



Taking Responsibility for Animals



Starter:

1. Which animals make good pets?
Why?

Make a list

2. Discuss what you would need to meet each of their needs.

Example: Dogs need to be taken for a walk

3. Compile a list of 'needs' for 3 chosen animals

*Think of the animals' **needs!***

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no. 219099.

GENERATION
KIND

As a class you can come up with a list - write a selection of common pets (dog, cat, fish etc) and put them on the board.

Ask the children to discuss what you would need to do to meet each of their needs e.g. dogs need to be taken for a walk, cats need litter trays, hamsters need enriching activities.

1. Remind pupils that this will not just depend on the animal's needs, but also the knowledge and commitment of the pet owner.

Differentiation = Adapt the starter activity for different levels of pupils. Pupils could research the facts for themselves and justify their decisions orally.

Extra information: [RSPCA pet care advice](#)



What is meant by an exotic pet?

1. In pairs - what can you find out about exotic animals?

Choose one of these animals to focus on.



Do you know what each one of these animals are?



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GENERATION
KIND

Introduce the idea of exotic (non-domestic) animals as pets. (Animals that have only recently become household pets, usually from tropical countries).

1. Work in pairs to make a list of what pupils can find out about exotic animals (using a PC or the fact/information sheet provided)
2. All groups to focus on one of the exotic animal.

Differentiation - To simplify the activity, give each group a photo of a pet to discuss whether it is easy or difficult to look after. A spokesperson for each group could place the photo in the Easy to Difficult scale and explain why they think it belongs there.

Extra information: [RSPCA exotic pets advice](#)

Information Sheets

Exotic pet advice and care sheets for reptiles



In pairs, go through your chosen animals' **information sheet**.

Can you find out the following details?

- Habitat
- Diet
- Size it will grow?
- Length of life?
- 2 Facts

Share facts with another 3 pairs.

Do you think exotic animals are easy to look after?

Information Sheets ([download here](#))

Bring the class together and review what each pair has learnt. Write some facts on the board.

Discuss if pupils think exotic animals are easy to look after. Encourage them to justify their answers.

- Where would they put different exotic animals on the Easy to Difficult to look after scale of pets?



Mini Role Play

Do exotic animals make good pets?



10 minutes

Working in pairs;

Complete the exotic pets activity sheet

Group **A** must persuade Group **B** that exotic animals make good pets.

Group **B** have to persuade Group **A** that they don't

Remember - What specific needs do exotic pets have?

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Print off worksheet for pairs to complete ([from RSPCA website](#))

Mini role play - Split the class in 2 groups (Group A + Group B)

Group A's have to persuade Group B's that exotic animals make good pets.

Group B's have to persuade A's that they don't.

Alternatively complete 'Option 2' on the lesson plan - working in groups of six. Each group could discuss the following scenario: a friend sees a green iguana in a pet shop and wants to buy it. What would you say or do? Think about: the law, your family, the pet's needs, your commitment. One group could act out the scenario. The rest of the class can put up their hands to 'rewind' or stop the role play at any time if they have a better idea. Half the class should prompt the person who wants to buy the iguana and the other half will advise the friend.



Plenary & Summary



Summary

It is difficult to give a clear definition of exotic.

Any animal that is not native to the country where it is kept in captivity, can be called exotic. As such, this could also include hamsters and guinea pigs.

Tortoises can live up to 100 years.

Female chinchillas are larger than males. In captivity, chinchillas live for up to 20 years

The RSPCA campaigns to protect the welfare of exotic pets because:

1. they may have been **taken from the wild where the species is endangered**
2. they may have been **taken into captivity after being born in the wild**
3. they may have special needs: diet, temperature and space, which are **difficult to provide in captivity**
4. they may **live longer than their owner.**

Explain one thing you have learnt today.

Teacher can add relevant plenary if needed.

Extension activities are listed on the lesson plan (*teacher can choose*)