

# Perfect Pets!

Grades  
3-5

by | Diane Findlay

## Webquest

### Introduction

It's the perfect job for you! You've just applied for an after-school job at the Pet Partners Animal Shelter. You love animals, and this is your chance to work with them all the time. But the manager got too many applications! How will she choose? She's come up with a solution that will benefit everyone—a contest. She's calling it "Perfect Pets from Pet Partners." It's all about figuring out the perfect pet for you, learning about its care, and sharing what you learn as part of a pet owner's guide that will be sold at the shelter. Participants will gain valuable knowledge about choosing and taking care of appropriate pets, and earn a small royalty for each copy of the guide that sells. The three applicants who impress the manager most will join the staff and put what they've learned to work with customers. You'll work alone to research and draft your chapter for the guide; then you'll cooperate with other contestants to combine your work and create the guide. Meanwhile, the owner will be able to test your interest and enthusiasm, see how well you follow directions, check out how you work on your own, and watch you interact with others as you work together. May the best applicants win!

### Task

Start by completing the worksheet below. Use the Web links to find the information you need. Once you've done your research, you will meet with other applicants to combine your work and create the pet owner's guide.

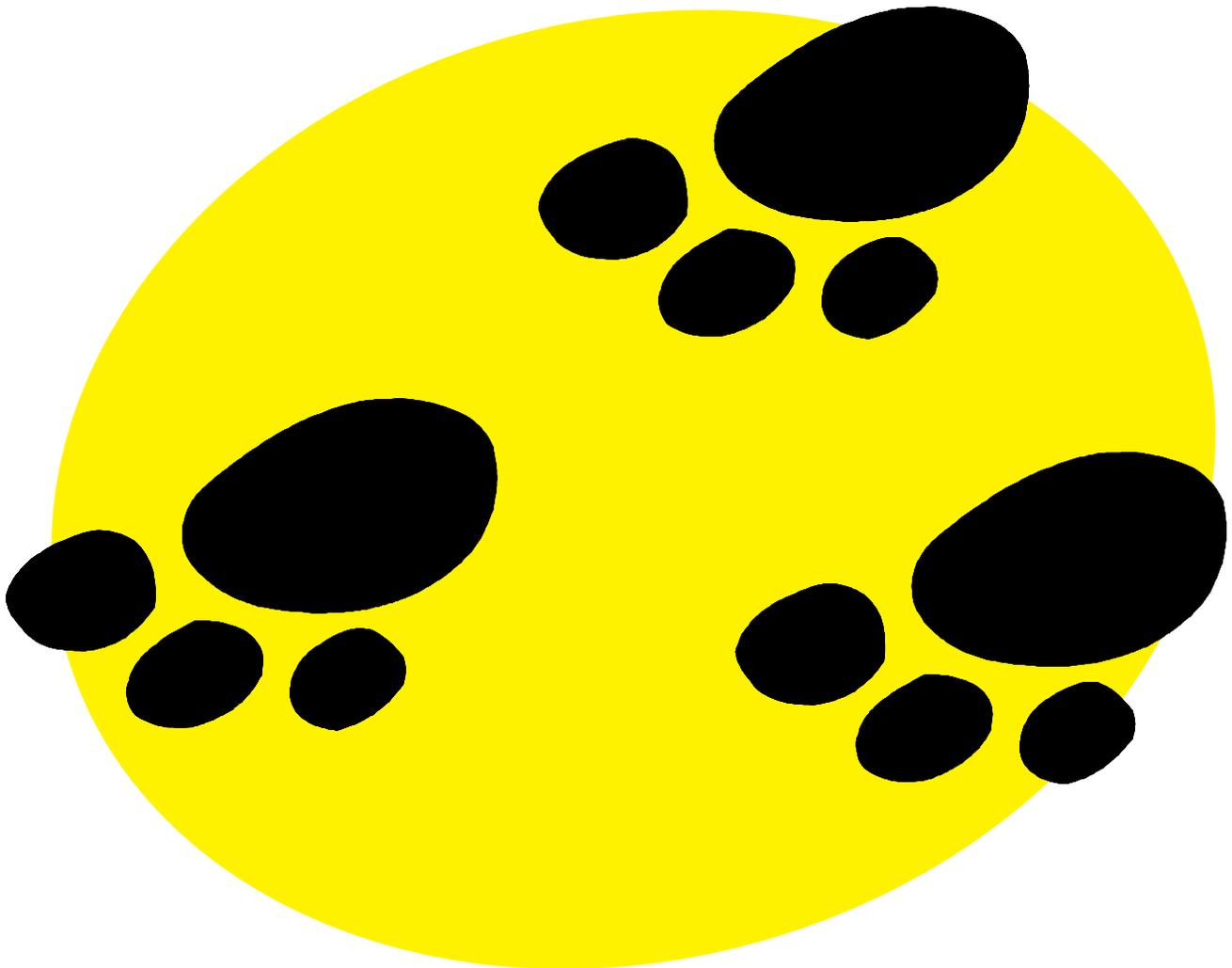
### Process

1. Gather your supplies—paper and pencil for taking notes—and claim a computer workstation.
2. Complete the online Perfect Pets worksheets 1–5 by clicking [HERE](#). Take additional notes as needed to help you write your guide. Be sure to read the text between the Web links so you know exactly what you're looking for on each site. Not all Web sites you'll visit are written for kids, so you might need a dictionary. Print your worksheets when you're done.



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3. Use your completed worksheet and notes to write your contest entry. The worksheet will tell you what to include—you'll cover the advantages of having your animal as a pet, where to get one, what kind of owner and living situation work well for this pet, its natural habitat and life cycle, its needs, and how to care for it.
4. Meet with fellow contestants. Compare your entries. Each of you will serve as editor for another contestant. If more than one person wrote about the same animal, you will combine the best information and illustrations from each entry into a single chapter on that animal. You will all work together to choose the best ideas and illustrations for an introduction that talks about the "Why," "Where," and "Which" aspects of getting a pet.
