

Pet interactions

Safe interactions

Read each scenario below and decide what you should do next.



You meet a dog you don't know. The owner says you can say hello. The dog comes towards you. What should you do?

- ☐ Run over and hug the dog
- ☐ Let the dog sniff you and gently stroke them if they seem comfortable
- ☐ Pat the dog on the head straight away to say hello



You're stroking a cat, and they move away from you. What should you do?

- ☐ Follow them and keep stroking them
- ☐ Pull on their tail to get them to come back
- ☐ Pick them up
- ☐ Let them go and give them space



Your rabbits are sitting quietly in their hideaway, but you want to stroke them gently. What should you do?

- ☐ Reach inside and pull them out
- ☐ Leave them alone until they choose to come out
- ☐ Keep calling them until they come out
- ☐ Take their food away



Your guinea pigs are resting but seem happy to interact. Where would you choose to stroke them?

- ☐ Their feet
- ☐ Along their upper back and top of their head
- ☐ Their belly and bottom
- ☐ Their nose and mouth

Pet interactions

Choices

Tick whether each action below is a good choice or not, and explain why.



Hugging your dog because you love them.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____



Chasing your pet because it is fun game for you.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____



Playing with your pet when they bring you a toy.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____



Taking your pet's food away when they're still eating it.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____



Giving your pet some space whilst they rest.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____



Waking up your sleeping pet to say hello.

☐ Good choice ☐ Not a good choice

Why? _____

Pet interactions

Understanding pet communication

Look at each pet picture. What do you think they are feeling, and which body language clue helped you decide? Write the correct letter and number in the two circles, e.g. 'W | 1'.



My answers:

W

**Worried
dog**

1

The dog has their front legs down and bottom in the air. Their tail is high and wagging, their ears are relaxed and fur is smooth.



W

**Worried
dog**

2

The dog is lying down and turning their head away from you. They are licking their lips and their ears are held back.



A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
dog**

3

The dog's body is stiff and leaning forwards. Their fur is raised, tail is up and stiff, and eyes are wide. Their ears are up and nose is wrinkled.



A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
dog**

4

The dog is standing on all four paws. Their tail is wagging and their mouth is open. Their face looks relaxed and interested.



H

**Happy
dog**

5

The dog is lying down. Their tail is tucked between their legs, their ears are flat and they are showing their teeth.



H

**Happy
dog**

6

The dog is standing with their body and head held low. Their tail is tucked under and their ears are back. They are yawning.

Pet interactions

Understanding pet communication

Look at each pet picture. What do you think they are feeling, and which body language clue helped you decide? Write the correct letter and number in the two circles, e.g. 'W | 1'.



My answers:



W

**Worried
cat**

W

**Worried
cat**

A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
cat**

A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
cat**

H

**Happy
cat**

H

**Happy
cat**

1

The cat is stretched out and relaxed, with their belly showing. Their ears are in a natural position, mouth closed and eyes partly closed.

2

The cat is sitting calmly with a relaxed body. Their tail is loose, ears are in a natural position, mouth is closed and eyes look a normal shape.

3

The cat is lying down with their body tense and close to the ground. Their tail and legs are tucked, ears are flat, and pupils large.

4

The cat is hiding in a place that may feel safe for them.

5

Cat is standing with an arched back. Their fur is raised, tail stiff and one paw lifted. Ears are lowered, and teeth are showing.

6

The cat is holding their body tightly and tensing, with their tail tucked in. Their head is lowered, ears turned slightly sideways and pupils large.

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Understanding pet communication

Look at each pet picture. What do you think they are feeling, and which body language clue helped you decide? Write the correct letter and number in the two circles, e.g. 'W | 1'.



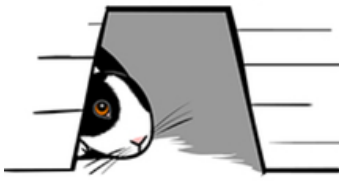
My answers:

W

**Worried
rabbit**

1

The rabbit is hiding in a place that may feel safe for them.



W

**Worried
rabbit**

2

The rabbit's body is low with their weight towards the back. Their head is raised, ears are back, teeth showing, and tail is raised.



A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
rabbit**

3

The rabbit is sitting up with front paws raised, as if ready to box. Their ears are up and pointing outwards, and they may be growling.



A

**Angry /
very
unhappy
rabbit**

4

The rabbit's body is relaxed and stretched out, with their front paws forward and back legs out to the side.



H

**Happy
rabbit**

5

The rabbit's crouching and body is tense with head held close to the ground. Their ears are flat against their back and their pupils are large.



H

**Happy
rabbit**

6

Rabbit is jumping into the air with all four paws off the ground, and they twist in mid-air before landing.