

FLUFFY FRIENDS

PET CARE and SHELTER
from Pet Care Specialists

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My ten-year-old daughter wants a **dog**. But that's a big responsibility. What's the best choice for her first pet?

A: You might consider a less demanding **pet**. A **cat** takes less work, but still needs a lot of attention. Other **warm-blooded mammals**, like **rodents**, require significantly less care and caged animals create less mess around the house.

Non-mammals are also easy to care for. But they offer less interaction. For instance, you generally cannot touch **aquatic** animals like **fish**. However, caring for them still teaches responsibility. But be careful about **cold-blooded** animals, like **reptiles**. Some are more **dangerous** than they look.

Finally, you might consider a **bird**. If you do, make sure it is not aggressive with people.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What kinds of animals do people keep as pets in your country?
- 2 Why do people keep pets?

Reading

2 Read the FAQs. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 Why is Lisa concerned about getting a dog?
 - A It may be aggressive with people.
 - B It may require too much care.
 - C It may be too expensive.
 - D It may be too messy.
- 2 According to the FAQs, what is NOT true about caged pets?
 - A They require less care than other pets.
 - B Caring for them teaches children responsibility.
 - C They create little mess around the house.
 - D They offer more interaction than other pets.
- 3 According to the columnist, what is true about reptiles?
 - A They could be very difficult to care for.
 - B They could damage the house.
 - C They could be dangerous to people.
 - D They could be expensive to purchase.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1 ___ mammal | 4 ___ fish |
| 2 ___ aquatic | 5 ___ rodent |
| 3 ___ bird | 6 ___ pet |

- A a type of animal that lives in the water and is often kept in tanks
- B living in the water
- C a small animal that is sometimes considered a pest but may also be kept as a pet
- D an animal that someone keeps in his or her house for companionship
- E a type of animal that gives birth to live young
- F an animal with wings that can fly

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word best fits each blank.

1 reptiles / cats

A _____ clean their fur with their tongues.

B Lizards and snakes are _____.

2 cold-blooded / warm-blooded

A A dog is an example of a _____ animal.

B _____ creatures, like snakes have naturally low body temperatures.

3 dogs / mammals

A Cats are _____, so they give birth to live young.

B The street sign instructs pet owners to keep their _____ on a leash.

5 Listen and read the FAQs again. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of rodents as pets?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a pet care specialist and a customer. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 ___ The man plans to purchase a cat.

2 ___ According to the woman, a rodent is an inappropriate pet for the man's son.

3 ___ Next, the speakers will look at the reptiles.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Pet Care Specialist: Hello, how may I 1 _____ you?

Customer: Hi, there. I would like to get my son his 2 _____.

Pet Care Specialist: That is great! What kind of a pet are you 3 _____ in?

Customer: Well, I'm thinking about a rodent. But as I already have a cat, I'm concerned that my cat will eat it!

Pet Care Specialist: As long as you keep the rodent 4 _____, it should be fine.

Customer: I see. Do you think that's the best 5 _____ for a twelve-year-old?

Pet Care Specialist: I think it's appropriate. Another option is a reptile. Lots of kids really like reptiles. They're 6 _____ animals.

Customer: That's a thought. Let's take a look at those.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

What kind of ...?

I'm thinking about ...

Another option is ...

Student A: You are a pet care specialist. Talk to Student B about:

- the type of pet that he/she is considering
- the qualities that he/she is looking for in a pet
- your recommendations

Student B: You are a customer.

Talk to Student A about the qualities that you are looking for in a pet.

Writing

9 Use the webpage and the conversation from Task 8 to complete the brochure.

What Type of Pet is Best for You?

Dogs: Many people like dogs because

and _____.

On the other hand, _____.

_____.

Cats: One advantage of cats is that

_____.

Nonetheless, _____.

Rodents: Rodents are _____.

_____.

However, _____.

