

## **Pet Survey**

### Introduction

With over half of all households having pets it is easy to see that pets play an important role in people's lives – particularly families where pet keeping percentages are even higher. Yet, many animals surrendered to animal shelters are there because they were not a good match for the family or the guardians did not have reasonable expectations for the animal. Finding out first hand from people who have or have had pets is a good way for students to realize why pet guardianship is a big commitment and should be a commitment for the life of the pet.

### Objectives

- to identify advantages and disadvantages of having a pet
- to understand the commitment needed to be a responsible pet guardian
- to understand the need for education about pets prior to getting a pet

### Activity

Students are to survey 3 people who have pets or have had in the past to find out information on that kind of pet (see appendix for reproducible survey). You may want to have them interview people with the same kind of pet or you may want to have them interview people with different pets. Go over steps of proper interviewing techniques (see appendix). Once surveys are completed, discuss the information the students gathered. Did they find out anything new?

## **Pet Survey**

Preparing for the interview

- Step 1. Identify the animal(s) you want to learn about.  
Think about your lifestyle, time commitment, family issues, interests and financial commitment.
- Step 2. Prepare for the interview.  
Read all you can about that particular animal. Prepare a list of questions you would like answered (add your questions to the ones provided)
- Step 3. Identify people to interview.  
Start with people you know. If you don't know anyone with that particular animal try contacting an animal organization or a veterinarian for assistance.
- Step 4. Arrange the interview  
Contact people by phone to set up an appointment or a good time to call for a telephone interview.
- Step 5. Conduct the Interview  
Arrive or call on time and be polite. Ask the person if they could suggest other people to talk to for your survey.
- Step 6. Follow up  
Make sure all information is recorded. Send a thank you note to all people you interviewed within one week of interviewing.

Survey 3 people who have pets to find out the following information

Name of people Surveyed \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of pet do you have?			
Where did you get him/her?			
Why did you get him/her?			
How old is your pet?			
Is he/she spayed or neutered?			
Has it ever had any babies?			
What kind of information did you have about your pet before you got it?			
Did you have any surprises with your pet? If yes, what were they?			
Does your pet cost you more money than you expected?			
Is it a lot of work looking after your pet?			
How much time a day do you spend with your pet?			
What are some things your pet needs other than food, water and shelter?			
Would you get this kind of pet again?			
What is the most important thing you give your pet?			
What benefits do you get from having a pet?			