



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare



FEBRUARY 2023

ANIMAL NEWS

A CLOSER LOOK



IT'S RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP MONTH! Life Science in Action

- Americans own a variety of pets - from cats and dogs to fish and small mammals to snakes and other exotic animals.
- Pet ownership levels increased during the pandemic, with about 30% of Americans adopting a pet.
- A survey in 2022 by the American Pet Products Association (APPA) reported that 70% of American households own a pet. Of those pet owners, about 40% own dogs and 25% own cats, not quite 3% own birds. Other top owned pets are rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, horses, fish, ferrets, and reptiles.
- Now people are returning to work and what is happening to their pets? People and pets have to adjust to new routines, dog owners are looking for day care, dog walkers, pet sitters, and veterinary care. Some boarding facilities have waiting lists.
- Plus the money people saved by not commuting and other job-related expenses was spent on their new pets; but now, they have the usual expenses plus those of their pets. Veterinary clinics have longer waits for appointments too, already compounding a shortage of veterinarians in many cities.
- Despite these challenges to keep their pets, many do indeed see their pets as part of the family and are working out arrangements with friends and relatives to care for their pets while working or on trips.



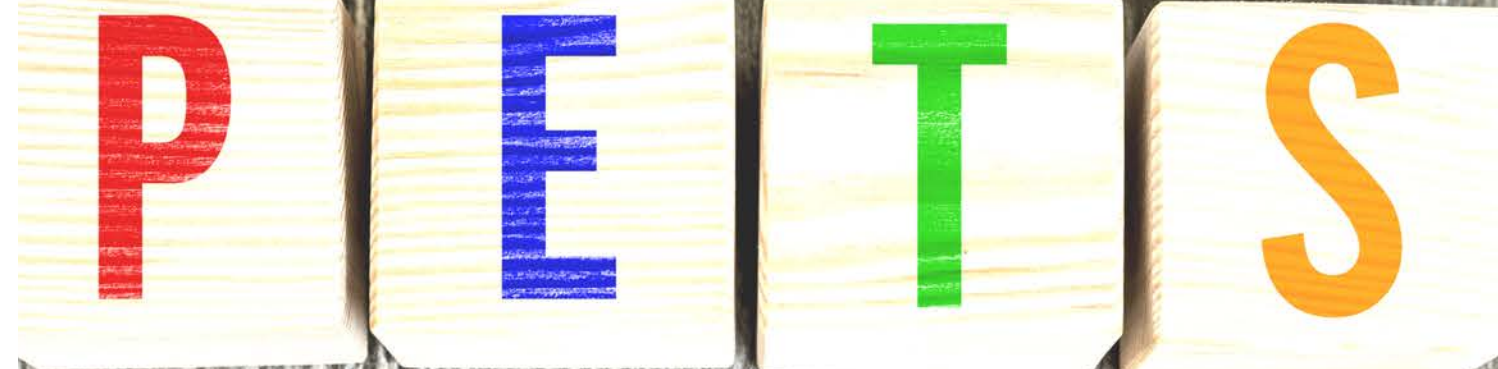
ARE YOU READY FOR A PET? HOW FAMILIES CAN DECIDE!

- What species of pet would be a good fit with your family?
- Do you want a young pet or older?
- Are you looking for a cuddly type or a more independent type of pet?
- How much space does the pet need?
- Is it an indoor only pet or outdoor also?
- Do you need anyone's approval to have a pet in your home?
- Does it need to be taken outside for exercise?
- How much will food cost each month?
- How often should the pet go to the veterinarian for routine care and can you afford the medical care?
- How many hours can the pet stay home alone?
- Is the pet good with children?
- Is the pet good with other animals already in the home?
- Who in the family will take care of the pet daily? Who will take care of the pet if you have to go away?
- If your living or financial circumstances change, will the pet stay with the family?
- Are you willing to adopt a rescued pet who needs a home?

February Animal Holidays

- Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month
- Responsible Pet Owner Month
- Serpent Day - February 1
- Groundhog, Hedgehog, & Marmot Day - February 2
- Western Monarch Day - February 5
- National Nest Box Week - February 14-21
- National Hippo Day - February 15
- Great Backyard Bird Count - February 17-20
- World Pangolin Day & World Whale Day - February 18
- National Justice for Animals Week - February 19-25
- National Wildlife Day - February 22
- International & National Polar Bear Day - February 27
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week - February 27 - March 3

Link to our OHS Humane Education Library for free download of our OHS e-books about pet care and safety! *Dog Basics, Kitten Basics, Rabbit Basics, Cat Basics, Pets, What Good Are They? & Keep Your Pet Safe*



AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The OHS Great SCHOOLYARD BIRD COUNT Returns! February 17-20, 2023

- In tribute to the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) sponsored annually and globally by the Audubon Society, Cornell Labs, and Birds Canada, last year we proposed the Great Schoolyard Bird Count to engage your students.
- Among the gulls, crows, and assorted unnamed birds, one classroom saw a Blue Heron in their schoolyard! See 2022's student drawings on our archive blog [here](#).
- How did they do it? We asked teachers to take their students outside for 5-15 minutes, depending on their age, on a particular date within the observation period of the GBBC, this month February 17-20.
- Ask the students to count the numbers of birds they see within the time you assign, then return to class and draw pictures of one or more birds that they saw. If they can identify the birds and write the name, all the better!
- Teachers can then take photos of their students' drawings and send to us at humane_education@ohlonehumanesociety.org and we will post them on our website for a couple of weeks and then store in our archive for others to admire.

