

Let's Talk About...

All About Pets



Pets can be a great source of love, companionship, and entertainment. From cats and dogs, to birds and fish, animals of all shapes and sizes fill our homes and our hearts. Their fun personalities and adorable appearances make them a popular addition to most families.

**What animal do you think
makes the best pet?**

Cat?

Dog?

Fish?

Hamster?

Horse?

Something else?

There are over 90 million cats in the U.S., making them the most popular pet in America. Although often sassy and independent, cats can also be cuddly and attention-seeking. When cats aren't sleeping, you will often find them licking their coat or eating.



Most cats love to sit and watch birds fly by. Do you enjoy bird watching? Why or why not?

Domestic cats love to play. This is especially true with kittens who love to chase toys and play fight. Play-fighting among kittens is a way for them to practice and learn skills for hunting and fighting. Cats also have excellent hearing and a powerful sense of smell.

Dogs are the next most popular pet, with close to 80 million of them in the U.S. Unlike other pets, dogs can go on hikes, ride on kayaks, and play at the park. This is why many dog-lovers say dogs make the best companions and are man's best friend.



This puppy has tired itself playing. Would you rather have a younger or older animal as a pet? Why?

**There is a constant debate
about whether dogs or cats
make better pets.**

**Are you more of a dog-
lover or a cat-lover?**

Why?

You may be surprised to know that fish are the third most popular pet! Owners say taking care of fish is a fun and easy hobby and that they make attractive home décor. Freshwater fish like bettas, guppies, and goldfish make great home aquarium pets.

Reptiles such as lizards, snakes, and turtles are also common pets. In general, reptiles require less daily care and exercise than other pets. However, they require special skills to care for properly. Proper heating and lighting are crucial to keeping a healthy pet reptile.



Many people keep Leopard Geckos like this as a pet. Would you like to have one? Why or why not?

A turtle can be a terrific pet for people who want a very fascinating animal to look at and appreciate.

Turtles can live for decades and often outlive their original owners. They are often passed from generation to generation within families.

**Should children be given
the responsibility of taking
care of a pet?
Why or why not?**

Rodents like guinea pigs, hamsters, and rats are also common pets. Their small size and affordability make them popular choices, especially for homes with children. Most rodents are herbivores and eat plants, nuts, and seeds. Rodents are also very smart, and rats can even learn tricks!



Guinea pigs are social pets and prefer to be in pairs or groups. Would you say you are a social butterfly?

Rabbits make great indoor pets. They are adorable and full of personality! The location of their housing area within your home is key because they need social interaction. Bunnies also need a lot of exercise and plenty of enrichment activities. They love to dig, climb, chew, and even play games with their owners!



Many rabbit owners make homemade toys for their pet. Would you like to make your own pet toys?

Bird owners mainly enjoy their pets because they are fun to watch and are an interesting conversation piece. One of the most popular pet bird species in the world are budgies, also known as parakeets. When properly tamed and cared for, budgies make friendly and affectionate pets.

On top of being small and easy to care for, budgies take well to training and can learn to perform many fun bird tricks. Best of all, budgies have the ability to learn to talk. They delight people of all ages with their cute and comical voices.



Budgies can learn how to talk. Would you enjoy teaching a bird to talk?

Some people even keep horses as pets. These pets are beautiful and fun to be around but are expensive to care for and maintain. At a minimum, one horse can cost their owner around 3,000 dollars a year!

**Would you enjoy riding on
a horse?**

Why or why not?

There are also many health benefits to owning a pet. Pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owners. They also decrease blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels. Pets can also increase opportunities for socialization, exercise, and outdoor activities.

Whether furry or scaly, big or small, pets provide their owners with company and joy. Animals have become a staple part of households around the world and are a great addition to families. It is no surprise that over 80 million families own a pet! That is a lot of animal love!

**This completes our story
and discussion.**

***Would you like to do this
again sometime?***



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