



# Pets Week

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## Pet Facts

### 1. Dogs can tell time.

OK, so your pup can't quite look at a clock and tell the time, but they *can* sense the time.

### 2. Cats don't meow at each other.

Did you know cats don't actually meow at each other? That's right – it's a communication tool reserved exclusively for humans.

### 3. Goldfish have a longer life expectancy than you think.

Poor goldfish. They're known for their ultra-short lifespan, but according to National Geographic, the average life expectancy for a goldfish in the wild is 41 years! They can live up to 10 years on average in captivity, and up to 30 years in a pond.

### 4. Dogs lick their feet to help them remember.

While you should be concerned about *excessive* licking, it's perfectly normal for your dog to lick their paws. Not only is it your furry friend's way of self-cleaning, but it's also a way for them to remember where they've been throughout the day. How cute is that?

### 5. Cat whiskers aren't just for cuteness.

Why do cats have whiskers? It turns out they don't just look cute – they serve a purpose!

Your cat's whiskers (vibrissae) are more deeply embedded in their body than their topcoat. Whiskers contain a sensory organ called a proprioceptor, which is constantly communicating information about their surroundings to their muscular and nervous systems. Cats use their whiskers to judge distance and space, which is why they can jump so gracefully, and they can sense even the slightest change in their environment.

### 6. Hamsters' cheeks are seriously huge.

Anyone who's had a pet hamster knows these adorable little rodents can fit an alarming amount of stuff in their chubby cheeks, and there's an anatomical reason why. The BBC x-rayed a little critter eating for its *Pets – Wild at Heart* series and found that hamsters' cheek pouches extend all the way down to their hips!

### 7. Geckos have superpowered tails.

Did you know there are roughly 1,500 species of geckos? Though their size and shape vary, there are a few things all geckos have in common, like their superpowered tails! A gecko's tail stores fat that it can use for energy when food is scarce.

But that's not all: a gecko also has pre-formed score lines in its tail that allow it to snap off as a predator response! Don't worry – these little critters (like other amphibians) have evolved to regenerate their tails like it never happened.

### 10. Guinea pigs aren't actually from Guinea.

Guinea pigs are native to the Andean Mountain region in South America. The Incas first domesticated Guinea pigs more than 3,000 years ago. Spanish conquistadors took Guinea pigs from South America to Europe toward the end of the 16th century, where they became popular pets in Elizabethan society.





# Go play Sandwell

Oldbury

Rowley Regis

Smethwick

Tipton

Wednesbury

West Bromwich

Print out a photo of your pet/ draw on here!

## 2022

### JANUARY

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### DECEMBER

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### Pets Word Search

Find the hidden words within the puzzle.

X	T	D	B	H	F	R	O	G	H
R	O	I	S	L	A	P	N	L	A
G	P	I	B	Q	E	Z	I	Y	M
T	F	A	K	B	K	Z	B	D	S
G	U	I	N	E	A	P	I	G	T
T	A	C	Z	R	N	R	R	L	E
E	D	O	D	H	S	B	D	F	R
L	I	B	R	E	G	H	O	K	H

bird  
cat  
dog

fish  
frog  
gerbil

guinea pig  
hamster  
lizard

rabbit  
snake



## Pet Themed Games and Activity Ideas

### Pets and Owners (Movement Activity)



Have half your children pretend to be pet owners and let the other half pretend to be their pets.

Have the owners do pretend activities such as feeding, walking, petting, and playing with their "pets."

Then let the children reverse roles.

### Animal Guess (Game)



Cut pictures of animals (2 of each animal) out of magazines or colouring books.

Pin one picture on each child's back. All the children should move around the room behaving like the picture of the animal on their back.

The object is for the children to locate their matching animal.

### Animal Hospital (Activity)



The children can brainstorm ways to make the area look like an animal hospital. Let them make a sign and decorate the area themselves. You can use cotton swabs, empty milk bone boxes, cloth bandages, Band-Aids, rubber gloves, long white lab coats, stethoscope, scale, clipboards, paper, pencils, baskets with pillows and blankets for overnight guests, dog food dish, water dish, stuffed animals from home, telephone, thermometer, plastic (toy) shots