SHARING OUR WORLD WITH PETS

Contents

- Introduction
- Lifespans of pets
- Considerations before getting a pet
- Caring for your pet
- Being considerate to others
- Community/stray animals
- Understanding animal behaviour
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Introduction

We share our world with other people and animals. Through our actions, we affect the lives of others around us. Learn how to live together with others and be considerate towards our pets, our community, and wildlife!

Lifespans of Pets

Hamster
2-3 years

Guinea Pig
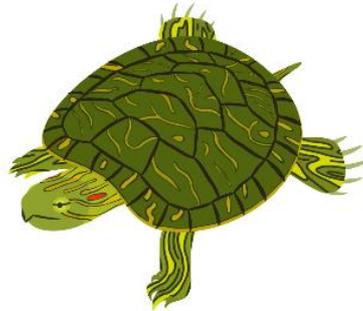6-8 years

Rabbit
10-13 years
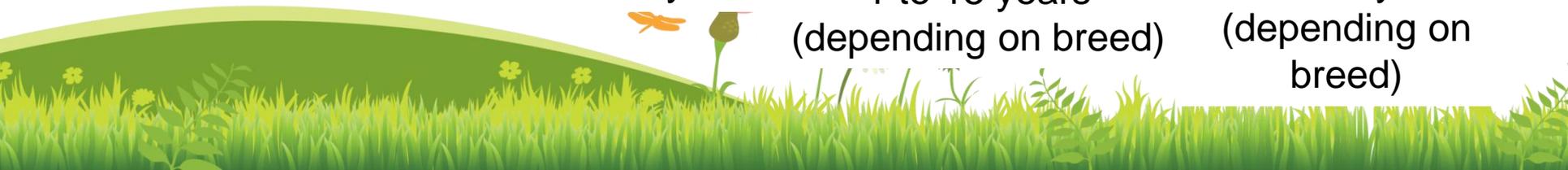
Chinchilla
10-15 years

Dog
10-15 years

Cat
12-18 years

Red-eared Slider
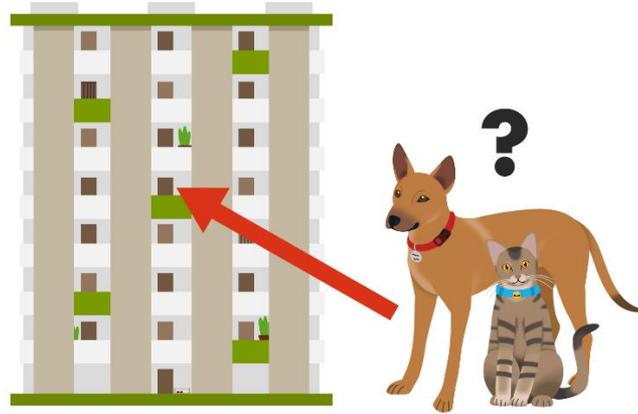More than 20 years

Fish
1 to 15 years
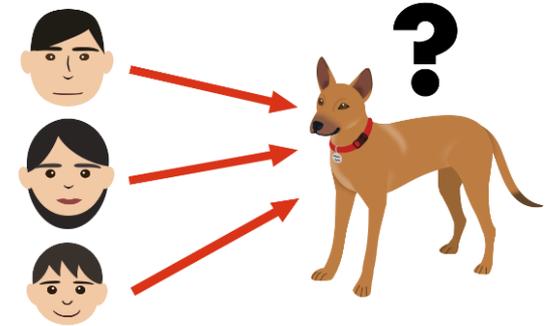(depending on breed)

Birds
10 to 70 years
(depending on breed)

Considerations Before Getting a Pet

Does everyone at home want a pet?

Which pet should one get?

Who will be looking after the pet?

NATIONAL PARKS

Considerations Before Getting a Pet

Where to get a pet?

How much money does it cost to keep a pet?

