

AVA Pet Workbook Teacher's Guide

Chapter 2: Before getting a pet....

Why do you want a pet?

Answers

1. 58, Right
2. 191, Wrong
3. 49, Wrong
4. 11, Wrong
5. 129, Wrong
6. 11, Wrong
7. 63, Wrong
8. 108, Right

The Tale of the Terrapin

Learning Objectives	
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Understanding a story✔ Grammar✔ Vocabulary	Animal Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Pets need regular care; pets fall sick without proper care✔ One needs to learn more about pets before acquiring them✔ Pets need to be taken to the veterinarian when sick✔ Pets are for life

Suggested Answers

A1: At first, they fed the terrapins, changed the tank water once a week and played with them often.

A2: Sam and Tina were tired/bored of them and taking care of them was hard work.

A3: No, it is wrong for owners to abandon unwanted terrapins because pets should not be treated as garbage/trash that can be thrown away when people do not want them anymore.

Teacher's note for the story: Terrapins are omnivores and need a balanced diet of both plant and animal matter. They also need enough calcium for a healthy shell. A vegetable-only diet will lead to nutritional deficiencies. Commercial terrapin food can be bought from pet shops. In addition, owners can feed terrapins with a mixture of fresh foods such as chopped fresh vegetables, fruit, shrimps, small fish, and lightly cooked meat like chicken. It is important not to overfeed and to remove any unfinished food from the tank or the water will become dirty very quickly.

Terrapins that survive after being abandoned in local ponds may disrupt the ecosystem. So many pet terrapins have been abandoned that in some places local species such as the Malayan Box Turtle have been completely replaced.

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Chapter 3: Choosing a pet

Poor Little Rich Dog

Learning Objectives	
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding a storyGrammarVocabulary	Animal Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Owners should make sure that they have time to care for their pets before getting one.Pets need regular care; pets fall sick or become hurt without proper careOne needs to learn more about pets before acquiring themPets are for life

Suggested Answers

A1: No. They were too busy with other activities to spend much time with Bruno and they became bored of him.

A2: No. Bruno was not a good guard dog because he was too friendly and would try to make friends with strangers.

A3: No. They should not have bought Bruno as they did not have time for him. To protect the house, a security system would have been much better.

Teacher's note:

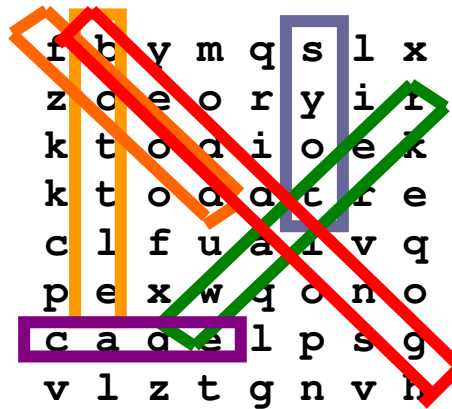
Dogs may be a man's best friends but they also probably pose the greatest liability compared with other pets. Owners may easily break the law out of ignorance or neglect. Amongst other things, dogs in Singapore are required by law to be licensed by AVA. They are also required by law to be on leash outside the house. In addition, the Bull Mastiff, Bull Terrier, Doberman, Rottweiler, German Shepherd Dog and Perro de Presa Canario must be muzzled when in a public area. When out on walks, responsible owners should clean up after their dog's messes

Dogs are highly social animals and owners need to spend time to bond with and train their dogs so that they can enjoy a satisfying relationship with their pet.

Dogs come in all shapes and sizes. Small dogs may require less space, but can be highly active, requiring lots of attention from the owner. Big or small, a bored dog may destroy property, bark excessively and become unmanageable. It goes without saying that large dogs require generous amounts of space for their housing and exercise. They can also cost a lot to feed because of the large amount they eat.

Dogs have incredible strength for their size. Large dogs can easily overpower a person. It is therefore vital for every dog owner to be able to control his or her dog. Training could go a long way toward achieving that end.

Your Rabbit Needs Things Too Learning Aims	
Science 🐾 Needs of a living thing and consequences of not providing them 🐾 Herbivore digestion	Animal Welfare: 🐾 Owners should make sure that they have time to care for their pets before getting one. 🐾 One needs to learn more about pets before acquiring them 🐾 Pets are for life 🐾 Owners need to spend money on their pets 🐾 Rabbit characteristics and care



- ♥ **FOOD & WATER:** Rabbits are herbivores adapted for a high fibre diet, with a long digestive tract and teeth that grow throughout their lives. A good diet would be food pellets, hay (dried timothy hay is preferable) and fresh fruits and vegetables. The wrong diet (e.g. too much vegetables or lack of fibre) can cause stomach upsets or overgrown teeth. Water must be provided at all times.
- ♥ **BOTTLE:** Water can be provided in a dish or bottle. However, if the owner is not available to change the water often, a bottle is preferable.
- ♥ **CAGE:** This should be big enough for the rabbit to move around comfortably and tall enough for it to stand on its hind legs. Cages with wire floorings allow waste to fall through but rabbits' paws may also become stuck, leading to twisted or broken legs. Wire flooring is also known to damage the skin of rabbits' feet causing sore hocks.
- ♥ **BEDDING:** Cages with solid flooring will need suitable bedding. Bedding materials that contain harmful chemicals or that are too fine or dusty are not suitable.
- ♥ **TOYS:** Rabbits are curious animals. They can move objects around or pick them up with their teeth and throw them.
- ♥ **OTHERS:** Other items include a brush or other grooming equipment. If the rabbit has long fur, such as the angora or cashmere rabbit, it will need to be brushed every day. Nail clippers keep nails short and blunt. Some rabbits can be trained to use a litter box. Owners need to be patient and spend time to train and understand their rabbits.