_____.

canary [N-COUNT-U14] A **canary** is a small finch that is commonly kept as a pet and is known for its singing. Many canaries are yellow.

canine [N-COUNT-U3] A **canine** is a dog. “Canine” is often used formally.

canister [N-COUNT-U6] A **canister** is a large container that is used to store things, such as food.

canned food [N-UNCOUNT-U6] **Canned food**, sometimes called wet food, is pet food with a soft, wet consistency and is sold in a can.

captivity [N-UNCOUNT-U15] **Captivity** is the state of being trapped or held somewhere without being able to leave.

carrier [N-COUNT-U4] A **carrier** is a special box that is used to safely move a pet from one location to another.

cat [N-COUNT-U1] A **cat** is an animal with sharp claws that is often kept as a pet or to control rodents.

cat condo [N-COUNT-U8] A **cat condo** is a structure with an enclosed space that is designed for a cat to crawl into.

cat tree [N-COUNT-U8] A **cat tree** is a structure that is designed for a cat to climb on.

catnip [N-UNCOUNT-U9] **Catnip** is a plant with a smell that attracts and excites cats.

change [V-T-U2] To **change** something is to replace it with something newer and cleaner.

chew toy [N-COUNT-U9] A **chew toy** is a durable toy that is designed for a pet to bite repeatedly.

chew-proof [ADJ-U10] If something is **chew-proof**, it will not be destroyed by sharp teeth.

coat [N-COUNT-U3] A **coat**, or fur, is the hair that covers certain types of animals, such as dogs and cats.

cold-blooded [ADJ-U1] If an animal is **cold-blooded**, it changes its body temperature to adapt to the environment. Reptiles and fish are cold-blooded.

collapsible [ADJ-U6] If something is **collapsible**, it can be folded into a smaller size.

collar [N-COUNT-U4] A **collar** is a strip of fabric or leather that is used to attach an ID tag to a pet’s neck.

crate [N-COUNT-U7] A **crate**, or kennel, is a type of plastic, metal, or wire container that a dog sleeps in or is transported in.

dangerous [ADJ-U15] If something is **dangerous**, it is capable of causing harm.

deadly [ADJ-U15] If something is **deadly**, it is capable of killing a person or another living thing.

diaper [N-COUNT-U7] A **diaper** is a piece of soft cloth that wraps around a dog’s waist and between its legs. It is used for liquid and solid waste.

disposable [ADJ-U14] If a product or material is **disposable**, it is designed to be used only once and then be thrown away.

dog [N-COUNT-U1] A **dog** is an animal that is often kept as a pet, to guard buildings or to hunt.

doghouse [N-COUNT-U7] A **doghouse** is a small outdoor structure where a dog can sleep or take shelter.

domestic [ADJ-U15] If an animal is **domestic**, it is commonly kept as a pet and is well suited to life with humans.

electronic collar [N-COUNT-U4] An **electronic collar** is a type of collar that gives off noise or electric shocks to control a pet’s behavior.

eliminate [V-T-U13] To **eliminate** something is to take it out or remove it.

exact [ADJ-U13] If something is **exact**, it is correct and accurate.

exotic [ADJ-U15] If something is **exotic**, it is unusual or foreign.

expansion kit [N-COUNT-U10] An **expansion kit** is used to add additional space, such as a tunnel, to a rodent’s cage.

feather [N-COUNT-U9] A **feather** is a lightweight object that grows on a bird.

feed [V-T-U2] To **feed** an animal is to give it food.

feeder [N-COUNT-U6] A **feeder** is a device that supplies food to an animal.

feline [N-COUNT-U3] A **feline** is any animal that comes from the cat family.

fetch toy [N-COUNT-U9] A **fetch toy** is a toy that someone throws in order for a pet to retrieve.

filter [N-COUNT-U13] A **filter** is a machine that cleans the water in a fish tank.

filter [V-T-U6] To **filter** something is to remove unwanted substances or impurities from it.

finch [N-COUNT-U14] A **finch** is a small, colorful bird that eats seeds.