

## SHOULD CHILDREN KEEP ANIMALS AS PETS?

Many children keep dogs, cats and other animals as pets in the family home. The animals become one of the family and looking after them helps the children develop responsibility. However, many people say that keeping an animal as a pet only causes problems for the family and that it is not good for the animal's health.

Firstly, looking after a pet is a good way to help children learn about life. They become responsible for looking after another living thing and it helps them develop into a more rounded person.

Secondly, pets teach children how to be more understanding towards other people. They have to make sure that they are always there for an animal that depends on them for food, warmth and love.

Also some children get a great deal of pleasure from playing with an animal. They help to cheer you up when you are feeling down and give you somebody to play with if you are feeling lonely.

However, many people feel that children are not ready to look after animals properly. It is often left up to the adults in the family to look after the pets. A busy family life can mean that pets get neglected.

Moreover children today are so busy with other activities that they do not have the time needed to care for a pet. Some animals are left all day in a house without seeing anyone.

In addition, some animals are not suited to be a pet. They do not like to be cooped up in a house all day. If a family does not have time to look after the pet then the animal will suffer.

Keeping pets does teach children valuable lessons about life. But children need to have the time and patience to look after the animals properly.