



How to have a happy pet

This activity is suitable for five to eight-year-olds and relates to the 'animals including humans' programme of study taught in science. All of the resources needed are attached below.

Activity

1. Sitting with your child(ren), ask them what they think they need to be happy and healthy. Write their suggestions down. As a bare minimum there needs to be:
 - a. food and water
 - b. shelter
 - c. medicine
 - d. company
 - e. something to do/keep you interested/exercise
1. Looking at their list, is there anything on there that is just a want? Get rid of those things or make them more general. (For example, if they have put 'crisps' turn that into 'food' instead.)
2. Using a picture of an animal, check to see if they have the same needs as humans. (A mammal will be the most likely to have very similar needs to us so use a pet mammal picture if possible.) You will find that their basic needs are virtually identical to ours. That is because we are all animals, it's just humans are very clever animals.
3. Explain that pet animals can't get what they need for themselves like wild animals can. They depend on us for all of those needs, which means that we need to buy everything they need to be happy and healthy, and we need to know what it is that we need to buy!

Pets change lives
We change theirs

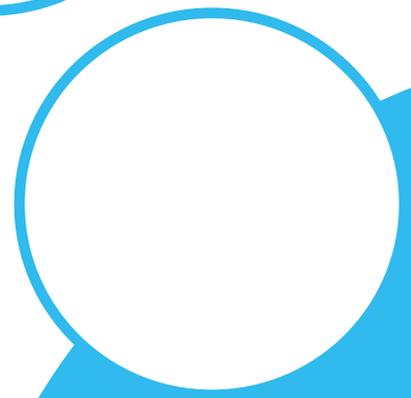
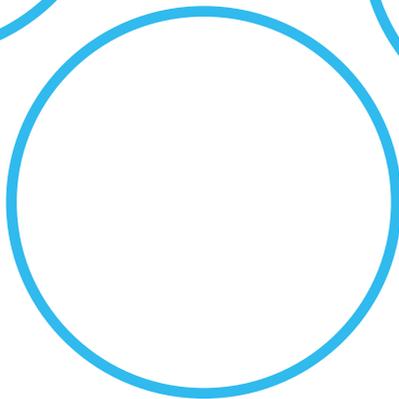
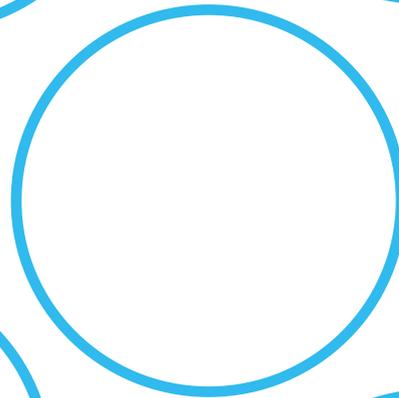
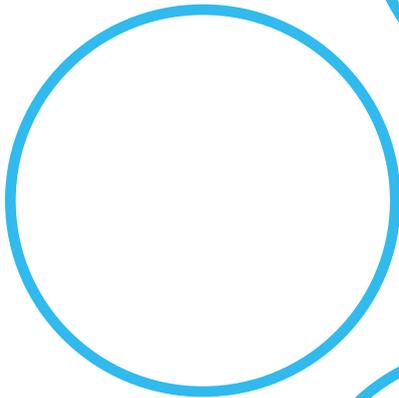
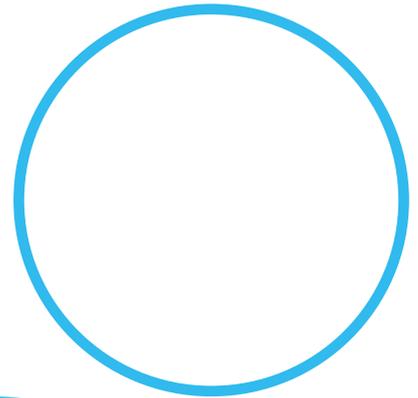
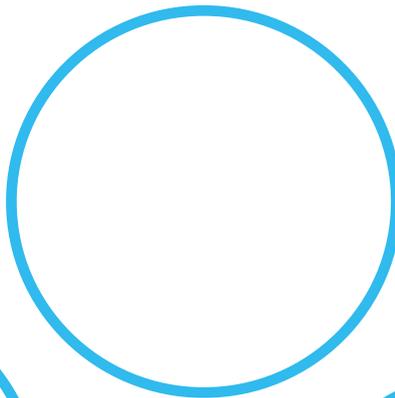
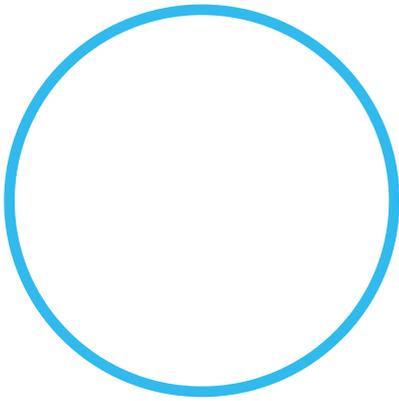


