

**DIALOGUE
WORKS**

HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Issue 35 – Pets

compiled by Topsy Page www.topsypage.com



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Note to parents/carers and teachers

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week
message bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk

This week's focus is pets

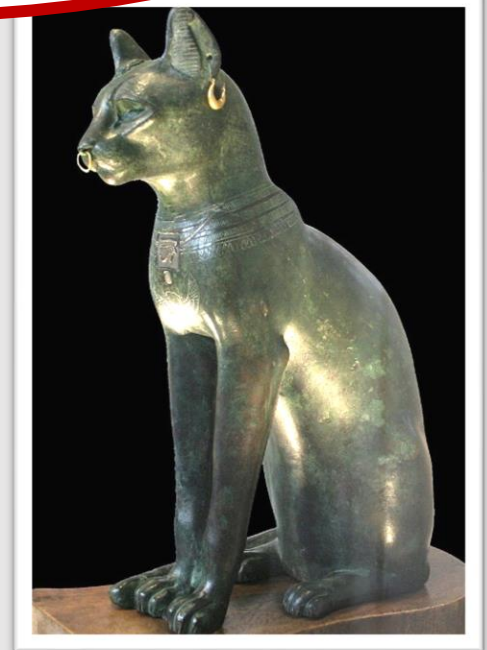
Ah, well, people can be stupid about their pets, said Hagrid wisely.

J.K. Rowling, in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*



Cats in Ancient Egypt were prized not only for their company ... they kept the home clear of unwanted visitors such as rats and snakes.

Joshua Mark
historian



There are so many charitable institutions for human beings, but so few for animals.

Captain V. Sundaram
founder of the Blue Cross of India
(animal welfare charity)

Thinking about pets

Caring thinking

If you had a pet, how would you make sure it was ok?

Collaborative thinking

Can you collaborate with a pet animal? How?



Creative thinking

Can you think of a list of questions that would help someone decide whether to get a pet?

Critical thinking

Are there some people who shouldn't keep pets?

Do I have any happy memories of pets – in real life or in videos?

When I'm grown up, do I want a pet?

What do all pets have in common?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

CONNECT



DIVIDE

LISTEN/LOOK

ZOOM (in/out)

What are the differences between pets and friends?

What signs can we look for to understand how an animal is feeling?

What sort of daily routines do pets need?

Why did humans start keeping pets?

Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/FOLP8p0jSoA>

What do pets need? Information from the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

Talking Points

- What different pets did you see in the video?
- Do you know anyone who has a pet? How do they look after it?
- Do you think all pets are happy?
- Having a pet – good idea / bad idea?

Activity

- Think about a real pet you know, or an imaginary one.
- Draw some pictures to show how you would look after it.

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/KpEFfI3E2OM>

TheraPaws: Marley is a therapy dog helping people who have dementia.

Talking Points

- What is dementia? Do you know anyone who has it?
- What was special about Marley that helped people feel better?
- Can pets help people in any other ways?
- Do pets always make people feel better?

Activity

- Try to find some information about the history of humans and dogs working together. Do a little presentation about it for your family.
- You could search for 'What jobs can dogs do?'
- You could also look up 'domestication of dogs'.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/Om3VOTZvIOk>

People who keep some very BIG animals as pets...

Talking Points

- Why do you think the people in the video had these types of pets?
- What are some of the challenges they might have had?
- Would you like to swap places with the people in the video?
- Is it ok to keep wild animals as pets?

Activities

Write down some similarities and differences between wild animals and pets.

Try to estimate how much it would cost to feed a large animal like the ones in the video. How much per day? How much per year?

[➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions](#)

[➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children](#)

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