *Scaling the Heights* and *More Challenges* activities each year.
2. Complete at least 21 of the *Scaling the Heights* and *More Challenges* activities within three years to complete this achievement program.
3. Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete and discuss them.

Scaling the Heights Activities

Date Completed Helper's Initials

Chapter 1 Pet Reproduction

Designer Genes

To Breed or Not to Breed?

Are you Sure?

Special Care

Chapter 2 Careers and Leadership

Pets-N-Us

The Right Fit

Go Ahead, Try

Let's Explore Together

Cheese Please

Look to the Future

Chapter 3 Pet Issues and Ownership

The Perfect Pet

Enviro-Pet

Let's Debate

Chapter 4 Pet Science

Taxing Taxonomy

Fun with Cockatiels



Challenges

Select and do any of the *More Challenges* activities in *Scaling the Heights* or make up your own. Record the page and number of each one you complete and have your helper initial.

Page # Date Completed Helper's Initial

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____

Write your own activity here.

Date _____ Helper's Initials _____



Chapter I

Pet Reproduction

Designer Genes

Most of today's pets are domesticated. That means they have been bred and raised in captivity for many years. They would have difficulty surviving in the wild today because they rely on humans to provide for their needs. Some pets have even changed physically due to years of breeding programs that have selected certain characteristics. These characteristics are

Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Understanding how genetics work
Show of Success: Completes the genetic chart.

determined by genes. Genes determine characteristics such as coat texture, color, temperament, size, etc. In this activity you will learn about genetics.

Talk it Over

Do the Activity

Solve the following genetic problem for coat color in mice. The capital B (or dominant gene) represents black coat color and the small b (or recessive gene) represents brown coat color. Remember dominant always covers up the recessive characteristic.

1. What coat color would the four offspring have? Complete the chart by filling in the combinations. For example, the first square in the upper left corner would indicate a black coat color Bb because B is dominant over b.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | B | B |
| b | | |
| b | | |

2. Now if both parents carried Bb genes and were bred to each other, what coat color would the four offspring have?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | B | b |
| B | | |
| b | | |

3. What would happen if both mouse parents had brown coats or in other words both parents carried the bb genes. What coat color would the offspring have? (Draw this genetic chart below.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | b | b |
| b | | |
| b | | |

Which two came from the same parents?



Share with your helper

- How difficult was it to decide the answers to the genetic charts?
- What characteristics would you breed for in your pet?
- How could you breed for those characteristics?

Tell what's important

How does making decisions about the characteristics you want the offspring to have help you determine your breeding program?

Explore what you learned

How does thinking about future possibilities help you make decisions today?

Imagine what's next

If you were going to create the perfect pet through a breeding program, what would your pet look like?



Challenges

1. If possible, trace your pet's genetic heritage and develop a pedigree or pet history. Try to find the owner of your pet's parents and record information such as coat color, eye color, etc. Share with your helper the information you find.

To Breed or Not to Breed?

Deciding whether or not to breed your pet is an important decision that needs to be considered carefully. This activity will help you weigh the options as you practice how to make decisions.

Life Skill: Making decisions
Pet Project Skill: Considering the pet population issue
Show of Success: Makes a decision to breed or not to breed a pet.

Maybe we should see if we can find good homes before we decide to breed you two.

What will happen to the newborns once they are ready to be on their own?

Do the Activity

Begin by having your helper or a friend ask you questions about breeding a pet. Fill in the shapes with your answer. The last shape is for a question to be made up by your helper. Discuss your answers with your helper.

How much money will it cost to raise a litter?

Why would you want to breed your pet?

What experience do you have caring for the pregnant female and raising newborns?

Who can you talk to for help and advice?

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did you decide your answers to the questions?
- How did having someone else ask you the questions and discuss your answers with you help you make a decision

Tell what's important

What is your decision about breeding and how did you make that choice?

Explore what you learned

Now that you've reached a decision about breeding, what will you need to do to make sure things turn out as you've decided?

Imagine what's next

How does thinking about the consequences of your actions help you make better decisions?

Know Your Pets



Ants

The "ant farm" offers an opportunity to observe a colony of these industrious little creatures going about their daily chores of carrying food, building living arrangements, raising young, etc. Usually about 12 inches long, 6 inches high and 1 inch thick with a glass front, the ant farm lets you see their above ground and below ground activities as they work cooperative housing project.

Newborn cavies look like their parents.



More

Challenges

1. Interview two "experts" or people with experience breeding and raising small animals. Plan your questions ahead of time. Record their answers and thank them for their time. Share the information with your helper.

2. Visit a Humane Society or animal shelter and make an inventory list of all the animals. Share your inventory with your helper. How do pet owners' decisions about breeding affect the numbers of animals in shelters?

Pet Facts

Homeless Pets

The American Humane Society reports that on an annual basis 12 million dogs and cats and other small pets are brought to local shelters around the country. Of the 12 million, 8–10 million are euthanized because there are not enough homes for all of them.

Are You Sure?

How do you tell? Knowing the sex of your pet is important, particularly if you want to raise little ones. For some pets like the rodents the male and female are relatively easy to tell apart. However for some other pets it takes a real expert to tell the difference. In this activity you'll learn the parts of the reproductive system of male and female pocket pets.

Life Skill: Learning to learn
Pet Project Skill: Determining a pet's sex
Show of Success: Identifies the parts of male and female rodents' reproductive systems.

Do the Activity

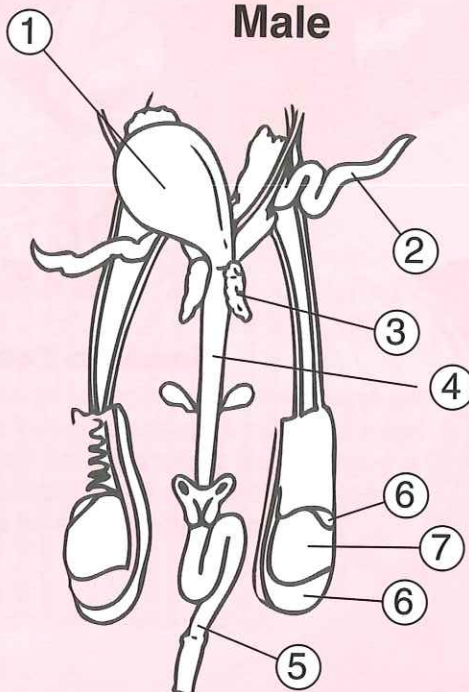
Identify the parts of the male and female rodents' reproductive systems and complete the word find.

Reproductive System's Word Bank

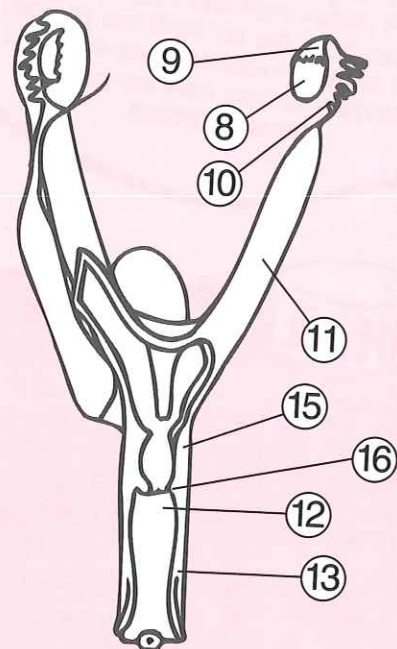
- _____ a. Clitoris
- _____ b. Epididymus
- _____ c. Infundibulum
- _____ d. Opening of urethra
- _____ e. Ovary
- _____ f. Oviduct
- _____ g. Penis
- _____ h. Prostate
- _____ i. Seminal vesicle
- _____ j. Testis
- _____ k. Urethra
- _____ l. Urinary bladder
- _____ m. Uterine horn
- _____ n. Vagina
- _____ o. Cervix
- _____ p. Uterus

So that's how you tell the difference.

Male



Female



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What parts of the systems were new words to you?
- How did you determine the names of the parts?

Tell what's important

Why is learning how to tell the sex of your pets important?

Explore what you learned

Why are some pets neutered or spayed?

