



Look at the resource below, which shares what some pets need to help keep them happy and healthy.

Anyone who owns a pet is legally required to care for them properly. This will lead to them being happy and healthy. All pets need the following:

- A suitable place to live.
- A healthy diet, including fresh and clean water.
- The ability to behave normally.
- Appropriate company, which means being kept with or apart from other animals, if needed.
- Protection from injury, pain, disease and suffering.



Bearded dragon



Diet: insects, vegetables
Behaviour: enjoys climbing, hiding, and needs to bask in heat
Company: can live happily alone but does enjoy human company

Guinea pig



Diet: hay, grass, leafy green vegetables, guinea pig pellets
Behaviour: enjoys space and toys to play with, places to hide
Company: they are very social and need to interact with other guinea pigs

Dog



Diet: meat, dry dog food, wet dog food
Behaviour: needs lots of exercise and entertainment
Company: social animal so needs company, sees people as its friends

Which of the pets above do you think you would prefer to care for? Does everyone agree?



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about animal shelters and rescues.

Not all animal shelters are the same but generally, they are an establishment that provides a temporary home for dogs, cats and/or other animals that are lost, unwanted or abandoned (this includes situations out of an owner's control). Their aim is to care for the animals until they can find suitable homes and are adopted. Animal shelters rely heavily on charitable donations.



Pictured above: a volunteer playing with a cat in an animal shelter.



Lucie's Animal Rescue

21 October at 20:01 · 🌐

...

What a week.

So many new admissions, with another 9 month old pup coming in tomorrow. That's 4 dogs in 3 days. 😞

In the last 5 days we've taken on 3 cats, 4 kittens, 6 rabbits and 3 guinea pigs. 🥺

Any help towards our large vet bills and rising food bills would be hugely appreciated.

Before animals are adopted, they usually undergo a health screening to determine whether they have any health issues. The shelter also ensures any necessary vaccinations or other treatments are carried out before a pet is rehomed.

People hoping to adopt a pet from a shelter are usually required to fill in an adoption application form, complete a home check and spend some time with the animal in the shelter to bond and make sure both pet and new owner are right for one another!

There is an adoption fee, which varies, depending on the animal being rehomed.



**How important do you think animal shelters/rescues are?
What do you think about the adoption process?**

Useful vocabulary



Crisis

A time of intense difficulty or suffering.

One of the main causes is thought to be the cost of living **crisis**.

Expensive

Costing a lot a money.

...all of which have become more **expensive** in recent months.

Finances

The money that a person or household has.

Animal rescue groups in countries around the world are seeing a jump in the number of animals being brought to their shelters, as household **finances** are squeezed.

Fostering

Taking care of an animal, usually for a limited time.

Emma says that because they are so full, they will pay all the costs for **fostering** a dog.

Micronutrients

Any substance, such as a vitamin or trace element, essential for healthy growth and development but required only in minute amounts.

This includes pet food ingredients such as meat, grains, and **micronutrients**.

Squeezed

A strong financial demand or pressure.

Animal rescue groups in countries around the world are seeing a jump in the number of animals being brought to their shelters, as household finances are **squeezed**.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Should more be done to help rescue pets?

Animal rescue groups in countries around the world are seeing a jump in the number of animals being brought to their shelters, as household finances are squeezed. One of the main causes is thought to be the cost of living crisis, which has meant many different costs have increased. This includes pet food ingredients such as meat, grains, and micronutrients, all of which have become more expensive in recent months.



- Look at this week's poster image. What do you think might be happening? Explain that the picture shows Dogs4Rescue, a dog shelter set up near Manchester. It is run by a small team, who take care of dogs until someone suitable is found to adopt them.
- Recently, there has been a rise in the number of dogs that have been arriving at shelters like Dogs4Rescue. Prices for things like food and electricity are increasing and some people have become unable to afford the costs of keeping their pet. Can you think of some costs involved with keeping pets?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows a BBC interview with the founder of the Dogs4Rescue centre, Emma Billington. Emma says that because they are so full, they will pay all the costs for fostering a dog. Do you think this is a good idea?
- Read through the information found on the resource, which shares more about the shelter. Share your thoughts on Dogs4Rescue, do you think it would be a nice place for dogs to live?
- Have you ever been to an animal shelter? Are there any near where you live?

