

# Should Children Be Allowed to Own Pets?

There are many arguments for and against children owning pets. Pets help to keep children company, help to keep children fit, and they also help children to learn new responsibilities. However, pets can be dangerous. They require a lot of maintenance, and they cost a lot of money to be taken care of properly.

The first argument that supports pet ownership by children is that they are good company. When children come home from school, pets are always there to greet them. They love children and are always willing to play. Consequently, children will be less likely to experience loneliness. They will also help to keep children active as they will need to be walked and played with every day.

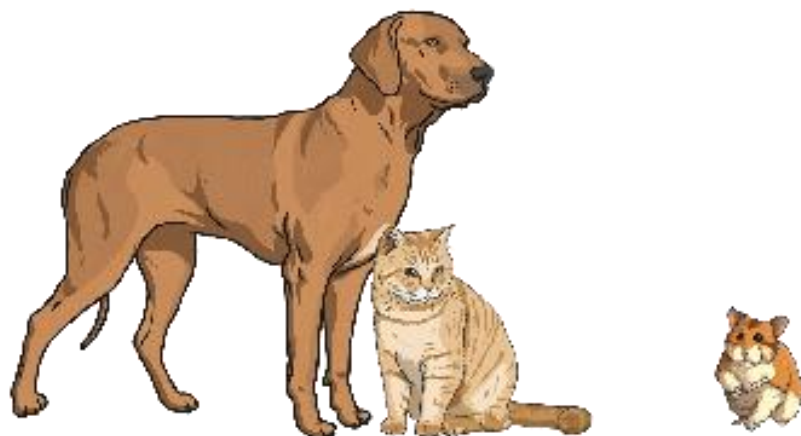
Secondly, owning a pet encourages children to learn new responsibilities. Pets need to be looked after and be taken care of every day. Children will learn different skills that they can use later in life. For example, washing and feeding pets are very important skills to learn. Learning these responsibilities will ensure that children will be able to look after themselves, and possibly their own children one day.

On the other hand, some pets can be dangerous. Some dogs, for example, are inclined to bite and children may become scared of animals as a result of this happening to them. Cats also look very soft and cuddly but they do have very sharp claws. If they are treated in the wrong way, cats can use their claws to scratch.

In addition, pets require a great deal of maintenance. Many pets need to be regularly groomed, exercised and bathed. As a result of this, children may neglect their studies because they are too busy worrying about their pet and its wellbeing.

A further argument against pet ownership is that pets are very expensive to buy and care for. Ultimately, the cost of owning one falls on parents and as a result, children don't really understand the full responsibility of having one.

In conclusion, there are many arguments for and against pet ownership. Pets help to keep children company, fit, and they also help them to learn new responsibilities. However, pets can be dangerous, they require a lot of maintenance, and they cost a lot of money to be taken care of properly.



- 1) Can you identify and imperative verbs in this text? What are they?
- 2) Can you identify any emotive language in this text? Gives at least 1 example.
- 3) What other features of persuasive writing can you identify in this text?
- 4) How does it make you feel? Do you agree?
- 5) Do you think it is effective? Why?
- 6) Identify three things that persuade you that children shouldn't have pets.
- 7) Write 3 sentences to try and persuade us that children shouldn't have pets, using the different features.