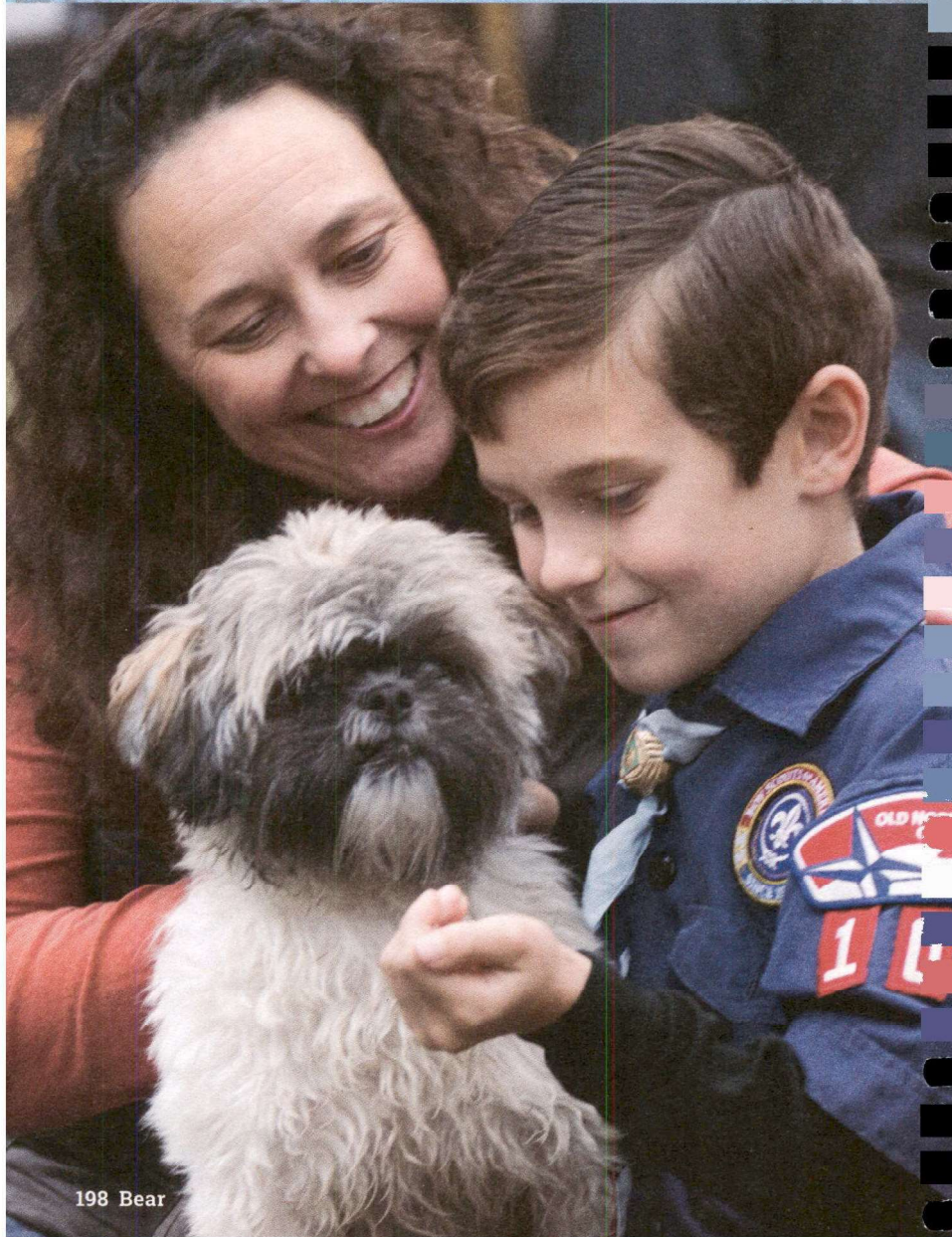


CRITTER CARE

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



198 Bear

SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



Many Americans have a pet dog, cat, horse, bird, fish, hamster, or other animal. The most popular pet is a dog. Almost one out of three American households have a dog as a pet. One out of four have a cat as a pet.

Pets are fun, but they are also a big responsibility. Pets need food, water, shelter, and exercise to stay healthy. When you look after a pet, whether it belongs to you or a neighbor, you learn a lot about love, loyalty, and caring. Learning to look after pets — and having fun with them — is what this Adventure is all about.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Identify an animal that would be a good pet for your family.
2. Choose two animals that are allowed as pets in your community. Compare and contrast why these pets may be a good choice for you.
3. Based on your choice in requirement 1, investigate how to properly care for your chosen animal.
4. Discover three ways a pet can help people.



- [Elective Adventure](#)
- [Scan for this Adventure page](#)

REQUIREMENT 1

Identify an animal that would be a good pet for your family.

Every kind of pet needs a clean, dry place to sleep (except for fish, of course!). A dog might have a special place in your home where it sleeps. A horse might spend the day in a pasture and the night in a barn.



A hamster lives in a cage. A cat will make its own bed in a sunny spot by a window. Nutritious food, clean water, and plenty of exercise help keep pets healthy. Just like you, your pet will get sick if it eats nothing but junk food and never gets any exercise.

When you think of an animal for your family, first think of how your family would support a pet.

- ▶ What kind of shelter can you provide?
- ▶ How much space does the animal need?
- ▶ What type of food and how much food does the animal need?
- ▶ Who is going to be responsible daily for the well-being and care of the animal?
- ▶ Who will help play with the animal or take it on walks if it needs exercise?
- ▶ Is there a local veterinarian who can take care of the animals' health care needs?

A veterinarian can suggest the right food and exercise for your pet. Speaking of your veterinarian, most pets need regular checkups. Your veterinarian can help you make sure your pet stays healthy. A veterinarian can also give your pet vaccinations to prevent serious diseases. Your vet might even clean your pet's teeth.



Date

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REQUIREMENT 2

Choose two animals that are allowed as pets in your community. Compare and contrast why these pets may be a good choice for you.

Most communities have rules about what pets you may keep. Some communities allow you to keep a pig as a pet. You may find that there is a restriction on how many pets you may have in your home. For example, you may be allowed to have a dog but maybe not more than three dogs. To find out the rules in your community, check with animal control or your local government.



Choose two animals that are allowed as pets in your community. If the animal you chose in requirement 1 is allowed in your community, you may use that as one of the animals to compare and contrast. Look at the questions in requirement 1 and answer them for each animal. Based on those answers, which animal do you think would be happier with what you and your family can provide?



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REQUIREMENT 3

Based on your choice in requirement 1, investigate how to properly care for your chosen animal.

Once you have identified an animal as a pet, do some further research about the animal. A veterinarian is a great resource. You may have a veterinarian visit your den. This person could share how to care for several different types of animals as pets.



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REQUIREMENT 4

Discover three ways a pet can help people.

There are many ways pets can help people. Search-and-rescue crews use dogs to find people who are missing. Guide dogs help visually impaired people get around on their own. Therapy pets help people who are sad or who are



dealing with a lot of stress (like kids in the hospital). There are even dogs that can call for help if someone is having a medical emergency.





How have you seen animals at work? Can you think of other ways animals might help people?



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Critter Care 205