Imagine what's next

What can you do to help solve the pet population explosion problem?

| | Mouse | Hamster | Rat | Cavy | Gerbil | Canary |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Age at Puberty (days) | 35 | 45-60 | 45-75 | 45-75 | 63-84 | — |
| Estrous Cycle (days) | 4-5 | 4 | 4-5 | 14-16 | 4-6 | — |
| Gestation Period (days) | 20 | 16 | 21-23 | 65-72 | 24-26 | 4* |
| Average Litter Size | 6-9 | 5-7 | 6-10 | 3-4 | 3-6 | 1-6** |
| Young per Year | 50-100 | 20-50 | 50-100 | 12-18 | 18 | 60 |

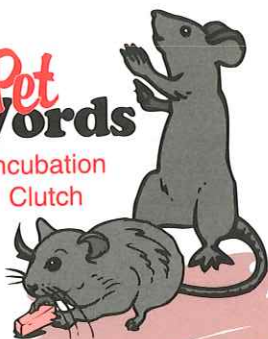
Reproduction Word Find

Reproduction Word Bank

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Breed | Gestation |
| Conceive | Labor |
| Eggs | Ovulation |
| Estrous Cycle | Pregnancy |
| Estrus | Semen |
| Fertilize | Sperm |
| Fetus | Uterus |

Pet Words

Incubation
Clutch



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

Pet Facts

Male & Female

Male hamsters show an elongated scrotum beyond the anal opening. The distance between the anal and genital openings is almost twice that of the female mouse. A male's genital opening is round. A light pressure on the hamster's belly will cause the penis to show.



More

Challenges

1. Determine how to tell the sex of a turtle, a turtle, a fish or a hermit crab. Share what you discover with your family.
2. Explain to your helper the meanings of the terms gestation period, estrus, estrous cycle and puberty.

Special Care

Maybe you have taken care of a younger brother or sister, baby sat for a neighbor or taken care of someone's pet while they were away. Being responsible for someone else's well being is a serious commitment. Preparing yourself will make it easier and more enjoyable. In this activity you will develop a plan for taking care of newborn animals.

Life Skill:

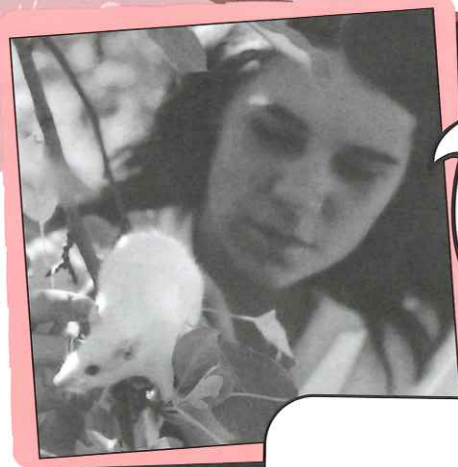
Planning and organizing

Pet Project Skill:

Taking care of newborn animals

Show of Success:

Follows a plan for caring for a new litter.



This activity will help me take care for you even better.

Do the Activity

Create a story board about taking care of newborns. Use the following outline or create one of your own. Use as many description blocks as you need.

A storyboard describes a story in writing and drawing scene by scene or picture by picture. This helps you, the director, from missing important information or photographic shots.

Storyboard Outline

Title _____

Credits _____

Introduction

(Why we should know how to take care of our newborn pet.) Show at least two reasons.

Body

(Information we want viewers to know about the care of newborn pets.)

Conclusion

Show the results of properly caring for your new born pet.

If possible, share your storyboard with someone who is familiar with film media (cable public access person, school media specialist or a local film maker) and get suggestions. Show your storyboard to your group.

1.

Description:

2.

Description:

3.

Description:

4.

Description:

5.

Description:

Talk it Over



Create more story panels on another sheet of paper.

Share with your helper

- What does your story tell?
- How does the story tell someone how to care for newborns?
- How did you come up with your story?

Tell what's important

Why is it important to have a plan when caring for newborn animals?

Explore what you learned

Why is it important to be prepared for responsibilities?

Imagine what's next

Think about a time you had to be responsible for someone else. How did you prepare for that responsibility?



Pet Facts

Annual Checkups

Annual checkups are recommended for all pets including fish and birds. A veterinarian can help cure nutritional diseases, perform complete physical examinations and correct noninfectious problems.



Challenges

1. Contact your local animal control officer or humane society. Find out how many unwanted litters of animals are brought to the Humane Society every year. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper encouraging people to have their pets spayed or neutered or to simply not breed their pets. Be sure to include in your letter the facts given to you by the Humane Society.

Pets-N-Us

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to own or operate your own business? Have you ever thought about starting your own pet-related business? Each year, several billion dollars are generated in the pet industry. This money comes from buying and selling pet products and services. In this activity you will create a pet-related business, business card and a logo for your company.

Life Skill:

Pet Project Skill:

Show of Success:

Planning and organizing
Starting your own business
Interviews small business
owners and develops
a plan for organizing a
business.

What's your
business
idea?

Do the Activity

Begin this activity by thinking about the type of business you would like. Make a list of the kinds of things you would sell or the type of service you would provide. In the space below design your logo and outline your business plan. A logo should include your business name and a symbol or picture that represents what your business does.

My Pet Business Plan

Type of Business _____

Name of Business _____

My Product(s) or Service(s) _____

Customers _____

Start-up Costs _____

To Cover _____

Projected Profits _____

Training Needed _____

Other _____

Logo



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What is your business idea?
- How did you choose your logo?
- What source would you go to for financial help in starting your business? Why?

Tell what's important

How could you develop your plan into a real business?

Explore what you learned

Who will help you with your plan? Why did you choose that person?

Imagine what's next

What types of services or products will be needed in the area of pet care 50 years from now? How do businesses "plan ahead" to stay up to date and change with the times?

I wonder if I could start a business teaching parrots to talk?



Parrot



know Your Pets

Parrots

Teaching a parrot to "talk" is a real accomplishment. It is best done by getting a young bird as or before it leaves the nest and raising it away from others of its kind. Pet shops have books and records that can help you teach a parrot to mimic human sounds.

More

Challenges

1. Shadow an owner or manager of a pet business for one or more days. Record what he/she does.

2. Start a collection of business cards. Ask family and friends to give you their business cards. When you ask them for their cards, ask them three questions and record their answers.

What type of business or job do you have?

Why did you decide on this type of work?

What type of experience or training did you need before you started in this business or job?

The Right Fit

When you were a small child, you and your friends probably talked about what you wanted to be when you "grew up." Perhaps one wanted to be a fire fighter and another a television star. Someone else wanted to be a teacher. You knew it was a long time before you had to make a real decision. A "long time" is not so far off anymore.

There are many types of careers available, but which will be best for you? The answer depends on a lot of things, but mostly on what you enjoy doing and what you want to make of your life. This activity will help you think about who you are and how you might relate to others in the world of work.

Once you decide what you want to do make the decision to succeed at it. There is a very good chance you'll accomplish what you decide.

Life Skill:

Conducting a self-analysis profile

Pet Project Skill:

Looking at and planning for careers

Show of Success:

Completes the self-analysis questions.

4-H has helped me learn what I enjoy doing.



Do the Activity

Discuss each of the following items with your helper or a family member. Then select one career that interests you. With the help of others, complete a profile for that career. You may also use a computer program available in most school counselor offices

Who I Am

1. Subjects and things I like and why:

8. My style:

☐ people-oriented

☐ action-oriented

☐ things-oriented

☐ data-oriented

2. Subjects I don't like and why:

9. My employment experience:

3. Things I do when I want to do nothing:

10. My volunteer and extracurricular activities:

4. Things about which I have vision, special feelings or a wealth of information:

5. My special skills:

11. I am:

☐ project-oriented (like projects that have beginnings, middles and ends)

☐ maintenance-oriented (like work that is ongoing)

6. My health:

12. Amount of time I like to spend with family and friends away from work:

7. My relationships are strongest with:

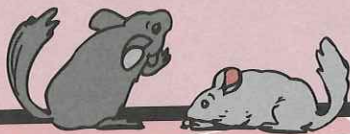
☐ friends

☐ parents

☐ teachers

☐ adults

☐ the opposite sex



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Why is relating to others important in any career?
- Discuss how well you think your interests and the career profile you identified match.

Tell what's important

How does a "self analysis profile" help in career planning?

Explore what you learned

What did you learn about yourself through this activity?

Imagine what's next

How can planning now help you make good career decisions later?

My Career Profile

Complete the following profile of how you see a possible career for you:

A possible career for me is: _____

Education required and cost: _____

What I see myself doing each day: _____

Where I would work: _____

Physical and mental requirements: _____

Benefits, vacation days, retirement plan: _____

The advantages of this career for me: _____

Where could I volunteer or work to try this career now? _____

My hobbies (to balance my career/work): _____



Challenges

1. Develop a resumé for yourself. Include what you'd like to do and your qualifications. Don't forget to list your 4-H experiences and the skills you've developed.