5. Submit your finished work—your individual worksheet and extra sheets, and the group's complete guide covering many pets—to the shelter manager (your teacher).



## Conclusion

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Congratulations! You impressed the Perfect Partners Animal Shelter manager so much that you got the job! Not only will you get to work with animals, but now you know what pet is right for you and how to give it a good home for life. Well done!

Here are some books about pets and pet ownership you might enjoy.

### Fiction

- *Ferret in the Bedroom, Lizards in the Fridge* by Bill Wallace. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1988.
- *The First Horse I See* by Sally M. Keehn. Penguin Group, 2000.
- *My Life of Crime* by Richard W. Jennings. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2002.
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Aladdin, 2000. Newbery Medal winner.
- *The Stranger Next Door* by Peg Kehret. Puffin, 2008.
- *Tiger, Tiger* by Lynne Reid Banks. Laurel Leaf, 2007.

### Nonfiction

- *Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People* by Sheila Keenan. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2007.
- *Cats to the Rescue: True Tales of Heroic Felines* by Marilyn Singer. Henry Holt & Company, 2006.
- *A Dog's Gotta Do What a Dog's Gotta Do: Dogs at Work* by Marilyn Singer. Henry Holt & Company, 2000.
- *ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room* by Donna M. Jackson. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2005.
- *The House of a Million Pets* by Ann Hodgman. Henry Holt & Company, 2007.
- *Pet Science: 50 Purr-fectly Woof-Worthy Activities for You & Your Pets* by Veronika Alice Gunter and Rain Newcomb. Lark Books, 2006.

# 1

# Perfect Pets Worksheet

## Why Get a Pet?

- Start by sharing your own ideas here in two or three sentences.
  
- List at least six reasons people get pets. Find reasons at these sites: [www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/consider.asp](http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/consider.asp), <http://whitneysvet.com/pop-Ups/games/perfectPet.html>, <http://pets4usite.info/popular-pets.html> (Scroll down to the blue “Pets” on the left)
  
- Some people get pets hoping to use them to make money. How can pet owners make money using their pets? Do you think these are good, practical reasons to have pets? <http://kids.cfa.org/careers-4.html>, [www.canismajor.com/dog/brtlist.html](http://www.canismajor.com/dog/brtlist.html) (the Introduction mentions one way, and what’s important in doing this well), [www.cikc.net/newbie.htm](http://www.cikc.net/newbie.htm).
  
