



w/c: 4th January 2021




Have a look at this picture and think about the question...what do you think it might be about?




## A little background information...

Lots of animal charities are seeing a huge increase in animals being brought to them at the end of 2020.

Some pets bought on impulse at the beginning of lockdown are now needing to be re-homed...do you think this is fair?

 **Picture News**

**Assembly Resource**  
 Read through the information about the work of the RSPCA and the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity and pets that have been bought over the past year. Do you think that there should be more restrictions when buying a pet?

 <p><b>Who are the RSPCA?</b></p> <p>The RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is the oldest animal welfare charity in the UK. It was founded in 1824 - nearly 200 years ago!</p> <p>Their aim is to protect animals with the vision of living in a world where all animals are respected and treated with compassion.</p> <p>As a charity, all the work they undertake is paid for by donations from the public.</p> <p>The RSPCA have animal shelters that take care of pets who are no longer able to be cared for by their owners.</p>	 <p><b>Who are the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity?</b></p> <p>Established in 1860, Battersea Dogs and Cats charity are one of just a few animal rescue centres that run a non-selective intake policy. This means they accept any breed of animal, at any age, including dogs or cats with serious medical and behavioural problems.</p> <p>They aim to never turn away a dog or cat in need of help, caring for them until their owners or loving new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes. Their expert team of dog trainers and veterinary staff give the animals in their care the best possible chance of a fresh start in a happy new home.</p>	<p><b>Why have more people decided to get pets in the past year?</b></p> <p>It is thought that there have been many people feeling lonelier during recent lockdown periods, particularly elderly people and those who live on their own. Vet and author Dr Muller says the companionship of a pet can offer a solution to this, "It's not only the unconditional love pets offer but the feeling somebody accepts us for who we are and not how people want to see us."</p> <p>Research by pet food company Natures Menu has found almost one in three of new owners regret buying their pet during the first lockdown and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home predicts the number of dogs looking for new homes over the next five years could increase by around 27%.</p>
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The main content is a poster with a Union Jack background. The text is centered and reads:

British Values  
4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Individual Liberty  
If we make the choice to own a pet,  
we know that we have a  
responsibility to take care of all its  
needs.

A smaller version of the 'Picture News' logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the poster.



Activity...

pets

What does this word mean to you?

Can all animals be kept as pets? Why?

A pet is an animal that we often keep in our homes. They are usually tame and are kept for companionship or as part of a pleasurable hobby - for example someone may own a horse because they enjoy horse riding.



Sometimes people may choose to try and keep an animal as a pet that is more exotic and not suitable for the home - for example a wild cat or a monkey. What issues do you think the owners may face if they choose one of these animals as a pet?



## Discussion...

Why might people want a pet? Here are some reasons...

**Resource 2**  
Look at the resource below, where some people share why they have their pet.

**Simon**

I bought two guinea pigs for my children because I wanted them to learn to be responsible. They have to feed them, clean them out, care for them and they have to use some of their pocket money to pay for their food and bedding. I think it has also taught them to be gentle and caring.

**Calder**

I have an aquarium full of tropical fish. It looks beautiful in my lounge and is often the topic of conversation when I have visitors.

**Margaret**


I live on my own and couldn't imagine being without my cat, Socks. She sits on my lap most evenings whilst I read or watch TV. She definitely stops me from feeling lonely.

**Uri**


I have a dog because I love animals and I love exercise! My dog joins me on all my walks and runs and he makes sure I actually go!

**Gwen**

I keep hens in the garden. They are very friendly and I enjoy looking after them. I also get fresh eggs!



Source: D. Jurena



Source: A. Jackson

Can you think of any other reasons why someone might have a pet?



## Discussion...

Sometimes people may buy a pet for reasons other than companionship - can you think of any of these reasons?

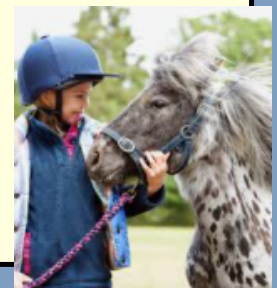
*Only look below once you have shared your ideas!*





If someone decides to keep a pet, what things might they need to do to ensure they are properly looked after?

Would all animals need the same level of care?



Let's share your ideas...



## Reflection...

There are many different pets a person can choose to look after. But taking on a pet needs lots of consideration.

Where the person lives, how much time and money they have and thinking about how long the animal will live for, all need to be thought about before committing to owning a pet.



*Some people really love animals but are not able to commit to owning a pet themselves.*

*What do you think these people could do, or where could they go to see animals?*