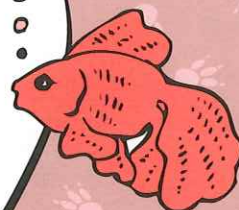
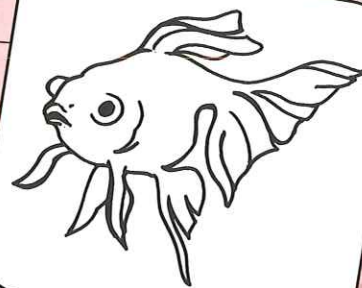
2. Read a biography or bibliography about someone who is in a career or job that interests you.

Know Your Pets

Goldfish

Goldfish come in many sizes, shapes and colors.

They are all related to the carp and were domesticated in China about 1,000 years ago. Two days before bringing goldfish home, fill the bowl or tank with water so it can settle and come to room temperature. Don't overfeed your fish. Feed them once a day. Give as much food as they can eat in five minutes. Don't leave food in the tank, or it will decay and make your fish sick.



Go Ahead, Try



Life Skill:

Leading others by teaching

Pet Project Skill:

Teaching others

Show of Success:

Designs and teaches a lesson using the experiential learning process.

Every day you attend school, you see teachers teaching. They all have different ways of doing it, right? You have many opportunities to teach others too, but how can you know the best ways to help someone learn something? It depends on what you're teaching and who you teach. But most importantly, it depends on the learners themselves. What experience have they already had? What do they want and need to know? How do they learn best?

In this activity you'll use what is called an *experiential learning* process. Experiential learning takes place when a person is involved in an activity, looks back at it critically, decides what was useful or important to remember and uses this information to do something else. The 4-H program uses this experiential model as the primary way to help youth learn. That is what distinguishes 4-H from most schools and other

educational programs. Experiential learning starts with the learner being active, doing an activity or experience (not listening to a speech or demonstration). Then the learner

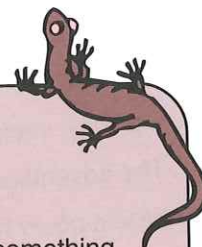
- shares what happened
- talks about what was important
- determines how what was learned applies to him or her and
- decides how what was learned can be applied in the future.

Now you have the chance to guide others using the experiential learning process in the pet project.

Do the Activity

Choose a topic related to pets or something else that interests you. Complete the outline for each of the five steps of the experiential learning cycle. You'll find a chart on the first page of this book and more information about this process on page 5 of the *Pet Group Activity Guide*. Each of the activities in this book uses the five-step experiential learning cycle.

After you have designed your lesson, discuss it with your helper. Then try it with three or more youth.



My Teaching Plan

1. Experience (Doing)

Describe the experience or activity you will have learners do before they are told or shown how to do it.

Topic: _____

Supplies needed: _____

Time required: _____

Number of learners: _____

2. Share (What happened?)

Write a question that asks the learners what happened in their experience and their feelings about the activity after they complete it.

Q. _____

3. Process (What's important?)

Write a question that asks the learners something they felt was most important about the experience.

Q. _____

4. Generalize (So what?)

Write a question that asks the learners how the experience relates to their own lives.

Q. _____

5. Apply (Now what?)

Write a question that asks the learners how they could apply what they learned to a similar or different situation.

Q. _____

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Describe the experiential learning process and how it is different than other forms of teaching and learning.
- Discuss what happened as you used the process to lead and teach others.

Tell what's important

Why do you think it is important for your learners to try to figure out how to do something before being told or shown how? Why is it important for your learners to think about what they have just experienced?

Explore what you learned

What did you learn about yourself from this activity?

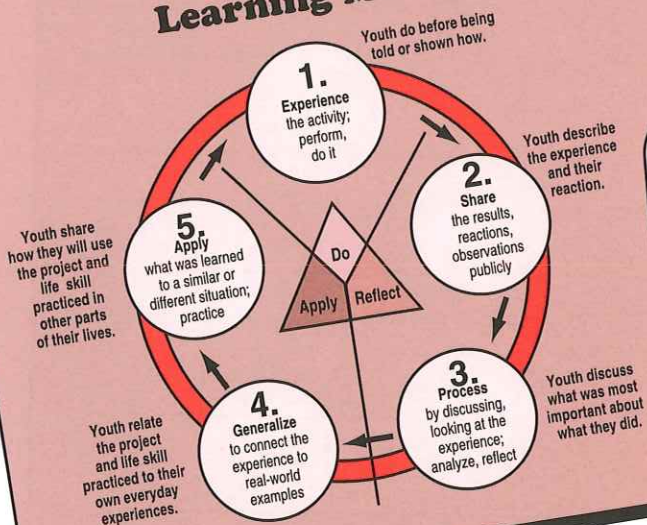
Imagine what's next

Where might you use the experiential learning process in the future?

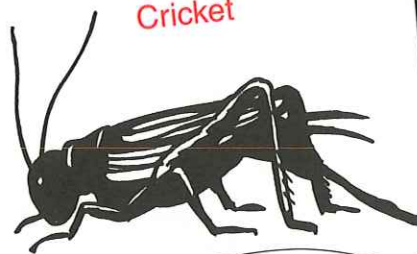
Asking good questions gets people thinking.



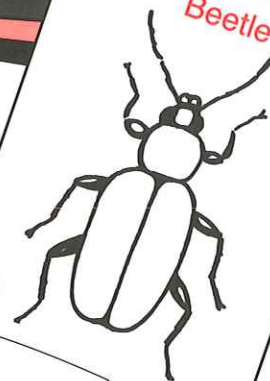
Experiential Learning Model



Cricket



Beetle



Know Your Pets

Beetles and Crickets

In some parts of the world large beetles and crickets are kept in tiny cages as household pets. In the Orient some of the large beetles grow to 2 inches long or more. Sometimes people conduct fights between beetles much as we have wrestling or boxing matches. Crickets are kept in tiny bamboo cages for their songs in some Asian countries.



Challenges

1. Help another youth develop a lesson plan using the experiential process.
2. Discuss with a teacher the differences between giving a lecture or demonstrating to students versus involving them in an experiential activity.

Let's Explore Together

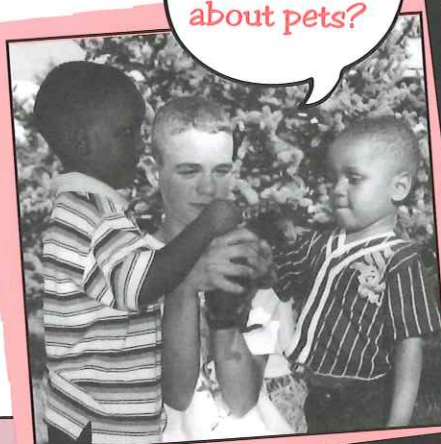
Younger boys and girls probably admire you as an older, experienced person. You can be a great resource and source of inspiration for them if you are willing to share yourself and what you have learned.

Life Skill: Developing leadership skills
Pet Project Skill: Helping another person
Show of Success: "Adopts" a younger person and helps him or her explore the pet project.

What do you want to learn about pets?

Do the Activity

To "adopt" a younger member, you may need to interview two or more to see with whom you (and they) want to learn. After both of you have agreed, decide together how you will be helpful to each other over at least a three-month period. Then report what you did and learned. In order to prepare for this experience, read and discuss with your helper the characteristics of the age group of the person you will be helping as outlined in the *Pet Group Activity Guide*.



Our Plan

Dates _____ to _____

Person helping _____ Age _____

Interests in pets _____

What I know a lot about in the pet project: _____

What we plan to do: _____

What we did: _____

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Discuss what you expected and what actually happened while helping someone in the pet project.
- Describe how it felt to work with someone and introduce him or her to new experiences with pets.

Tell what's important

In which situation did the person with whom you were working learn the most about certain pets?

Explore what you learned

Describe the helping situation in which you learned the most. What did you notice about the different ways people learn?

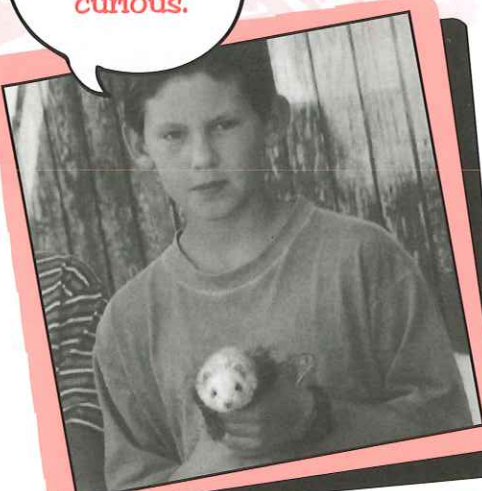
Imagine what's next

How will you further develop your leadership skills to help someone in the future?

