



Teacher Resource

Pet Ownership

Focus Questions

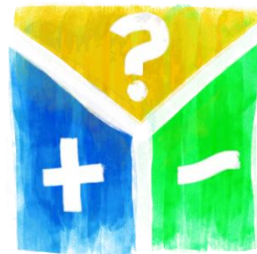
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Before watching this story, predict what you think the BTN Pet Ownership story will be about?
2. Why are more people surrendering their pets? Give 1 example.
3. What are some things you need to think about before getting a pet?
4. Has the number of people surrendering their pets increased or decreased?
5. What was surprising about this story?

Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Pet Ownership story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Activity: Class Discussion

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions after watching the BTN story:

- Do you own a pet (or have ever owned a pet)? What sort of pet?
- What are some positives of owning a pet? What are some negatives or challenges?
- What do pets need to be happy and healthy. Working in small groups, make a list. Share with the class.
- Why have animal welfare charities seen a big rise in pets being given up by their owners?
- What should people consider when choosing a pet? (lifestyle, home environment, cost).
- Think of three questions you have about the story.

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KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the responsibilities of owning a pet.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning to expand content knowledge, integrating and linking ideas and analysing and evaluating texts.

English – Year 5

Use comprehension strategies to analyse information, integrating and linking ideas from a variety of print and digital sources.

English – Year 6

Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts.

HASS – Year 4

Reflect on learning to propose actions in response to an issue or challenge and consider possible effects of proposed actions.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Pet Ownership story. Here are some words to get them started.

PET OWNERSHIP	RESPONSIBLE	SURRENDER
ANIMAL WELFARE	COST OF LIVING	EXPENSE

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

Activity: Information Report

Students will create an information report about owning a pet. The following may help guide students' research:

- What are the basic needs of pets? (food, exercise, shelter, medical care).
- What are the responsibilities of a pet owner?
- What are the consequences of not looking after a pet?
- Interesting facts.

Structure and features of an information report

Information reports are factual texts written to inform and provide detailed facts about a topic. Discuss with students what they already know about the purpose, structure, and features of an information report. Use the following as a guide to use with students.

- **Purpose** – An information report provides information to the reader by stating facts.
- **Structure** – see table below.
- **Language features** – write in the present tense, use technical or scientific words, and write in the third person.

Students can then use the following structure to help write their report. They can present their reports using publishing software or as a brochure.

Title - States the topic.

Introduction - The opening statement explains the subject of the report and includes a definition or short description.

Body - Facts grouped into paragraphs. Starts with a topic sentence. Include subject specific language. Text features such as sub-headings, labelled diagrams, charts and captioned photographs may be included.

Conclusion - A summary of what the topic is about and end with an interesting fact.

Activity: Reporter for a day

Students will be a reporter for a day and investigate the issues highlighted in the BTN Pet Ownership story. Write an online news report for kids explaining why animal welfare charities have seen a big rise in pets being given up by their owners. Student's reports will answer the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Things for students to think about:

- Who is your target audience? Use age-appropriate language and themes.
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources.
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.

Who, What,
Where, When
and Why?

Activity – Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Survey

Survey your classmates to work out the percentage of people who own a dog or cat (or other type of pet). Display your results as a graph.

Quiz

Create a true/ false or multiple-choice quiz to test your classmate's knowledge about a pet of your choice.

Summary

Summarise the pet ownership story in three sentences. Share your summary with another student. How did your summaries differ?

Pros and cons of pet ownership

Create a T Chart to highlight the positives and negatives of owning a pet.

Useful Websites

- [Animal rescue organisations under strain as owners cast off COVID pets and designer breeds](#) – ABC News
- [Pet Ownership](#) – RSPCA
- [Pet Adoption during COVID-19](#)- BTN