Reflection

Animal shelters take care of animals and pets that have nowhere else to go. It's important to remember that sometimes the animals are there not because their owners don't want to take care of them, but because they are no longer able to.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What do pets need to be happy and healthy?



- A pet is an animal kept by humans for pleasure or as a friend. They are usually tame, which means they are not dangerous or frightened of us. Do you have any pets? Do any of your friends or family own a pet?
- People who choose to have a pet are responsible for looking after it and making sure it is happy and healthy. How do you think you take care of a pet? Will all pets need the same type of care?
- Look at resource 1, which shares what some pets need to help keep them happy and healthy. Which of the pets on the resource do you think you would prefer to care for? Does everyone agree?
- Different pets have different needs, so what keeps one pet happy and healthy may be different from another. Before people choose a pet, it is important that they consider whether they can meet all of its needs. Some pets take up more time and cost more than others.
- Discuss what happens if a pet becomes injured or ill. Where might you take it? Who might be able to help? Have you ever been to a vet before?
- What is your favourite pet? Why do you like it? Can you find out how to keep it happy and healthy?

Reflection

Different pets have different needs. If we choose to care for a pet, we must be responsible for making sure it is happy and healthy.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What is an animal shelter?



- Write 'animal shelter' on the board. Are there any animal shelters or rescues near you? Do you know what an animal shelter does?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some more information about animal shelters and rescues. How important do you think animal shelters/rescues are? Have you had any experience of them before?
- Focus on the information shared about the adoption process. What do you think about it? Do you think it is important for applications to be filled in, home checks carried out and visits made, or do you feel this could potentially use up time, money and resources the shelters struggle for?
- Many animal shelters/rescues rely heavily on public support. Discuss ways people may support the shelters/rescues e.g., raise funds, donate money, donate resources such as blankets or toys, volunteer time to help care for the animals, adopt an animal rather than buy a new one.
- PetKeen reports that an estimated 2.7 million animals enter UK animal shelters each year. Discuss some of the possible reasons animals might enter shelters/rescues.
- Think about the pros and cons of caring for a pet. Do you think you will care for your own pet in the future?

Reflection

Animal shelters and rescues provide a temporary home for lost, abandoned, or unwanted animals. Their main aim is to care for the animals until they can find them a suitable home.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Find out about local animal shelters or rescues. Write a letter or email to one or more of them to find out more about what they do. You could use the following structure:

- Opening paragraph – explain why you are writing.
- Paragraph 2 – share some information about your experience of animals and pets.
- Paragraph 3 – what would you like to know about the shelter/rescue?
- Conclusion – thank them for their work. You could even invite them to school to share more about what they do!

Option 2

Pet population maths! Answer the following questions, which use statistics from PDSA's 2022 findings:

- Record the following percentages as fractions and decimal fractions:
52% of UK adults own a pet
27% of UK adults have a dog
24% of UK adults have a cat
- How does the percentage of dog owners compare with the percentage of cat owners?
- Write the following pet population estimations in words and digits:
Dog population – 10.2 million
Cat population – 11.1 million
Rabbit population – 1 million

Challenge – can you find out the percentage of cat and dog owners in your class? How does this compare with the national statistics?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Choose a pet and find out the following information:

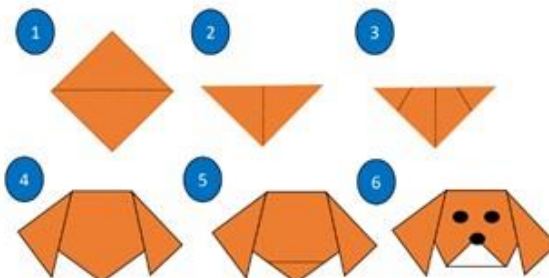
- What does it eat?
- Where does it live? E.g., a cage, a tank, freely in your home.
- Does it like company?
- What does it enjoy doing?

Use the information to create your own pet fact file! Make sure you include a picture of the pet too.

Option 2

Create some pet origami! You could use the instructions below to help you create a dog. Think about:

- What shape does the paper need to be?
- How will you make sure you fold it carefully?
- Do the ears need to match perfectly or might one be slightly different from the other?
- What colour will your origami dog be?
- Will you give it a nose, mouth and eyes?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/business-63071930

This week's useful video

Dogs4Rescue Charity
www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEViRs7bFJo

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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