Ferret



My ferret is always curious.



More

Challenges

1. As a junior or teen leader organize and conduct at least three pet project experiences for youth. Ask your helper for assistance if needed.
2. Conduct a pet-related workshop at the county level.

Know Your Pets

Ferrets

Ferrets have been referred to as 50 pounds of curiosity packed into a two to five pound animal. Barring disease or accidental death a ferret will live to be between 8–12 years old.

Housing: Ferrets like dark, tight spaces for sleeping. They need space for stretching and moving. A cage should be a minimum of three feet in length and two feet in height. They will use a litter box just like a cat.

Feeding: Carnivores (meat eaters). They need high protein diets. High grade dry and canned kitten and cat food is best. Some pet stores have commercial ferret food. Have fresh water available at all times.

Health: Ferrets need distemper and sometimes rabies shots. They are susceptible to human colds and a wide range of both canine and feline diseases including distemper, feline leukemia and heartworm, as well as Aleutians (from mink). Be sure house is "ferret proof" if the animal is allowed to roam free.

Ferrets have scent glands that give off a musky odor. These can be surgically removed, which is often done at the time of spaying or neutering.

The ferret is a member of the weasel family but has a very different disposition. Since the domestic ferret has never lived in the wild it is a gentle, social animal with a playful personality when bred and raised as a pet. Commercially many ferrets are raised for their mink-like fur.

Training: Just like with a puppy or kitten be consistent teaching them acceptable behavior.

Cheese Please

Pets make great subjects for pictures. Pets with people make even better pictures. To take pictures that tell a story and don't merely record something takes planning and skills. Here is your chance to become a pet photographer. Who knows? Your pictures may be something that a pet magazine or newspaper would like to print.

Life Skill:

Communicating with others

Pet Project Skill:

Photographing pets

Show of Success:

Tells a story through pictures.

Do the Activity

Take pictures of your pet alone or with someone or yourself. Select two pictures that you believe tell a story and mount them on this page. Write a title for each picture. Ideas for taking better pictures are included on the next page. Be creative and have fun!



I enjoy taking pictures of my pet rat.



Caption

Caption

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did you prepare to take the pictures?
- How did you get your pet to cooperate when the pictures were being taken?

Tell what's important

How are pictures a form of communication? What do your pictures communicate to other people about your pet?

Explore what you learned

What can you do to be sure your pictures "tell a story" rather than be just pictures?

Imagine what's next

What are some ways you think people will be communicating in the future?



Challenges

1. With a friend produce a three- to five- minute video about your pet. Select a topic, write a script and play directors, producers and actors. Share your creation with your helper and family.
2. Make a series of five drawings or paintings of your pet.



Pet Photography "Tips of the Trade"

- Find an area that will be attractive in the photographs. If outside, look for places with a lot of moderate shade so that the shadows will not be too harsh. If indoors, set up an area as your stage that has a plain, neutral-colored background. Consider hanging a neutral (not white) sheet or blanket on the wall.
- Outdoor shots are best with early morning or late-in-the-day sunlight. The light will be more diffused, warmer and shadows less harsh. Hazy days often provide ideal light.
- Move in close and have the subject fill the viewfinder of the camera. If you are doing a portrait, consider taking a picture of only the head and shoulders so that the expression of the pet can be highlighted.
- Get down to the pet's eye level to take the picture. Kneel or even lay down to take the photo.
- Keep the background simple. Outdoor scenes are nice, but watch that trees and posts do not appear to grow out of the pet's head. Indoor scenes should not be cluttered with extra things lying around the house.
- It is helpful to have an assistant standing behind you with a squeaky toy or a treat who will help you get the pet's attention focused at the camera.
- For good people and pet pictures, remember to take the photograph halfway between the pet's and person's eye levels. Zoom in close. Try to take a picture that will tell the story of their relationship.
- Pet photography takes patience. Have the camera focused and ready as you look through the viewfinder, and wait for the pet to look just right.
- If no camera is available, look through magazines for pictures about animals. Cut out two pictures that you would want in your pet book.
- Look through magazines and study the pictures that you like. How close is the camera? What color is the light? How many objects are in focus? You could make a scrapbook of the pictures you would like to take.

Look to the Future

What do the following occupations have in common: zoo keeper, pet store owner, avian behaviorist and a veterinarian? If you said they all are animal related careers, you are right! What are some other careers that are related to caring and working with animals? Have you thought about the type of career you would like to have? Would you like to work with people, machines or animals? Would you like to work

Life Skill:

Communicating with others

Pet Project Skill:

Conduct interviews

Show of Success:

Talks to two people in animal-related careers.

outdoors or indoors? These are just a few questions to think about. It's never too early to start dreaming about the possibilities. In this activity you will interview two people that have animal-related careers.

Do the Activity

Begin by thinking about someone you know, maybe a neighbor, a friend's parent or a family member who has a career related to working with animals. Next think about what you would like to know about these careers. Add four of your own questions in the space provided on the list of questions. Record the answers you receive and share them with your helper.



What makes your job fun for you?

Interview Questions and Answers

What kind of work do you do? _____

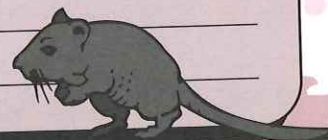
My questions to ask:

How did you decide that you wanted to be a _____

What type of training did you need? _____

What do you like the most about your job? _____

What challenges you in your job? _____



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Whom did you select to interview and why?
- What questions did you add to the list?
- How was the information you got from the people you interviewed helpful to you?

Tell what's important

How did talking to people in two different careers help you learn more about animal careers?

Explore what you learned

Why is it helpful to talk to people about their opinions and experiences?

Imagine what's next

What types of animal careers will be most needed in the future?

Word Bank

artist
banker
editor
geneticist
groomer
judge
nutritionist
pet breeder
photographer
researcher
sales person
scientist
teacher
toy maker
veterinarian
vet tech

Pet-Related Career Word Search

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

All new advances in biotechnology make genetics an exciting career area.



Challenges

1. Select one career or occupation that interests you. Research information on what it would take to be prepared for that career. What type of training or education would be needed? What would the cost be? Where could you go to get the training? What type of salary could you expect? Share your results with your helper.

2. Shadow someone who is doing what you would someday like to do. Make the contact and arrange to observe this person for one entire workday. Share what you find with your helper.

Know Your Pets

Caged Birds

Birds are very sensitive to fumes such as gas, cooking fumes, paint and overheated teflon pans. They are also sensitive to cathode rays that are emitted from television sets. That's why a bird cage should never be placed near or on a television or in the kitchen.



The Perfect Pet

Owning a pet is a big responsibility. Not everyone thinks carefully about accepting this responsibility until it's too late. As a result many pets end up unwanted and abandoned. If people would think seriously about the fact that a cute little pet grows up to be large, needs a lot of care and lives for a number of years, maybe they would not bring the pet home with them. You can help someone make a good decision about pet ownership by having them think ahead of time about what their decision should be.

Life Skill:

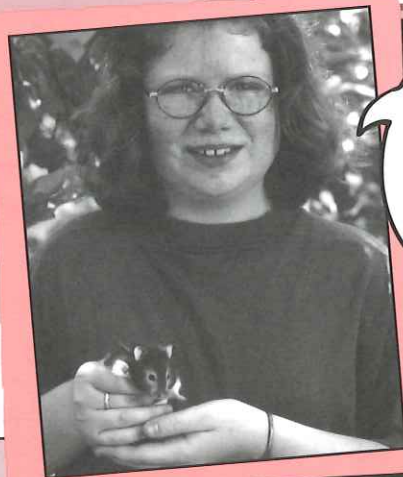
Making decisions

Pet Project Skill:

Conduct an interview

Show of Success:

Helps a friend make a decision about pet ownership.



What does your family say about getting a pet?

Do the Activity

Imagine you are working as an adoption counselor in an animal shelter. Role play with a family member or friend an interview you would have with a "prospective pet owner." Then actually talk with a friend or someone else who is considering getting a pet. Record the answers you receive.

Adoption Interview Record

Name _____

Pet wanted _____

Response to questions:

1. What type of pet would you like and why?

2. What do you know about that animal?
Life span? Special needs? Daily care?

3. How much time do you have to spend with a pet?

4. What kind of experience do you have with owning and caring for a pet?

5. Where will you keep a pet?

6. How much will it cost you to buy feed, keep in good medical health and care for this pet?
Can you afford it?

7. Do you have approval and interest from your family?

8. Who will care of your pet when you can't?

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- Who did you interview? What answers did they give?
- How did you help your friend make a decision about the type of pet he or she should own?
- What did you learn from listening to your friend's answers?