- Describe two ways that pets can help us calm down and even lower our blood pressure. <http://thera-pets.net>, <http://freshaquarium.about.com/od/termsandtables/a/aquariumhealth.htm>
  
- How can pets help us make friends? <http://stress.about.com/od/lowstresslifestyle/a/petsandstress.htm>
  
- Finish this section by watching a fun video clip about kids and pets: [www.activityvillage.co.uk/why\\_kids\\_need\\_pets\\_video.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/why_kids_need_pets_video.htm).



# 2

## Perfect Pets: Where to Get My Pet?

- Below, or on a separate sheet of paper, make a table that compares four places you might get a pet, showing advantages and disadvantages of each. Consult [www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm). (Scroll down to “Where to Find the Dog of Your Dreams.” This site is specifically about dogs, but the same kinds of sources can provide many different pets.)

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Place 1:		
Place 2:		
Place 3:		
Place 4:		

- What are puppy (or kitty) mills, and why should you try not to support them? Watch the video and read the article at [www.stoppupmills.org/inside\\_a\\_puppy\\_mill.html](http://www.stoppupmills.org/inside_a_puppy_mill.html), then summarize what you’ve learned.
- Where does Dr. Larry Cohen, award winning TV and online veterinarian and pet expert, recommend you get your pet? [www.drlarrypetvet.com/owner\\_pickapet.html](http://www.drlarrypetvet.com/owner_pickapet.html)
- Give three good reasons to get a pet from an animal shelter or humane society. [www.petautosafety.com/page/1261184](http://www.petautosafety.com/page/1261184)
- Based on what you’ve learned, where would you look first for your new pet?



# 3

## Perfect Pets:

# What's the Perfect Pet for Me?

- Try some online tools to help you figure out what pet might best match your personality and preferences. Start with [www.petloveshack.com/PETPERSONALITY.html](http://www.petloveshack.com/PETPERSONALITY.html). Which of the five personality types matches you best?

Now check out [www.ehow.com/how\\_2065918\\_choose-right-pet.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2065918_choose-right-pet.html). Read the seven steps, and type in the step number and category of pet that sounds right for you.

- What are the two most popular pets? <http://pets4usite.info/popular-pets.html>

Name two other animals from the list of popular pets that seem unusual or surprising to you.

- Based on what you know so far, what animal might make the perfect pet for you? [www.fi.edu/franklin/printer/abc.html](http://www.fi.edu/franklin/printer/abc.html)
- With that animal in mind, complete the chart on the following page. Use information from at least two of the links immediately listed below. Then visit at least one site about the kind of animal you want. If there are no suggestions for your animal, go to Ask Kids, [www.askkids.com](http://www.askkids.com), and key in your animal to find a site with information on factors to consider in choosing that pet.  
[www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/consider.asp](http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/consider.asp),  
[www.seattlehumane.org/files/images/What\\_Type\\_of\\_Animal\\_Fits.pdf](http://www.seattlehumane.org/files/images/What_Type_of_Animal_Fits.pdf),  
[www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm), [www.selectsmart.com/PET](http://www.selectsmart.com/PET)
- Dog: [www.drlarrypetvet.com/owner\\_pickapet.html](http://www.drlarrypetvet.com/owner_pickapet.html), [www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm) (scroll down to Typical Distinctions between Dogs and Cats chart)
- Cat: [www.drlarrypetvet.com/allaboutcats.html](http://www.drlarrypetvet.com/allaboutcats.html), <http://www.helpguide.org/life/pets.htm> (scroll down to Typical Distinctions between Dogs and Cats chart), [http://beta.helpguide.org/life/choosing\\_cat.htm](http://beta.helpguide.org/life/choosing_cat.htm)
- Horse: [www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/horses.asp](http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/animatedjourneys/petselection/horses.asp)
- "Pocket Pet" (Guinea pig, hamster, gerbil, rat, ferret, rabbit, mouse, etc.), [www.la-sPCA.org/education/others/pocket\\_pets.htm](http://www.la-sPCA.org/education/others/pocket_pets.htm)
- Bird: <http://birds.about.com/od/breedsofbirds/a/choosingabird.htm>, <http://birds.about.com/od/adopting-abird/tp/birdsgoodpets.htm>
- Fish: [www.associatedcontent.com/article/122523/why\\_fish\\_make\\_such\\_great\\_pets.html?cat=53](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/122523/why_fish_make_such_great_pets.html?cat=53)
- Turtle: <http://pets4usite.info/pet%20turtles.html>