Cost of Keeping a Dog/Cat

You will need to buy food, toys and other things for your pet. It needs to see an animal doctor (vet) too. The average cost of owning a dog or cat will be at least $2,700 for the first year!
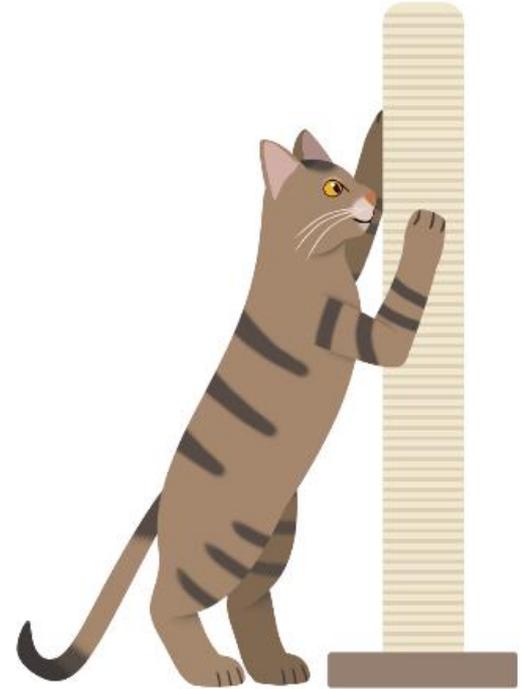
Basic Pet Care - Dog

- Ensure dog is micro-chipped
- License dog with AVS
- Leash dog when out of house
- Pick up after the dog poos
- Attend obedience training

DOG LICENSE

Dog Particulars

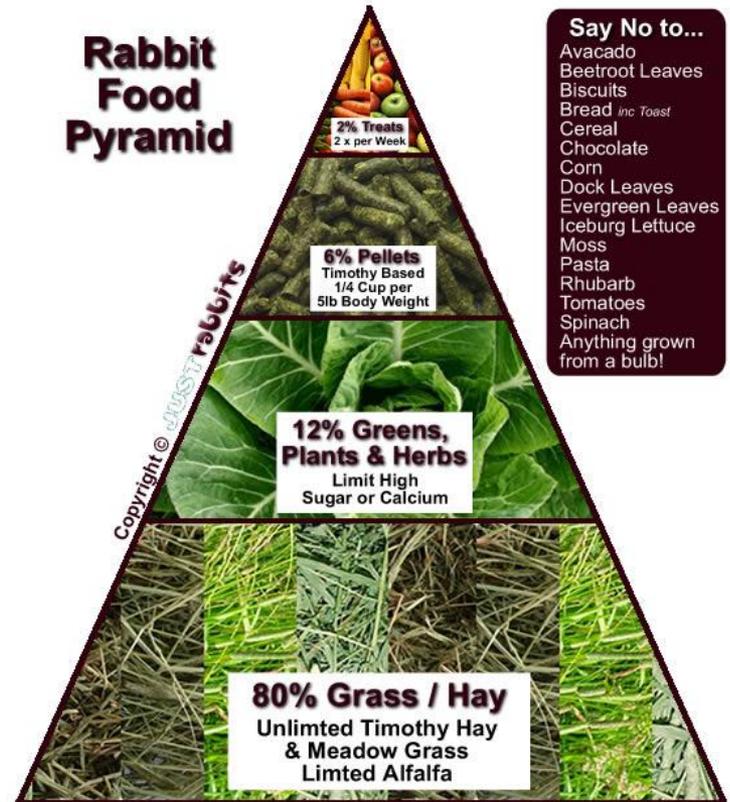|	
Name	BUDDY
Microchip No.	123456789101111
Breed	SINGAPORE SPECIAL
Colour	BROWN
Sex	MALE
Address	123 XXX ROAD, #12-123, XXX STREET, SINGAPORE 123456

NATIONAL PARKS

Basic Pet Care - Cat

- Keep cat strictly indoors

- Mesh windows and gate

- Provide lots of stimulation at home to keep them entertained – scratching post, toys, etc.