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Chapter 4: Caring for a Pet

Cookie the Syrian hamster

Learning Objectives	
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding a storyGrammarVocabulary	Animal Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">One needs to learn more about pets before acquiring themBreeding pets leads to more abandoned animalsPets are for life

Suggested Answers:

A1: The owner did not spend much time with his hamsters and did not care what happened to them after he left them at the pet shop.

A2: They fed Cookie the wrong type of food and they put another hamster in with Cookie without finding out whether they should be doing so.

A3: They were tired and bored of the hamsters and eight hamsters were too many to handle.



Optional questions: Below are brief answers, teachers may choose to elaborate with more information.

A very small number of unwanted pets that are left at animal shelters are adopted. Pet owners should have the intention of keeping their pets for life. If owners really cannot take care of their pets anymore, they can try to find a home with relatives or friends, or surrender them at AVA instead of releasing them outdoors. Released pets may likely wander the streets as strays, do not survive by themselves (especially small pets) or are put down when caught by pest control companies.

There are many stray animals and abandoned pets in need of homes. This means that owners who breed their pets may not be able to find good homes for their pets' offspring. Hamsters have an average of 7-10 babies per litter and it is usually difficult to find that many good new homes. It is thus better not to breed pets.

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Chapter 4: Caring for a Pet

Nutty the Chinchilla

Learning Aims	
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Spelling✔ Vocabulary	Animal Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Pets need to be cared for all the time, including holidays✔ Chinchilla characteristics and care✔ Sick pets need to be brought to a veterinarian✔ Pets are for life

Answers

1. water
2. day
3. raisins
4. many
5. vegetables
6. small
7. gentle
8. Never
9. fan
10. ears
11. bathe
12. fur
13. cage
14. sick
15. veterinarian

Teacher's Note

Chinchillas are grouped under the Rodent family, which includes hamsters and mice. They originate from the Andes mountains in South America. They were originally bred for their soft dense fur that was made into clothing. Sadly, one will need one hundred chinchillas to make just one fur coat. The thick fur is necessary for their survival in the cold mountain climate and they do not withstand temperatures above 25°C well. For this reason, a chinchilla owner must provide a suitable environment for their chinchilla or they could see their pet balding, fainting or dying in our warm climate.

Chinchillas are herbivores and should be fed a diet of hay (dried timothy grass is preferable), a complete mix/pellet and small amounts of fruit and vegetables.

Chinchillas are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES is an international agreement that protects endangered animals. Animals are classified under Appendices by CITES. Appendix I animals, such as the chinchilla, are considered to be highly endangered.



Hay is very important for proper digestion in chinchillas. Tiny amounts of seeds, fruit and vegetables may also be given.

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Chapter 5: Stray Animals

Learning Objectives	
English ✔ Understanding a passage	Animal Welfare: ✔ Pet animals become strays when released – never abandon/release ✔ Stray animals suffer and may be put down ✔ Everyone can play a part to stop the killing

Answers

1. b
2. b
3. d
4. b
5. d
6. b
7. d

Teacher's Note:

If a pet owner does not want his/her pet to breed, he/she can have the pet sterilised to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Both male and female animals can be sterilised. After sterilisation, the animal would be more docile and less likely to wander or become a nuisance. They are also healthier because they would not be at risk of diseases and cancers of the reproductive organs.

If an owner has a pet which they are no longer able to keep, he/she can contact the Animal Control & Pet Licensing Branch, AVA at Tel: 1800-476 1600, or hand it over at the Centre for Animal Welfare and Control, 75 Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 118507. The public may also engage the services of pest control companies to remove stray animals from their premises.

More information on sterilisation and other topics can be obtained from CAWC. All pamphlets, including the "How to Take Care of Pets" booklet are also available online at <http://www.ava.gov.sg/aweb>.



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Chapter 6: The joys of owning a Pet

Three Lucky Cats

Learning Objectives	
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding a story• Grammar• Vocabulary	Animal Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pets can be of benefit to their owners• Pets can fulfill the needs of people• Pets should be properly identified so that their owners can be traced• Pets are for life

Suggested Answers

A1: Mary-Ann was a good owner. She gave her cats a good home, toys to play with and food made especially for cats. She made sure that her cats were clearly identified.

A2: She enjoyed spending time with them. Playing with the cats and doing things for the cats provided exercise for Mary-Ann. When she felt tired or tense after work, being with the cats cheered her up and helped her to relax.

A3: The microchip holds information that can help return a lost cat to its owner.

Teacher's Note:

Pets can help people in many ways and have been used in hospitals, homes for the elderly, prisons, children's homes and disaster areas. Therapy using pets is called "Pet Assisted Therapy".

Cats sleep most of the time and it is not necessary to allow them outdoors. Doing so can actually be considered irresponsible. This is because they can get seriously injured through fights, diseases, accidents and abuse or become lost. Lost pets impounded in dog pounds that are not claimed are likely to be put down. Owners need to realise these dangers and protect their pets by confining them indoors. Free roaming cats also may cause nuisance by defecating in neighbours' premises or damaging property.

Pets that are found by AVA will be scanned for the presence of a microchip. With the information in the microchip, the owner can be traced and the pet returned. Microchips can also settle disputes over ownership of pets in cases of alleged theft.