4. Choose one of the three animals on the sheets below. Think about their basic needs and draw in each circle something you might need to buy that pet to keep them happy and healthy. You might need to look them up online to find out more information about them. A good place to start is on our website on the advice pages:

bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice

A new dog

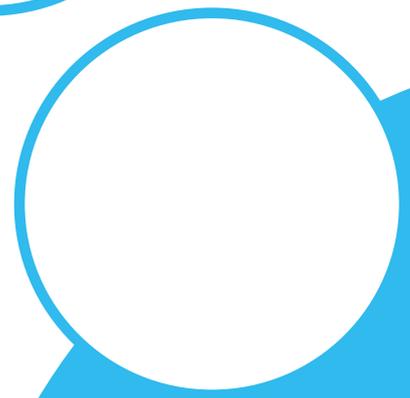
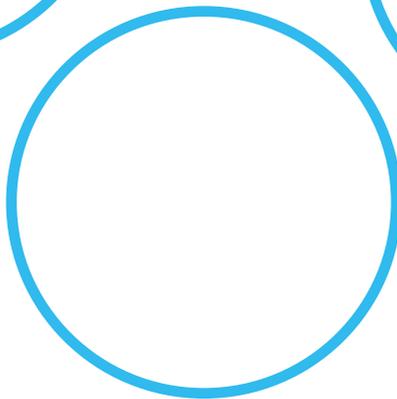
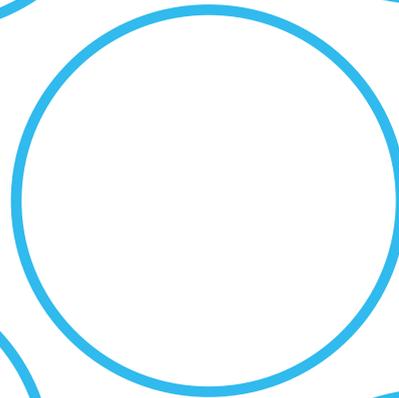
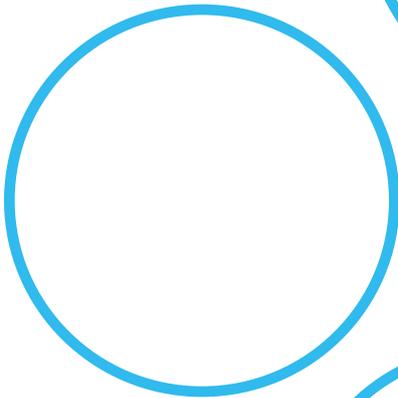
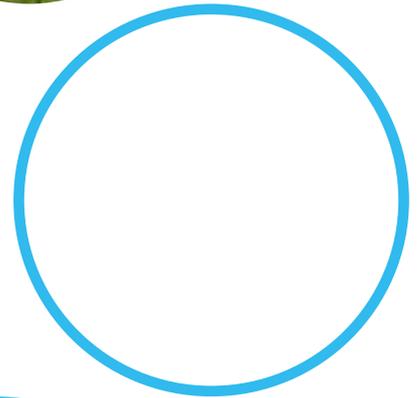
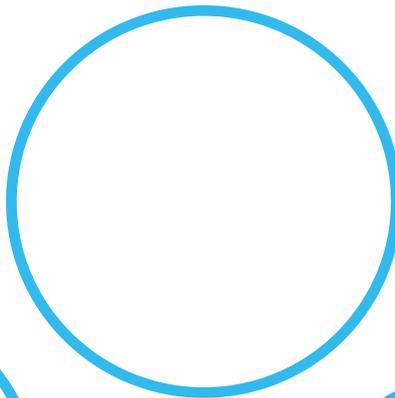
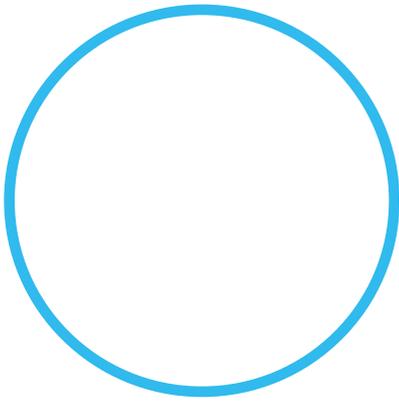
In each circle, draw an item that you would need to buy for Dooby the dog to help keep him happy and healthy.



Name

A new rabbit

In each circle, draw an item that you would need to buy for Reggie the rabbit to help keep him happy and healthy.



Name

A new gerbil

In each circle, draw an item that you would need to buy for George the gerbil to help keep him happy and healthy.



Seven empty circles arranged in a loose pattern, intended for drawing items needed for a gerbil.

Name