Tell what's important

Why was it helpful for your friend to be asked these questions before they made a decision about the type of pet to own?

Why is it so easy to be led by "our hearts" instead of "our heads" when making pet decisions? When does this become a problem?

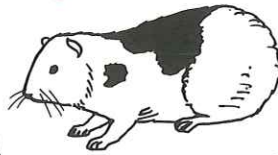
Explore what you learned

Why is it sometimes helpful to talk with someone before you make an important decision?

Imagine what's next

Think of a time you asked someone to help you make a decision. Why did you ask that person to help?

Guinea Pigs



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 100 square inches of floor area per adult is recommended. Bedding must be clean, nontoxic, absorbent, relatively dust-free and easy to replace. Shredded paper, wood shavings 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, potato skins 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: If animals are bred the first breeding should only occur between three and seven months of age. Pregnancy lasts an average of 63-68 days.



Challenges

1. Visit an animal shelter and observe the adoption interview and process.
2. Make a list of resources you would recommend for someone who has decided to get a certain kind of pet.
3. What would it really be like to have a pet you need to care for each day. Set up an area in your home with a small box containing a toy stuffed animal. Each day, pretend to feed it, give it fresh "water" and play with it. Keep a record of your activity for one week. After that time, review what you did. Were you able to take care of your "et" each day? How much time did it take? Review this before you decide to obtain a real pet.

Pet Facts

Healthy Pets

Hygiene and health are important to both you and your pet. This means cleanliness, hand washing after every handling, no kissing, keeping pets that can injure each other apart and always providing a place for every pet to feel secure.

Enviro-Pet

Your pet has a big impact on your life and often your family's life. But have you ever wondered what impact your pet has on the environment? Think about the products you purchase for your pet and the waste your pet produces. What is biodegradable? What can be reused or recycled? In this activity you and your family will discuss ways to make better consumer decisions when buying products for your pet and maybe for yourself too.

Life Skill:

Making decisions

Pet Project Skill:

Thinking environmentally

Show of Success:

Record the impact of products on health and the environment



My hamster needs something to chew.

Do the Activity

Listed below are several types of products that are used with a pet. Lead a discussion with your family on the impact the products have on the environment, your pet's health and your family's health. Record the highlights of your discussion. Then with your family create your own "consumer code" that you and your family will follow when making shopping decisions about pet products and disposing of waste products.

Support of Pet Products

| Product | Impact on Pet Health | Impact on Family Health | Impact on Environment |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Litter | | | |
| Cage or housing | | | |
| Toys | | | |
| Food | | | |
| Food supplements | | | |
| Medicines | | | |
| Grooming equipment | | | |

Family's Consumer Code (describe the kind of products you'll use)

Family Members' Signatures:



Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you learn from your discussion?
- What do the labels of products tell you?
- What products may contain harmful chemicals?
- What products were biodegradable?
- How can you and your family do more to reduce, reuse and recycle products?

Tell what's important

How do your opinions as a consumer influence decisions of product manufacturers? Store owners? Other pet owners? How can you make your comments and thoughts known to them?

Explore what you learned

How can leading a discussion help you understand and learn from the opinions of others?

Imagine what's next

What are some ways you can influence the decisions of others about the environment or other topics important to you?



know Your Pets

Hermit Crabs

Hermit crabs are social animals. In the wild they live in large groups. "Hermit" refers to their living alone in a shell. They are not aggressive and climb extremely well.

The hermit crab's search for a perfect shell is endless. It continues its search throughout its life. That is why it is important to provide your crab with a variety of shells.

The hermit crab will molt its exoskeleton (or body shell) every 12–15 months. It should be left alone during this time.

Hermit crabs are "decapods," that is they have 10 legs. The front pair is different from each other. The larger (usually purple) has a pincher used for defense and climbing.

The smaller pincher is used for eating and climbing. The next four legs are used for walking. The remaining four legs are used to hold the crab in its shell. They never extend outside the shell.

Diet: Omnivorous. A commercial food is available. Diet can be supplemented with bread, crackers, lettuce, apples, oatmeal, cornmeal, bologna, etc. Always provide fresh water.

Housing: Aquarium tanks will work. Barred cages are poor because crabs can squeeze between bars and get lost or hurt. Sand or gravel for the bottom is best. Include climbing objects, various shells and cover to keep your crab active and content.

Health: Lives well if given a clean environment and healthy diet. Providing it with activity also keeps it healthy.



Challenges

1. Make a poster that shows several products that are biodegradable. Share your poster with family members, your helper or classmates.
2. Research what your community is doing to reduce, reuse and recycle. Report what you find to your helper.

Let's Debate

Individuals and groups around the world are becoming increasingly interested in the well-being of birds and animals of all kinds including pets, farm animals, lab animals, animals used for recreation and wild animals. What are your views and those of your friends concerning the role of animals in our society? Do you believe all animals including pets should be freed to the wild or should they be used any way people want to use them?



Life Skill: Communicating with others
Pet Project Skill: Exploring animal welfare issues
Show of Success: Debate beliefs of the roles of animals in society

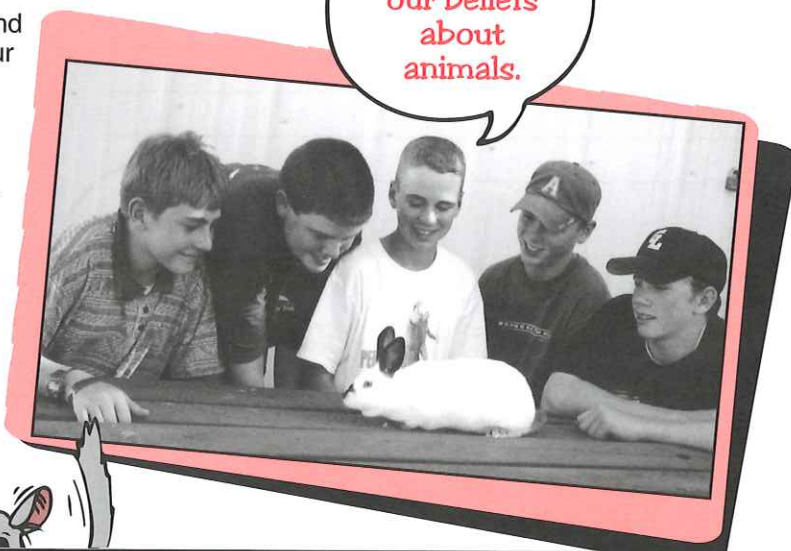
Or are you somewhere in between in your beliefs? In this activity you'll share your beliefs as you practice communicating with others.

Do the Activity

Your challenge in this activity is to organize, conduct and participate in a debate involving friends and family. Your topic will be "How People Should Treat Animals." First form teams of two. Next ask each team to select one of the following positions along the continuum shown below. Ask them to prepare a case why all animals should be treated in the way they selected. Remember that the idea is to convince the other team(s) that their position is correct. Follow each three- to five-minute presentation with questions. In addition to conducting the debate you should also be a part of one of the teams. Definitions of the six positions has been included.

Record below the key points for and against one of the six positions debated.

Let's talk about our beliefs about animals.



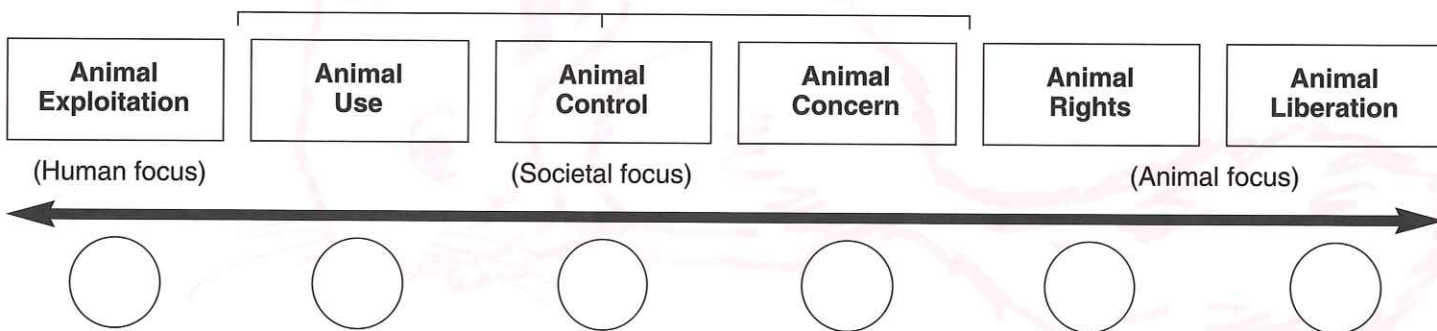
Pros & Cons

Position: Animals should be _____

Pros:

Cons:

Animal Welfare



Acknowledgement:

Adapted from Iowa State University Animal Welfare/Animal Rights video MRC #75731 Facilitator's Guide.