Basic Pet Care - Rabbit

- Feed the correct diet
- Do not carry them by their ears
- Rabbits can be toilet-trained
- Keep them in playpens
- Does not need water bath

Rabbit Food Pyramid

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2% Treats 2 x per Week

6% Pellets Timothy Based 1/4 Cup per 5lb Body Weight

12% Greens, Plants & Herbs Limit High Sugar or Calcium

80% Grass / Hay Unlimted Timothy Hay & Meadow Grass Limted Alfalfa

Say No to...
Avacado
Beetroot Leaves
Biscuits
Bread *inc Toast*
Cereal
Chocolate
Corn
Dock Leaves
Evergreen Leaves
Iceburg Lettuce
Moss
Pasta
Rhubarb
Tomatoes
Spinach
Anything grown from a bulb!

NATIONAL PARKS

Basic Pet Care - Hamster

- Clean cage at least once a week
- Wash hands before handling; hamsters have poor eyesight
- Requires gentle handling
- Should be kept separately

NATIONAL PARKS

Basic Pet Care - Red-Eared Slider

- Requires a big space (they grow up to 30cm in length!)

- Feed the best quality pellets you can provide

- Requires daily water change (if no filtration system)

- Carries salmonella bacteria; wash your hands thoroughly after handling it.
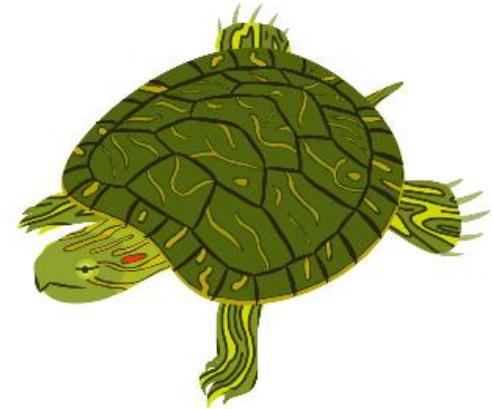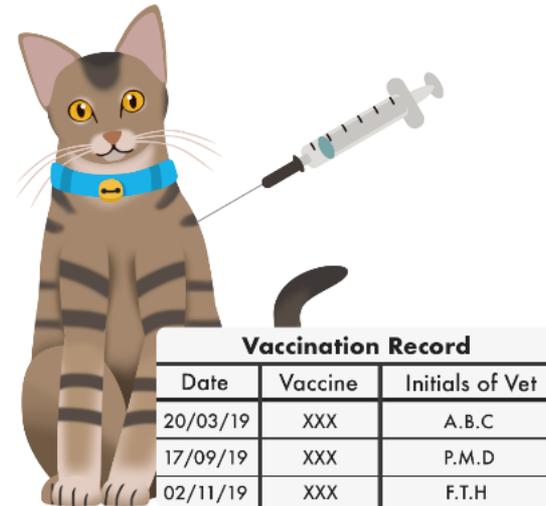
Being a Responsible Pet Owner

STERILISE YOUR PET

• Sterilisation (removal of an animal's reproductive organs) prevents your pet from having baby animals. Although baby animals may be cute, they can cause problems like:

- Overcrowding

- Lack of resources (food, medical, care, etc.)

- Potential abandonment

Being a Responsible Pet Owner

- Vaccinate your pet
  - Vaccinate your cat and dog to prevent them from catching certain deadly diseases which are preventable. Vaccinations are done annually.

Vaccination Record

Date	Vaccine	Initials of Vet
20/03/19	XXX	A.B.C
17/09/19	XXX	P.M.D
02/11/19	XXX	F.T.H

NATIONAL PARKS

Being a Responsible Pet Owner

LISTEN TO YOUR VET

- Bring your pet to the vet for regular check-ups, and when it is sick.

- Do not give your pet leftover medication.

- Follow the vet's instructions

Being a Responsible Pet Owner

KEEP SINGAPORE RABIES-FREE

- Rabies is a deadly disease that can spread from infected animals to us. Protect your pet, yourself, and the community by:

  - Getting your pet from reliable sources, like an adoption shelter

  - Calling your vet if you think your pet is sick

  - Avoid touching stray and wild animals if overseas

Being Considerate to the Community

Some people are scared of animals. Think about others and be considerate of your actions:

- Keep your cat indoors. Do not allow it to roam outside your house.

