

Which Pet is right for me?

Suitable for KS1

Main welfare aims:

To understand the basic needs of a pet and that every pet needs time spent on its care.

Curriculum links:

PSHE and citizenship aspects of the primary national curriculum

Resources:

- Pictures of animals
- Sheets of A3 paper
- Coloured pencils

Introduction

Ask the children who has a pet. Ask them to discuss how they look after their pet. Explain that every pet is different and will need different types of care and that not every type of pet will be suitable for you depending on where you live and how much time you have.

Emphasise that all pets will need different amounts of time spent on them depending on what sort of care they need. If you don't spend enough time with your pet, this could mean you aren't giving them the right amount of care that they need. This is why it is important that we understand how much time a pet will need from us before we get one. Ask them if they were to get a pet right now what would they get? We are going to come back to this later.

Main:

Task: In small groups, give the children a picture of either a rabbit, dog, cat or horse on an A3 sheet.

Ask them to draw or write down the things around that picture that they will need to do to make sure that the pet is healthy and happy. They need to think about all of the things an animal needs such as food and water, cleaning and playing with the pet, exercise and making trips to the vets or to the shops.

When they have done this ask them to choose:

- **Something they need to do every day for their pet**
- **Something they will need to do occasionally for their pet**
- **Something that will take the longest amount of time to do**

Plenary:

Share posters as a class and share ideas. Discuss how long some things might take to do and how much time each pet will need. Discuss how they are all different and need different amount of time and care.

Now ask the children to order the pets depending on how much time they think each pet might need. Talk about why one pet might need more time than another (particularly dogs and horses).

Ask the children again which pet they would like if they could have one. Have they changed their minds since the start of the session? Is there anything that might stop them looking after a pet properly, or giving it all of the time it needs? For example, are they busy with clubs or do they go on holiday a lot?