# Perfect Pets: What's the Perfect Pet for Me?

Practical Factor	What my pet needs or how this relates	Can I meet this need?
Time (To train, play, exercise, clean up, feed...)		
Money (Cost of purchase, food, licensing, equipment, vet care)		
Space (Size, room to move or run, for cage or other appropriate shelter)		
Activity/exercise (Pet's need for exercise, tolerance for activity around it)		
Training (House-breaking, behavior training)		
Noise (Noisiness of pet, pet's tolerance for noise)		
Clean-up (Disposing of waste, grooming, dealing with shed fur...)		
Laws (About ownership; restrictions in apartments or housing developments)		
Allergies of family members or friends		
Availability of food (Especially for exotics)		
Availability of veterinary care (Especially for exotics)		
Specific type or breed (if this applies)		
Other (Age of animal, male or female, one or pair...)		

- Does your chosen pet still seem like a good match for you? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If not, you've learned enough to make a better choice. What animal fits you better, now that you've considered both preferences and practical factors?
- Once you've chosen the kind of pet that suits you and your situation, what should you look for to be sure you get a healthy animal? Make a list. [www.googobits.com/articles/p2-781-picking-the-perfect-pet-things-to-consider-before-you-head-to-the-pet-shop.html](http://www.googobits.com/articles/p2-781-picking-the-perfect-pet-things-to-consider-before-you-head-to-the-pet-shop.html)
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# 5

## Perfect Pets: About My Pet

- Go to KidsClick, [www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org), or Ask Kids, [www.askkids.com](http://www.askkids.com). Search for or key in the name of your animal. Describe, on a separate sheet of paper, its natural habitat, life cycle, diet, and social habits. If you wish, you may do this as a drawing with a detailed caption.
- Find and print a photograph of your animal, to illustrate your contest entry.
- Find a “fascinating fact” about your animal that isn’t well known. Write it here, along with the Web address where you found it.
- Find a poem, joke, or riddle about your animal. Write it here. Where to start?  
[www.milliondollarpetpix.com/content/blogcategory/70/68](http://www.milliondollarpetpix.com/content/blogcategory/70/68),  
[www.meddybemps.com/riddles](http://www.meddybemps.com/riddles),  
<http://home.comcast.net/~kittycatfurballs/dogpoems.html>.

**Now print your completed worksheets and continue your task with Step 3. Be sure to include information about each section of your worksheets (Why Get a Pet?, Where to Get My Pet?, etc.) in your contest entry chapter.**



# Perfect Pets! Webquest

## Evaluation

Your performance will be evaluated based on your online research, individual contest entry, group participation, and the quality of the finished pet owner's guide.

	<b>Excellent 4</b>	<b>Good 3</b>	<b>Acceptable 2</b>	<b>Incomplete 1</b>
<b>Following directions</b>	Needed no help beyond written directions	Needed little help beyond written directions	Needed some help beyond written directions	Needed much help beyond written directions
<b>Online research</b>	Worksheet complete, shows excellent effort and interest	Worksheet complete, shows good effort and interest	Worksheet mostly complete, shows acceptable effort	Worksheet incomplete, shows little effort
<b>Contest entry pet care chapter: Form</b>	Very neat, excellent paragraph format, almost no spelling or grammatical	Neat, good paragraph format, very few spelling or grammatical errors	Fairly neat, acceptable paragraph format, several spelling or grammatical errors	Messy, poor paragraph format, many spelling or grammatical errors
<b>Contest entry pet care chapter: Content</b>	Very accurate, excellent understanding of, interest in subject	Accurate, good understanding of, interest in subject	Fairly accurate, some understanding of, interest in subject	Not accurate, little understanding of, interest in subject
<b>Group participation</b>	Excellent participation; obvious, meaningful contribution to finished guide	Good participation; obvious contribution to finished guide	Some participation; some contribution to finished guide	Little participation; little contribution to finished guide
<b>Cooperation with group members</b>	Excellent cooperation in editing, compiling guide	Good cooperation in editing, compiling guide	Acceptable cooperation in editing, compiling guide	Little cooperation in editing, compiling guide
<b>Finished pet owner's guide</b>	Very informative, useful, encouraging, appealing	Informative, useful, encouraging, appealing	Adequately informative, useful, encouraging, appealing	Offers little useful information or encouragement, not appealing