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- How did you feel in your role?
- How were each person's personal beliefs communicated?
- Why were there different views around the issue of how animals should be treated?

Tell what's important

How are people's beliefs affected by their own involvement with animals (pets, hunting, farm animals)?

Explore what you learned

How does the way you communicate convince others that your ideas are right?

Imagine what's next

What can you do to become a better communicator and debater?

Animals and People

These terms explain the ideas different people have about animals should be treated.

Animal Exploitation: A belief that animals are here for our use and abuse.

Animal Use: A belief that animals are here for our use, but we must be responsible for their well-being in order for them to produce as much as possible.

Animal Control: A belief that laws and regulations must be put in place to control animals' impact on society (such as stray dogs).

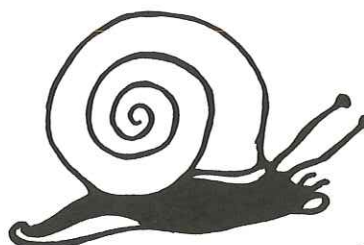
Animal Welfare: A belief that everyone should be required to treat each animal as kindly as possible for the good of the animal and with respect to its' feelings.

Animals Rights: A belief that animals have the same rights as humans do.

Animal Liberation: A belief that animals should not work or produce for human benefit in any way and in fact should be "free" to live on their own.

How do you feel about how animals should be treated?

Snail



Know Your Pets

Snails

Snails come in a wide variety of colors and shapes. All are very slow-moving creatures with large appetites. Some snails are strictly plant eaters while others eat a variety of things including dried insects and meat. Snails move by secreting a sort of slippery mucus and then sliding along on their own pathways.



More

Challenges

1. Make a list of 20 specific situations in which people influence animals or populations of animals. Consider ways such as families owning goldfish, raising animals for meat and controlling insects in a grain field.

2. Discuss with your friends, family or helper your beliefs about capturing wild animals and making them pets.

Taxing Taxonomy

How could you tell someone the difference between a snake and a gerbil? Probably quite easily. But how can you tell someone the differences between one kind of snake and another kind of snake? Now it gets more difficult. Scientists classify living things by specific characteristics. This is called taxonomy—a way of classifying animals according to the characteristics and traits they have in common. In this activity you'll learn to classify different species of animals

Do the Activity

This activity will require some research to complete. The seven levels of the taxonomy are provided plus a word bank with the names you'll need for the species listed. Your challenge is to complete the classification for two species plus the classification for your favorite pet.

Taxonomy Word Bank

Amphibia
Animal
Anolis
Bufo
Chordata
Cricetus
Crietetus auratus
Mammalia
Reptillia

What's
your
family's
scientific
name?

Life Skill:

Planning and
organizing

Pet Project Skill:

Classifying animals

Show of Success:

Classifies four species
of animals.



| Taxonomy Levels | American Toad | Golden Hamster | Green anole or Chameleon | My Pet |
|-----------------|--|---|---|--------|
| Kingdom | Animal (as opposed to plant) | _____ | Animal | |
| Phylum | _____ (animals with backbones) | Chordata | Chordata | |
| Class | _____ (reproduce with shell-less eggs) | _____ (animals whose unborn young develop inside the mother) | _____ (reproduce with shelled eggs and lack hair and feathers) | |
| Order | Anura (amphibians without tails) | Rodentia (gnawing animals) | Squamata (have skulls with two openings on side) | |
| Family | Bufonidae (toad like) | Cricetidae (have well-developed cheek pouches) | Iguanidae (live on the ground or in trees) | |
| Genus | _____ (toad) | _____ (hamster) | _____ (chameleon) (can change color) | |
| Species | <i>Bufo Americanus</i> (American Toad) | _____ (golden hamster) | <i>Anolis carolinensis</i> (chameleon or green anole) | |

Talk it Over

Share with your helper

- What did you learn about classifying?
- How did you find the answers?

Tell what's important

What are the major differences between classes of animals?

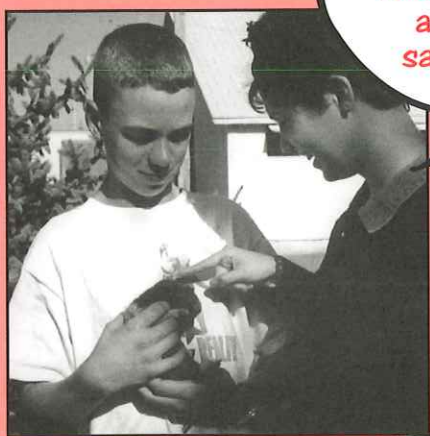
Explore what you learned

What is another way items are classified?

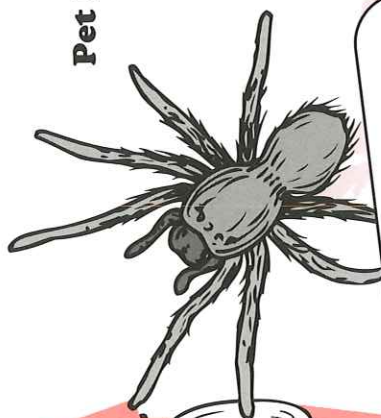
Imagine what's next

How does being able to classify help you organize?

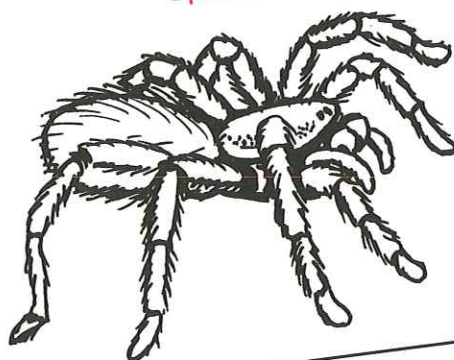
Groups of animals with similar characteristics are in the same class.



Pet Rap: Eyes like an _____



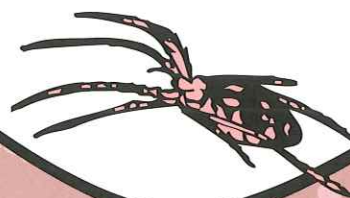
Spider



know Your Pets

Spiders

Some people find spiders very fascinating. They are interesting crafters and require quite a bit of space to really display their ability to spin (make) a home. Some spiders are ground dwellers. Others spin webs in tree branches, doorways or almost anywhere. Some spiders are poisonous.



More

Challenges

1. Name the class for each of the following pets: birds, guinea pigs, snakes, lizards, fish, turtle, hedgehog, ferret. Explain to your helper why you selected the class you did for each.
2. Complete the seven levels of the taxonomy for a human being, an elephant and a rabbit.

Acknowledgements

Adapted from 4-H Discovery Small Animals Member's Manual
North Carolina Computer Extension Service, NCSU

Fun with Cockatiels

One of the most enjoyable birds to own is the cockatiel. Their moderate size, ability to talk and overall friendliness has made them one of the most popular pet birds to raise.

A Little History

Cockatiels are native to eastern Australia, and have been studied and kept as pets since 1770, when Captain Cook explored the island continent. In their natural habitat, cockatiels live in wooded areas near water sites such as rivers, streams and lakes. Wild cockatiels are usually tolerant of human beings, and today it is not unusual to find them in gardens and parks of cities and villages throughout Australia.

Making a Home

The first requirement for owning a cockatiel is getting a suitable cage or home for your pet. You should buy a cage and equipment before purchasing a bird, and it should be of an adequate size for cockatiels. Fully-grown cockatiels are approximately 13 inches in length, and they need more space than what is available in parakeet or finch cages. Wooden or all wire parrot cages make good homes for single pet cockatiels.

Buy larger size accessories (perches, toys, feed and water cups, and other accessories). And if you decide to use natural twigs or branches as perches, make sure they are of a thicker diameter to support your cockatiel. Other cage necessities include gravel or grit, which provides an important source of minerals for your bird. Don't forget to purchase a cover for the cage to give your cockatiel a peaceful place to sleep at night.