- Keep your dog on a leash.

- Pick up after your dog during walks to keep the place clean.

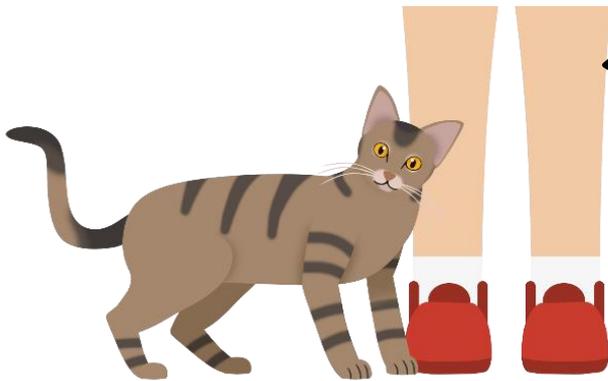- Only bring your pet to places that pets can go, like most parks.
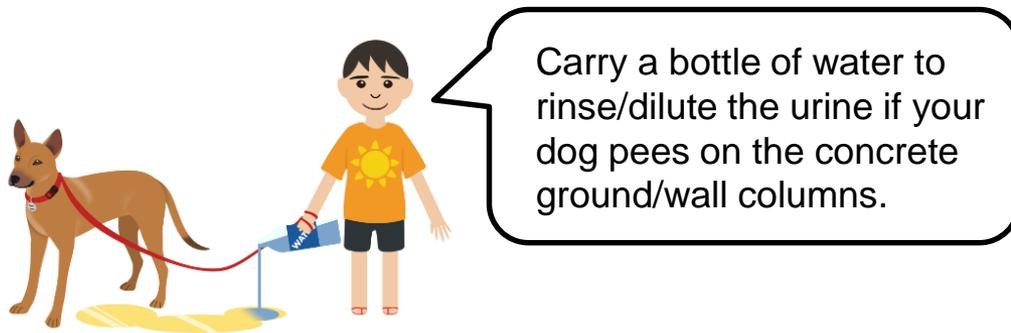
Carry a bottle of water to rinse/dilute the urine if your dog pees on the concrete ground/wall columns.

NATIONAL PARKS

Community (Stray) Animals

Be considerate towards community (stray) animals by:

- Giving them space
- Not making loud noises or moving suddenly. This might scare them.

Did you know! Sometimes, a friendly stray cat may come forward and do a roll-over or rub its face on your legs: that is a sign of affection. If you do not like it, slowly move away.

NATIONAL PARKS

Understanding Dog Behaviour

- Friendly

Body relaxed, with mouth slightly open and tongue showing. Tail is wagging.

- Defensive

Dog stares with mouth drawn back, showing teeth. May bark or growl.
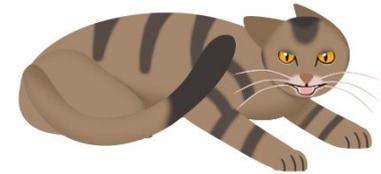
NATIONAL PARKS

Understanding Cat Behaviour

- Friendly
  Body relaxed, tail up. May brush against your legs or lean towards you.

- Defensive
  Cat stares with ears flat against head. Tail will be low and close to body. May hiss.

Not Keeping Wildlife as Pets

You may have seen these animals being kept as pets:

Pygmy Slow Loris   Sugar Glider   Indian Star Tortoise   Green Iguana

NATIONAL PARKS

Not Keeping Wildlife as Pets

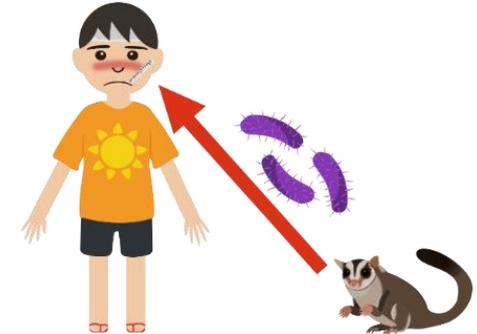Wild animals should not be kept as pets. Here's why:

Bad for animals

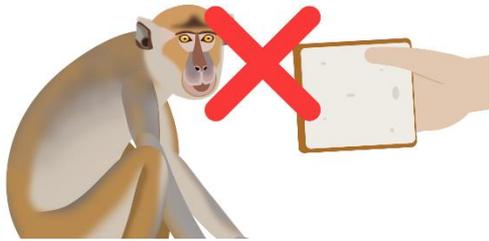Wild animals need special care. It is cruel if you cannot provide them with what they need.

