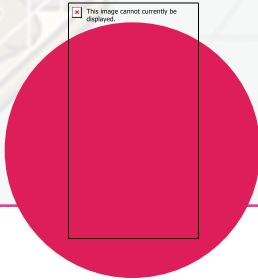


# How to Look after Pets

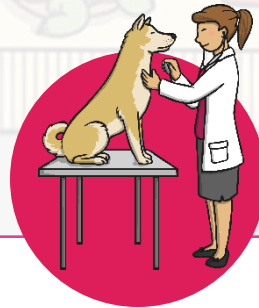


# What Is a Pet?

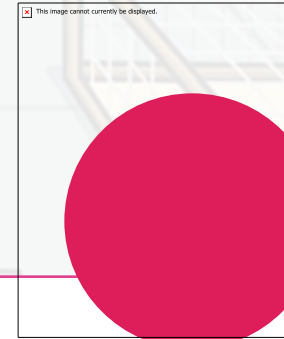
A pet is an animal or creature which we are responsible for looking after.  
That means we need to:



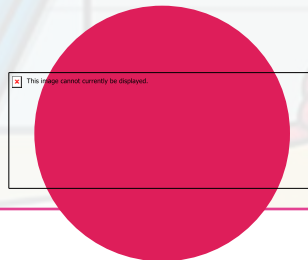
feed it



keep it healthy



make sure it is safe



give it somewhere  
suitable to live



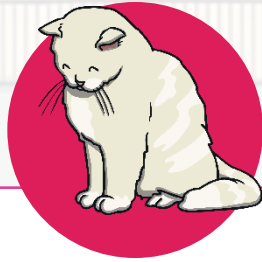
clean their living area

# Types of Pet

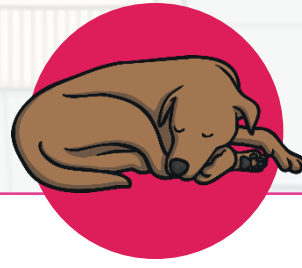
There are many different types of pet. Do you have any of these pets?



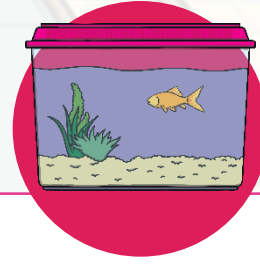
horse



cat



dog



fish



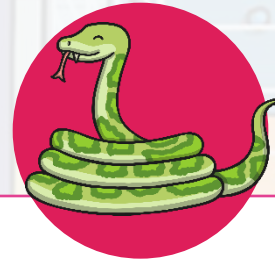
bearded dragon



rabbit



guinea pigs




corn snake




# Looking after Pets

Different pets have different needs.  
Before you have a pet, you need to know how to look after it properly.



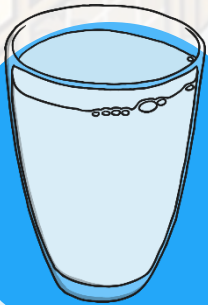
What  
information do  
you need to  
find out?



Lets find  
out some  
information  
together.

# Cats

Many cats like to be able to go in and out when they choose to. Some cats are indoor cats, which means they never go outside.



They need food in the morning and at teatime. Fresh water needs to be available every day.



They should only eat food especially made for cats. They should not be given too many treats because if they get too fat they can become very poorly.

# Cats



Cats like different places to sleep, such as chairs, window ledges and the end of a bed. Sometimes they like to lie on your lap.



Some cats like to be picked up but some cats don't. They are scared of water so they should never be put in the bath or a paddling pool.

Did you know...?

Cats often like to play. They need to practise their chasing skills. They also need to be able to scratch as this strengthens their backs and claws. They purr when they are happy, but beware if they flick their tails!

# Dogs

All dogs need a daily walk. Some need long walks twice a day, others need only short ones.



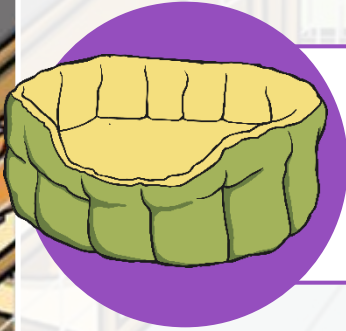
They need food in the morning and at teatime. Fresh water needs to be available all the time. They should really only eat food made just for dogs. They should not have too many treats because if they get fat they can become very poorly and they won't be able to exercise.