Feeding Your Cockatiel

Cockatiels thrive well on a basic diet of seeds. Most commercial feeds will contain a variety of these: mixed millet, bulk canary seed, oats, mixed sunflower seeds, hemp and millet. Look for these ingredients in selecting a food for your bird. Although individual experts have different ideas as to the best seed mixture for cockatiels, here are some guidelines for a basic seed mix: approximately 40% canary seed, 25% mixed sunflower seeds and 35% mixed millet, clipped oats and hemp seeds. Cockatiels are also fond of ears of small millet seeds (also called millet sprays).

Cockatiels also need a regular supply of various fresh foods to maintain a health condition. Chickweed, seeding grasses, spinach, lettuce, cabbage hearts, brussel sprouts, sow thistles, apple and carrot slices and bean or alfalfa sprouts are good sources of valuable nutrients for your bird.

In addition, ample supplies of grit, cuttlefish bone and a mineral block are important to good health and maintain beautiful feather.

Vitamin and mineral supplements can also be added to your bird's water supply.

Finally, fresh drinking water is a must for your cockatiel, and you should not keep the water dish underneath perches or too near the seed cups, so that it

remains clean and clear. You should change the water daily.

Most cockatiels enjoy taking baths. For this, you should supply your bird with a large shallow dish (Preferably made of earthenware so it won't tip easily). Place the dish in the bottom of the cage so your cockatiel can clean and preen his feathers when necessary. If it is not possible to have a bathing dish, a fine bird spray will do the job nicely.

Health Considerations

Cockatiels often live to be 15 to 20 years old, and proper consideration in housing and feeding is important. Be wary of drafty rooms, extreme temperature changes and other potentially dangerous conditions. If your bird appears to be listless, off color, has unkempt feathers and exhibits other signs of ill health such as loose droppings, consult a veterinarian.

Breeding Cockatiels

Special conditions must be followed if you are interested in breeding cockatiels. Consult a library for books and additional information on breeding and the care of baby cockatiels.

Welcoming the New Arrival

Your new cockatiel will adjust to his new surroundings in approximately 8-12 days. Sudden movements and loud noises must not be made around the cage at this time. You should speak to your new bird in a quiet, clear voice when feeding him, and as your bird becomes accustomed to your household schedule and his feeding times, you should begin the first stages of taming and training. Only one person in your home should train your cockatiel at first, to prevent him from becoming confused.

Training Tricks

You can begin by offering your bird a few seeds or a millet spray to enjoy out of your hand. Be patient and calm as you encourage your bird with soothing words. To assist in training the wing feathers must be properly cut so that the bird cannot fly out of your hand. Before cutting the feathers, you should refer to a book on training cockatiels or talk to a veterinarian. The next step is to gradually ease a finger beneath the bird's feet so it can perch. When your cockatiel is comfortable with you, you can begin taking him out for the cage for short periods of time. Be sure all windows and doors are closed to prevent escape, and all gas and electric appliances are not in use, as they may frighten or harm your bird. As your cockatiel settles into a comfortable life with your household, his natural curiosity and friendliness will allow you to teach him a variety of tricks.

Training your cockatiel to talk requires patience. Although cockatiels are not prolific talkers, they can be taught to repeat words, sounds and short sentences. The words, phrases or sounds must be repeated as often as possible, and over a period of time, your bird will (in most cases) respond by repeating it after you. In general, young male birds (cocks) are the easiest to train, but young females (hens) also respond to the repetitive sounds needed to encourage your cockatiel to talk.

As your new cockatiel adjusts to your home life, you can expect years of enjoyable partnership with these friendly birds. They make exciting and interesting pets for young and old, and will brighten your life with their beautiful coloration and perky outlook.



Getting to Know Hamsters

Golden hamsters are delightful little pets. They are furry, friendly, easily tamed and can provide entertainment for you and your family. They do not need special or hard-to-get foods, and they require little space to live. Their ability to stuff their cheeks with tremendously large amounts of food is one of the many endearing features that have made them popular pets today.

The majority of golden hamsters available today as pets descended from what was once a rare species of rodent discovered in Syria. In 1930, a zoology professor rescued a family of hamsters, raised them and they became the source of every Golden Hamster today.

Because they are of the rodent family, hamsters are nest builders and like to nibble. They also enjoy acrobatics, and will spend much time playing in exercise wheels, pet houses or tunnels, and other play activities. Hamsters are family-building rodents, too.

Housing Your Hamster

The best way to house your new hamster is in a metal cage or aquarium tank that measures approximately 10" x 18" (a ten gallon tank is just about the right size). The tank or cage should be at least ten or twelve inches high, so that there is room for play. If you are going to use an aquarium, be sure you get a well fitting screen to fit over the top. This allows for fresh air circulation and keeps the hamster inside.

Long hair and short hair hamsters are considered solitary animals after 6-8 months of age and it is best they be kept alone. The Siberian Dwarf Hamster seems to be more tolerant of its own kind if a large amount of room is offered, but it is still suggested that they also be kept alone. Unless breeding is the goal, same sexed groups are recommended when housing multiple animals.



The most popular litter for hamster tanks is wood shavings or Aspen. Hamsters have a sleeping compartment and that their home be clean, dry, safe, draft-free, yet well ventilated. Bedding should be completely changed on a weekly basis. Because hamsters are a burrowing animal, the bedding should be two to three inches deep.

Change the bedding or litter in your hamster's home once a week or as needed, and fill the water bottle as needed with fresh water. Keep your hamster's home in an average temperature room (65-75 degrees) and do not subject your pets to radical temperature changes or drafts – especially if they are in a cage.

Other cage necessities are a water bottle, food dish and an exercise wheel or play equipment. Their need for water will be met by hanging a water bottle from the top of the cage or tank so that they can drink while standing up on their hind legs. Exercise wheels, tunnels, houses, ladders and play pieces should be sturdy and safely designed with no openings to snag your hamster's feet.

Finding a Hamster

Another concern is escape. You can prevent escape with a snug fitting top screen for your tank or a secure latch for a cage. If your pet has escaped, immediately close the doors of the room where the cage is being kept. As you search the room, be quiet, calm and thorough. When you find your pet, gently extend your open palm, like you do inside their cage or tank for your hamster to come. Hamsters also will usually respond to a new paper tube and crawl right in. Above all, don't panic or additionally frighten your pet into further hiding. If you cannot find your pet, you might try leaving the cage door open. In time, your hamster will probably return home on his own.



Feeding Your Hamster

Feed your hamster daily at approximately the same time each day. Since hamsters are nocturnal animals early evening is a good time, because that is when hamsters usually wake up. The basic hamster diet consists of a daily serving of pelletized food designed to feed rats, mice, hamsters or gerbils. These pellets are nutritionally complete, and also fulfill the hamster's need to gnaw.

Hamsters also enjoy treats. The best treats are pieces of fresh produce from your refrigerator. Small chunks of fruits, vegetables, and cabbage or lettuce leaves will help round out your hamster's diet. Sunflower seeds and raisins are also an excellent choice, but be sure you do not overindulge your hamster, and limit treats to once or twice a week.

Playing with Your Hamster

Like most small animals, your new hamster will appear to be nervous and frightened of you at first. They are, however, naturally curious and friendly and will soon respond to gentle stroking and play. Knowing how to properly pick up and carry a hamster carefully will help it respond to you and it is important that children learn the right way to play with their new pet. The correct way to hold a hamster is to cup it in your palm or partly nestle it on the back of one hand while shielding it with the other hand. It is not necessary to grip your hamster, and holding a hamster too firmly can cause internal injuries or the animal to bite.

Always put your hand inside the cage in a non-threatening manner, and slowly and gently introduce your open hand to the hamster. After a few calm introductions

like this, you will know when your hamster is tamed and comfortable with the presence of your hand, and you can begin handling your pet.

Pet Talk 3

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

A

Acris - A genus of frogs that includes several species of tree frogs.

Air sac - Air-filled spaces connected to the bird's lungs.

Amniotic - Refers to a fluid-filled sac that encloses an embryo inside its egg. Reptiles and birds have amniotic eggs.

Animal rights - A belief by some people that all sentient beings (those that have the ability to suffer) are born with inherent rights that do not differ from human rights.

Animal welfare - Responsible stewardship of animals that involves humane care, prevention of cruelty and minimizing animal suffering.

Anolis - A genus of lizards.

B

Bufo - A genus that contains toads.

C

Chordata - The phylum that contains animals with backbones.

Chromosome - The rod or thread shaped bodies that carry the genes and are present in a fixed number in all animals and plants.

Class - A classification division of plants and animals. It subdivides a phylum.

Classification - A method scientists use to arrange all animals and plants in related groups. In order from largest to smallest: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species.