Bad for you

Wild animals may spread diseases to you and your family.
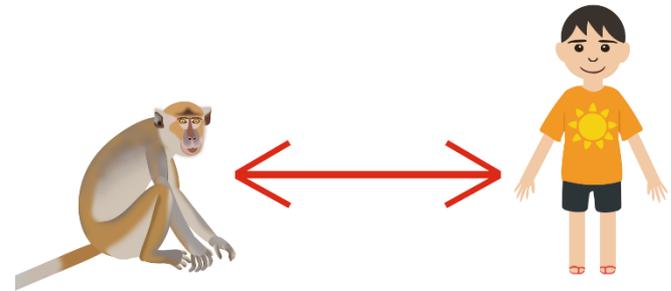
Not Keeping Wildlife as Pets

Play your part by doing these:

Do not feed wildlife

Keep the environment clean.
Throw your rubbish in bins.

Respect wildlife.
Give them some distance.
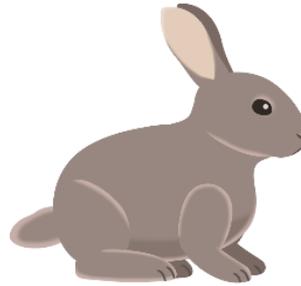
NATIONAL PARKS

QUIZ!

How long do these pets live?

Hamster
2-3 years

Guinea Pig
6-8 years

Rabbit
10-13 years

Chinchilla
1-15 years

Dog
1-15 years

Cat
12-18 years
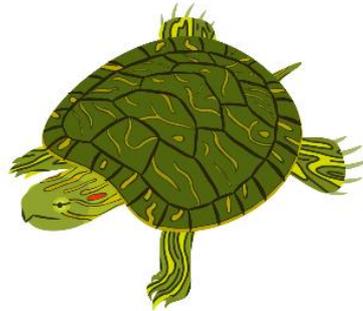
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More than 20 years
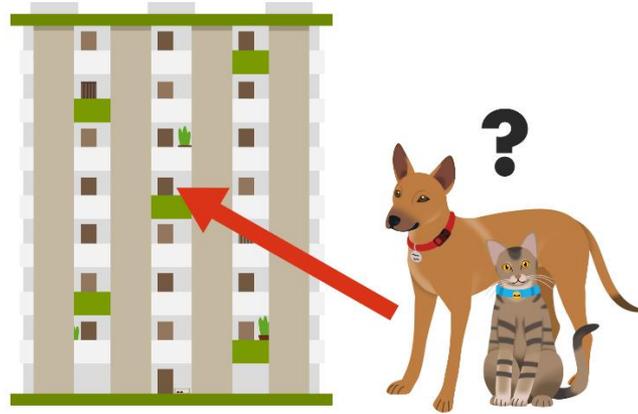
Fish
1 to 15 years
(depending on breed)

Birds
10 to 70 years
(depending on breed)

Name TWO considerations before getting a pet

Does everyone at home want a pet?

Which pet should one get?

Who will be looking after the pet?

NATIONAL PARKS
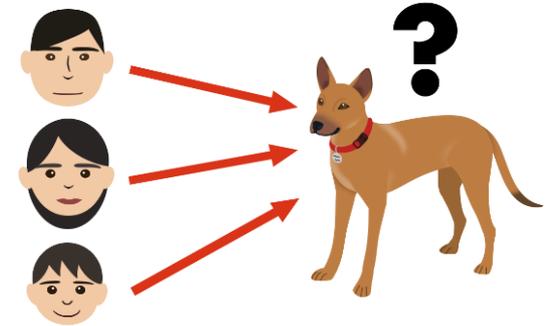
Name TWO considerations before getting a pet

Where to get a pet?