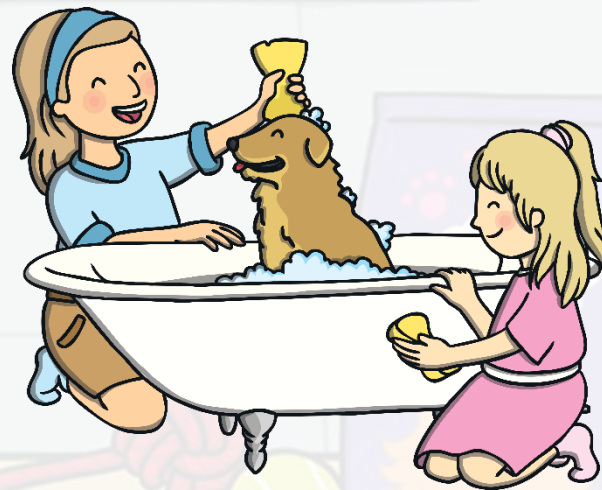
Dogs are often very playful and like to have balls or sticks thrown for them to fetch. They are often friendly and like company. They should not be left on their own for too long or else they might get into mischief!



# Dogs



Dogs need their own place to sleep. It is a good idea to give them their own dog mat or bed, in a space where they can feel comfortable.



Did you know...?

Dogs come in all different shapes and sizes so they have different needs. Some need a lot of grooming to stop their fur getting tangled up.



# Rabbits

Some rabbits live indoors and some live outdoors.

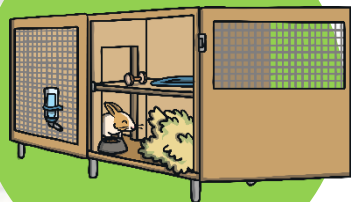


Rabbits need food and water to be available all day. They eat special pellets and raw green vegetables.



Rabbits like to have company so it is a good idea to have two rabbits, as long as they get along!

# Rabbits



Rabbits need a dry place to live with enough space to be able to exercise. If they do not have enough space, they can become very miserable. If they are playing outside, make sure they are safe, can't escape and have places to hide. Their hutches need cleaning out regularly.



Rabbits need clean, fresh hay or straw to sleep on and a separate area to go to the toilet.

Did you know...?

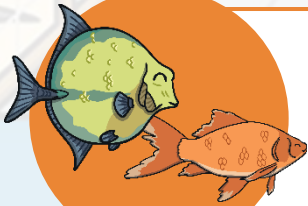
Rabbits need to be picked up and stroked very carefully. Their teeth carry on growing so they need to be able to chew straw and hay to keep their teeth the right length.

# Fish

Different types of fish have very different needs.



Aquarium fish need to live in large tanks. The water needs to be filtered and the right temperature so that the fish stay healthy.



Some fish do not get along with each other and can fight. If you have some fish you need to watch them carefully and notice if there are any injuries.



Fish need special food. Some fish need the food to sink to the bottom and others need the food to float on the top of the water.

Did you know...?

Fish need plants in their tank. They use them to hide in and for shelter.



# Guinea Pigs

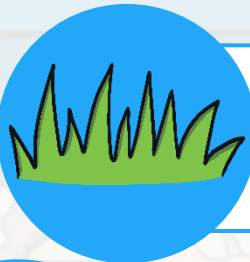
Guinea pigs originally come from the grasslands of South America.



Guinea pigs like to have company so it is a good idea to have two or more. Sometimes, guinea pigs can bully each other so make sure they get along well.



Guinea pigs live in hutches. They are active animals who need space to exercise. They can run in the garden as long as they are kept safe. They also like to explore.



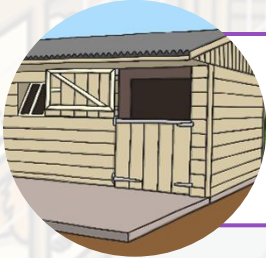
Guinea pigs need to eat a lot of grass and hay. They cannot store vitamin C so they have to eat a lot of it. It is found in many vegetables.

Did you  
know...?

Guinea pigs 'talk' to each other using a lot of different sounds.

# Horses

Horses need a lot of care and attention.



Horses need to live in a stable. The stable should be covered with dust-free straw on the ground and cleaned out regularly. Horses also need to be able to go out into a paddock for daily exercise.



Horses need to have fresh water and special feed available all day. They need to be able to graze on grass as often as possible too.



Horses like to be given rewards and to hear nice words. They should not be shouted at or punished. They can get bored and unhappy so make sure you spend time with them.

Did you know...?

Horses should not be given too many apples as they can make them poorly.

# Caring for Animals

Animals need a lot of care. Once we have a pet to look after, we are responsible for it being healthy and happy.

Remember to:

- Always wash your hands when you have handled a pet. They have germs on their bodies which can make people very poorly.
- Always use special cleaning products when you clean out an animal's habitat.
- If your pet starts behaving in a different way or stops eating or drinking, take your pet to the vet as soon as you can.
- Enjoy looking after your pet!

