

Pet interactions

Answer sheet

You meet a dog you don't know. The owner says you can say hello. The dog comes towards you. What should you do? > ***Let the dog sniff you and gently stroke them if they seem comfortable.***

Why? Dogs can feel worried or uncomfortable if someone runs up to them, hugs them, or touches them suddenly. Giving a dog space and letting them choose whether they want to interact helps them feel safe.

You're stroking a cat, and they move away from you. What should you do? > ***Let them go and give them space.***

Why? If a cat moves away, they are showing you they want some space. Following, picking them up, or pulling their tail could make them feel worried or uncomfortable. Giving them space respects what the cat is telling you.

Your rabbits are sitting quietly in their hideaway, but you want to stroke them gently. What should you do? > ***Leave them alone until they choose to come out.***

Why? A rabbit may hide when they want to feel safe or have some quiet time. Reaching in, calling repeatedly, or taking away their food could make them feel stressed. Letting them come out when they are ready gives them a choice.

Your guinea pigs are resting but seem happy to interact. Where would you choose to stroke them? > ***Along their upper back and top of their head.***

Why? Guinea pigs can be sensitive around their feet, belly, and face. Stroking gently along their back and the top of their head is less likely to make them feel uncomfortable or worried.

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Hugging a pet tightly - Not a good choice

Animals can find hugs uncomfortable and can make them feel trapped by restricting their movement.

Chasing a pet - Not a good choice

It can make them feel scared or worried.

Playing when they ask you to - Good choice

If they are choosing to play, it provides fun interaction and mental stimulation.

Taking away their food - Not a good choice

Taking their food while they're eating can trigger anxiety and resource guarding.

Giving your pet space - Good choice

Pets need to be able to choose when to interact.

Disturbing a sleeping pet - Not a good choice

This disrupts their rest and can startle them, leading to startled responses.

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Understanding pet communication

	H 4		W 4		A 3
	A 5		H 1		W 1
	W 6		A 5		W 5
	W 2		W 6		H 4
	H 1		A 3		H 6
	A 3		H 2		A 2