How much money does it cost to keep a pet?

Name TWO other things you need to do as a responsible dog owner

- Ensure dog is micro-chipped

- Pick up after the dog poos

- Attend obedience training

- License dog with AVS
- Leash dog when out of house

DOG LICENSE

Dog Particulars

Name	BUDDY
Microchip No.	123456789101111
Breed	SINGAPORE SPECIAL
Colour	BROWN
Sex	MALE
Address	123 XXX ROAD, #12-123, XXX STREET, SINGAPORE 123456

NATIONAL PARKS

Name ONE other thing you need to do as a responsible cat owner

- Mesh windows and gate
- Provide lots of stimulation at home to keep them entertained – scratching post, toys, etc.

- Keep cat strictly indoors

What is the most important food for your rabbit?

Rabbit Food Pyramid

- **2% Treats** 2 x per Week
- **6% Pellets** Timothy Based 1/4 Cup per 5lb Body Weight
- **12% Greens, Plants & Herbs** Limit High Sugar or Calcium
- **80% Grass / Hay** Unlimted Timothy Hay & Meadow Grass Limted Alfalfa

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Say No to...
Avacado
Beetroot Leaves
Biscuits
Bread *inc Toast*
Cereal
Chocolate
Corn
Dock Leaves
Evergreen Leaves
Iceburg Lettuce
Moss
Pasta
Rhubarb
Tomatoes
Spinach
Anything grown from a bulb!

Hay
(it forms the base of a rabbit's food pyramid. Hay keeps a rabbit's teeth trimmed and its digestive system healthy!)

NATIONAL PARKS

How often should you clean your hamster's cage?
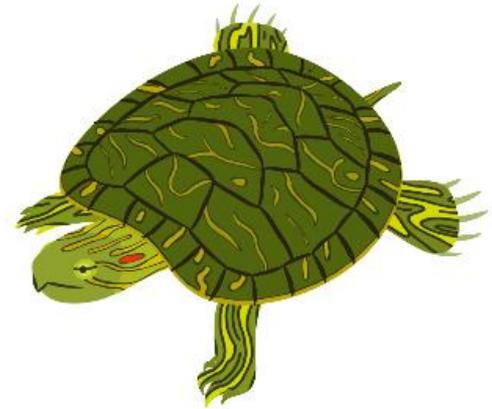
Clean cage at least once a week!

How big can a red-eared slider terrapin grow up to?

They can grow up to 30cm in length!

Also, they can live more than 20 years!

Think carefully before getting a red-eared slider terrapin!

NATIONAL PARKS

As a responsible pet owner, I need to…

A. Sterilise my pet

B. Vaccinate my pet

C. Listen to my vet

D. All of the above

Keep Singapore rabies-free by…

A. Getting your pet from reliable sources, like an adoption shelter

B. Calling your vet if you think your pet is sick

C. Avoid touching stray and wild animals if overseas

D. All of the above

This dog seems…

Friendly

Defensive

This cat seems…

Friendly

Defensive

Keeping wildlife as pets is...

A. A great idea! ☺

B. A bad idea ☹

SPECIAL!

Wild animals should not be kept as pets. Here's why:

Bad for animals

Wild animals need special care. It is cruel if you cannot provide them with what they need.

Bad for you

Wild animals may spread diseases to you and your family.

NATIONAL PARKS

Do your part to keep wildlife wild:

A. Feed wildlife so they won't go hungry

B. Keep the environment clean. Throw your rubbish in bins.

C. Go very close to wildlife so you can be their friends.

Do not feed wildlife

Keep the environment clean.
Throw your rubbish in bins.

Respect wildlife.
Give them some distance.

Visit www.go.gov.sg/responsiblepetownership for more resources.

Click [here](#) to watch Singaporeans Try: Dog-sitting For The First Time (48H Challenge)

End