



Tales for the
pet lover's
heart

Activities
for Ages
13-17



**Fun for You
and Your Pet**





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An opportunity to really explore:

Life for teens is all about relationships and connections. Building positive relationships at this time of life requires **patience, insight, initiative, and a true understanding of interdependence.** In the unconditional bond of a loving pet companion, young adults can find a good listener, a dependable friend, a meaningful purpose as they acquire the necessary skills for lifelong connections. **These activities provide a forum for personal expression and make the most of young adult energy and enthusiasm.**



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Caring: Learning Patience

- Sketch a portrait of your pet...Be patient, your pet may not sit still as long as you'd like.
- Teach your pet to do a new trick. How will you reward your pet? How patient can you be while the pet is trying to learn? How will you manage your frustration?
- A "pet peeve" is a small behavior that annoys in a big way. With a high energy pet, you can get quite peeved...and it requires patience to respond appropriately. Test your patience...draw tournament brackets for this challenge.

On the top line of each bracket, list a behavior of your pet that is frustrating. On the bottom line of each bracket, put your own name. Observe your pet closely and see if you can identify what your pet is really trying to communicate with the annoying behavior. Is it "I want your attention?" or "I do not feel well?" or "I need to go outside?" Design ways to address the need rather than overreact to the behavior. Each time you see a behavior on the tourney bracket, and are able to respond with patience...mark yourself the winner. Continue to take on the challenge in each bracket, until you win them all. When all the brackets list you as the winner...both you and your pet WIN.



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Communication: Keen Observation



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- Observe your family and make notes about the personalities and goals of your family. Design a pet mascot that reflects your family personality. Are you brave? Loyal? Adventurous? What kind of pet would demonstrate those qualities? Create a family emblem using the new character.
- Observe and take notes about the pets in your neighborhood. Which animals seem to seek each other out? Which pets seem to avoid each other? Make sketches of the different animals. Search the internet for “poker dogs” and investigate how artists have put animals into social settings that are very human. Create your own animal social scene illustration, using information from your observation notes. Which pet is the center of attention? The bully? The shy one? How will you tell those parts of the story in your illustration?
- Arrange a PetSwap with a friend. With parent permission, trade pets with a friend for a day...have a planning meeting to share with your friend how to care for your pet, and to learn how to care for your guest. While spending the day with your “Guest Pet” observe the animal’s habits, ways of communicating, and personality. At a pre-arranged time, swap the pets back to the right owners, and share your observations with your friend.





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Loyalty: Understanding Interdependence



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- Investigate the yin and yang symbol of ancient China. Make a list of ways you and your pet depend upon each other. Using the yin and yang structure, create a portrait of you and your pet.
- Create a chart with 24 rows, and 7 columns for the days of the week. Label each of the rows with an hour of the day. Assign a color to each family member, and for one week, as a family record who your pet spends the hour with by coloring in that block of the chart with the corresponding color. At the end of the week, observe the chart. What do you notice? What do you know about your pet that didn't know before? What will your family do with this information, to meet the needs of your pet?
- You and your best friend depend on each other, understand each other, trust each other...you and your pet have a similar connection. That connection is strong but invisible...as if you can read each other's minds. To make it visible, try this experiment. On a paper, draw enough cartoon boxes to tell a story. Draw the beginning of a story about a pet,



like a comic strip, using only the first box. Pass the drawing on to a friend or family member and ask them to add what should come next in the comic strip. Pass the drawing back and forth adding one drawing to the boxes each time. Does the comic strip make sense? Could you guess what your friend would draw next?

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Leadership: Practicing Initiative



- On a hot day, set up a Water Stand for pets passing by.
- Make sketches of your pet, or any animal doing cute things. Create a line of greeting cards to give to pets...honor pet birthdays, or family holidays, or good behavior, or just because. You could use the cards yourself, sell in the neighborhood, or promote at your vet's office...giving the money to the local animal shelter.
- Create a photo pet registry for your neighborhood. Photograph the animals that live in your neighborhood and gather identification info: name, address, special characteristics. Share the gathered information with neighbors. Knowing the animals that live in your neighborhood will help return lost animals, and identify strays.

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Tell us your pet tale at www.talesforthepetloversheart.com

National Education Standards: The activities presented here reinforce the National Education Standards your child is expected to meet in school:

Language Arts: Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

Language Arts: Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.

Life Science: Students understand interdependence of organisms.

Science Inquiry: Students demonstrate abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry.

Social Science: Understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

Mathematics: identify essential quantitative relationships in a situation and determine the class or classes of functions that might model the relationships; and, draw reasonable conclusions about a situation being modeled.

Technology: Demonstrate operation of basic computer and multimedia technology tools.