Colubridae - The largest family of snakes.

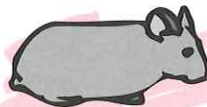
Conception - Union of ovum and sperm to begin life of new individual.

Conuropsis - A genus of birds. It includes the parrots and is a Latin word that means *horn-shaped*.

Cricetidae - The family containing rodent animals with well-developed cheek pouches.

Cricetus - The genus of the golden hamster.

D



Dinosaur - Prehistoric reptiles. This Latin word means *ancient lizard*.

Dominant - Refers to a gene whose expression covers up or dominates over another.

Dropsy - A fish disease that causes fish to swell.

E

Egg - The reproductive cell of the female; ovum.

Ejaculation - The discharge of semen from the reproductive tract of the male.

Embryo - A developing organism in the very early stages following the joining of the egg and sperm.

Epididymis - A tube or duct in males connecting the testes to the vas deferens. It is located inside a sac or pouch alongside the testis and functions in the storage and passage of sperm from the testis to the vas deferens.

Estrus - The period during the estrous cycle when the female is capable of being fertilized and when she is sexually receptive to the male; also called heat period or being in heat.

Estrous cycle - The reproductive cycle in non primates; it is measured from the beginning of one estrus or heat period to the beginning of the next.

Experimentation - Use of animals for physical or psychological investigations.

F

Family - A classification division of plants and animals. It subdivides order.



G

Gekkonidae - A family of lizard reptiles.

Gene - The smallest unit of inheritance found as a part of a chromosome.

Genetics - The science that deals with heredity and variation in organisms, and with the function and transmission of genes.

Genotype - All or part of the genetic make-up of an individual or group.

Genus - A classification division of plants that subdivides family.

Gonad - The organ in the male or female animal that produces the sperm or ovum.

H

Heat period - Estrus; the period during which a female is sexually receptive.

Herbivorous - Animals that live on plants and legumes and nurse their young with milk.

Human-animal bond - Emotional attachment between a person and non-human companion.

I

Ich - The most common fish disease. It is characterized by white spots on the body.



K

Kingdom - One of the three main divisions into which natural objects are classified. The three kingdoms are animal, plant and mineral.

L

Lacertilia - A family of reptiles with sternums, pectoral girdles and generally, legs. Lizards are in this family.

Lamella - Plural Lamellae, the part of the fish's gill where oxygen exchange occurs.

N

New castle disease - A bird disease that, in its early stages, resembles a cold.

O

Order - A classification division of plants and animals that is above the family and below the class.

Ornithosis - A bird disease known as bird fever or psittacosis.

Osteichthyes - A class that consists of bony fishes.

P

Paleozoic - An era of geological history called the Age of Ancient Life. It was marked by the rise of land animals and plants.

Phenotype - The appearance of an animal or one of its traits; the way an animal looks or behaves is determined in part by the genotype.

Phylum - A classification division of plants and animals that subdivides kingdom.

Popeye - A fish disease that causes the eye to swell.

Population - Group of animals that are considered genetically as a unit for purposes such as estimating gene frequencies, determining selection effects and systems of mating and measuring genetic progress.

Psittacidae - A family of birds. The parrots are in this family.

R

Recessive - Refers to a gene whose expression can be modified or covered up by another.

S

Species - A classification division of plants and animals that subdivides genus. It consists of organisms that are capable of breeding.

T

Testis - The primary sex organ of the male, the source of the male gametes and the male sex hormone.

Testosterone - A hormone produced by the cells of the testis that stimulates male sex drive, masculine characteristics, development of the male reproductive tract and spermatogenesis.

Testudines - An order of reptiles that have protective shells. Turtles are in this order.

V

Variety - A taxonomic subcategory of a species.

Z

Zoography - A description of animals, their forms and habits.

Zoology - The science that studies the natural history of animals, their structure, classification, habits and distribution.

Zoonosis - A communicable disease that can pass between humans and animals.

Pet Rap: Eyes like an eagle.



Pet Resources

The following are examples of resources to help you complete the activities and learn more about this exciting project. The Extension Service does not endorse any non-extension resources.

Associations and Societies and Clubs

Contact pet shop managers or check pet magazines for information on caged bird societies, pigeon clubs, aquarium societies, etc.

County Humane Societies

Books

Books are available from bookstores, libraries and pet-related shops on every kind of pet. Catalogues of pet publications may be requested from these publishers:

T.F.H. Publications, Inc.
One T.F.H. Plaza
Third and Union Aves.
Neptune, N.J. 07753

Audubon Publishing
One Glamore Court
Smithtown, N.Y. 11787

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
250 Wireless Blvd.
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

Animals

Careers for Animal Lovers, Louise Miller

Chinchillas, Jack Harris

Frogs and Toads, Jay Pyrom

Gerbils, M. Ostrow

Guinea Pigs, Margaret Edward

Hamsters, Mervin Roberts

Rats, Susan Fox
T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

Fish

Aquarium Plants, Holgar Windelov

Aquarium, Setting Up, Jim Kelly

Tropical Fish, C.W. Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Del Encyclopedia of Tropical Fish, T.W. Julian, Dell Publishing Co.

Aquarium Fishes, Jens M. Madsen, MacMillan Publishing Co.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Salamanders and Newts, Byron Bjorn

Snakes, Mervin Roberts

Tarantulas, Al David

Turtles and Terrariums, Jo Cobb

Chameleons, Robert Anderson

Iguanas, Jack Harris

Tortoises, Christine Adrian

Beginning the Terrarium, Mervin F. Roberts
T.F.H. Publications

Reptile Study, Roger Conant,
Boy Scouts of America

Other Species

Pot-Bellied Pigs, Lisa Huckaby
T.F.H. Publications

Smaller Livestock for Home and School, F.J. Bolger
Blanford Press

Pets For Children, Stephanie and Ken Denarm
Hamlyn Publishing Group

Pets, Francis N. Chrystie
Little, Brown and Co.

Standard Book of Household Pets, Jack Baird
Halcyon House

Land Hermit Crabs, Paul J. Nash
T.F.H. Publication Inc.

Standard of Perfection (Rabbits are Cavies)
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 426
Bloomington, IL 61702-0426

Birds

Budgerigars, Tony David

Cockatiels, Elaine Radford

Lovebirds, George Radtke

Zebra Finches, John Corbett

Fish Diseases, Gottfried Schubert

Tropical Fish, Cliff Emmens
T.F.H. Publications

The Pigeon, W. Levi
Levi Publishing Co.

Cage Bird Identifier, Helmet Bechtel
Sterling Publishing Co.

The Right Way To Keep Pet Birds, Sonia Roberts
Gramercy Publishing Co.

This Is the Parrot, Plath and Davis
T.F.H. Publications.

Magazines

Caged Bird Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, N.J. 07753-0427

Birds USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Bird Talk
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 57347
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Bird Breeder
P.O. Box 420235
Boulder, CO 80323-7347

Cooperative Extension Service Pet Publications

4-H Skills for life Animal Science Series

BU 08148 Cat 1—
Purrfect Pals

BU 08149 Cat 2—
Climbing Up

BU 08150 Cat 3—
Leaping Forward

BU 08151 Cat Helper's
Guide

BU 08166 Dog 1—
Wiggles 'n Wags

BU 08167 Dog 2—
Bounding Ahead

BU 08168 Dog 3—
Pointing the Way

BU 08169 Dog Group Activity
Guide

BU 06359 Pet 1—
Pet Pals

BU 06360 Pet 2—
Scurrying Ahead

BU 06361 Pet 3—
Scaling the Heights

BU 06362 Pet Group Activity
Guide

Small Animals Leader Guide
Small Animals Member's Manual
North Carolina Cooperative
Extension Service
North Carolina State University

4-H Aquatic Maestro
(an eight-part fish curriculum)
National 4-H Supply Service
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MA 20815

4-HCCS Rabbit Pattern
BU-07199

Other Resources

CEN/SHARE
(Human Animal Relationships and Environments)
80 Ford Hall, Box 1570 Mayo
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108

State, National and International Clubs

Every kind and breed of pet has one or more clubs. Check the pet magazines for current addresses.

Magazines

Cat Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 52864
Boulder, CO 80323-2864

Cats USA
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Reptiles
P.O. Box 58700
Boulder, CO 80322-8700

Aquarium USA
P.O. Box 55811
Boulder, CO 80322-5811

Tropical Fish Hobbyist
P.O. Box 427
Neptune, J.J. 07753-0427

Dog Fancy
Subscription Dept.
P.O. Box 53264
Boulder, CO 80322-3264



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Experiential Learning Model: Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals", © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

