**PETS**

**Vocabulary:**

**1.allergic:**  The sound a cat makes.
**2.bark:** A strap around an animal’s neck that is used to attach a lead.
**3.breed:** The sound a dog makes.
**4.collar:** An animal that has cold blood, such as a snake, gecko or lizard.

**5.feathers:** The long strong hairs growing from an animal’s cheeks.
**6.fetch:** A reaction to something that often includes sneezing.

**7.kennel:** The specific type of animal, e.g. there are many different breeds of dog.

**8.lead / leash:** The rope or other material used to stop an animal running away, normally a dog
**9.meow:** The covering of a bird’s body.
**10.reptile:** A game to play with a dog where the person throws something and the dog brings it back.
**11.scales:** To use a hand to play with an animal’s fur.
**12.stroke(Br)/pet (US)** Special food for an animal.
**13.treats:** A small house for a dog.
**14.wag:** The hard covering found on some reptiles such as snakes.

**15.whiskers:**  To move a tail from side to side.

Do you have, or have you ever had, any pets? What are/were they? What are/were they like? How do/did you take care of them? If not, why not?

Why do you think people keep pets?

Is it wrong to spend money on pets and pet food when so many people are starving?

Do you like visiting pet shops?

Sometimes people claim that pets give people psychological or physical help. What is your opinion?

Have you ever had any negative experience with a pet or animals in general?

Think of the positive and negative aspects of owning the following pets: *a parrot, a goldfish, a rabbit, a large non-poisonous snake, a small poisonous snake, a large exotic spider, or a white rat.*

Do you think that dogs should usually sleep inside or outside?

Would you have a pet if you lived in a small flat?

Why do some people prefer pets to children?

What do you think of the idea of virtual pets, like Tamagotchi?

Should all dogs have to wear muzzles? At all times? Why/why not?

Should people be legally obliged to clean up their dog's mess in the street? Are they?

There are occasional news reports about dangerous dogs attacking people. What could be done to prevent this?

What should be done if somebody is attacked by a dog? Should the dog be killed? Should the owner be fined or sent to prison? Why/why not?

Some people say there are no dangerous dogs - only dangerous owners. What is your opinion?

Do dogs and their owners start to look like each other?

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|  | **Cats are better because…** | **Dogs are better because…** |
| Hunting |  |  |
| Obeying humans |  |  |
| Working |  |  |
| Recognising people |  |  |
| Helping people |  |  |
| Being cute |  |  |

**Reading 1**: People usually think dogs are more intelligent than cats. Researchers at Japan's Kyoto University questioned this idea. They found cats were as smart as dogs at certain memory tests. Cat lovers have always known this. They looked at how well 49 cats could recall a past event. This is called episodic memory. The cats ate from different bowls. The team found that after a 15-minute break, the cats could recall what bowl they had eaten from.

The cats were as good as dogs in responding to gestures and facial expressions. A researcher said cats think about past events similar to the way we do. She said: "They may enjoy actively recalling memories of their experience, like humans." She said episodic memory is a form of introspective or deeper thinking. The research may suggest a type of consciousness in cats. Understanding cats more will help to establish better cat-human relationships.

**Reading 2:** A couple in England could lose their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple’s house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I do. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

**Reading 3:** We are already a nation of dog lovers. However the UK’s love for their pets is evolving into obsession as they are becoming more than family pets but one of the latest fashion accessories. The recent trend, mainly in female celebrities, is to take your dog with you everywhere in your handbag whether you are going shopping or out to dinner. Her Majesty the Queen is famous for her corgis but these days you are just as likely to see singers Geri Halliwell and Cheryl Tweedy travelling with their dogs.

High street shops like Next and Top Shop are making money out of the trend by selling items of dog clothing alongside their women’s collections. They are entering the ‘dog clothing’ market by making it easy to buy for your dog while buying for yourself. There is no need to shop online at one of the dedicated dog clothing websites or go to a specialist shop dog-fashion is now out in the open.

And people are not just pampering their pets with the latest clothes and accessories. More people are taking their pets away with them for holidays. UK hotels and holiday parks are catering for the animal lover by allowing people to holiday with them. If you are travelling abroad you could leave them at a doggie retreat or spa where they will be pampered.

**Rearrange the underlined words:** Everyone needs a pet. cool look an really to after It’s animal of some kind, or even a bird or insect. I’ve always had pets. When I grew up, we had three dogs, five cats, loads and tortoise a rabbits of. I lost count of the number of rabbits we had. important really are Pets kids for. Looking after pet the responsibility a teaches child. It’s cute the children with at way play looking their pets. much so have to seem always They fun. I wonder if pets like being pets. I think if I were a dog, it’d be a good life to be a pet. I get all my food given to me, I have somewhere warm dry get to to sleep run and and I and play lots. I suppose if you had a bad owner, that wouldn’t be good. One unusual day pet I like want a an tarantula or a scorpion.

**What do you think of the following statements?**

It’s cruel to keep dogs in flats.

Cats can’t be owned - they just tolerate people.

Dogs should be banned from city centres.

Dog owners who don’t clean up their animals’ excrement should be fined.

Cats can be ‘man’s best friend’.

Dogs that wear clothes look ridiculous!

Dangerous dogs shouldn’t be kept as pets.

**Translate:**

Chtěl bych si koupit psa, ale nemohl bych se o něj starat.

Ještě nikdy jsem se nedotkl hada.

Bojím se zvířat, které mají vice než čtyři nohy.

V naší zemi je čím dál tím vice lidí, kteří mají nějaké domácí zvíře.

Psi do parku nesmějí.

Náš pes velmi často žvýkal maminčiny boty, což ji přivádělo k šílenství.