



Tales for the
pet lover's
heart

Activities
for Ages
3-6

Fun for You and Your Pet





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More than just fun Things-to-Do:

The early building blocks of a strong relationship are not simply acquired... they are learned. They are observed, they are explored, they are practiced.

Young learners must construct a meaningful understanding of **compassion, respect, commitment, and caring** in order to build strong relationships. They build that knowledge by asking questions, identifying attributes, finding patterns, interpreting symbols, recognizing boundaries. A meaningful relationship with a family pet creates a positive model for lifelong relationships. **These activities are designed to help parents and young learners observe, explore and practice a strong relationship with the family pet.**



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Caring: Practicing Compassion



- Next time you see a **Missing Pet poster**, write a letter of encouragement and compassion to the owner, ask a grown up to help you deliver it.
- Organize a **Pet Play date**: invite pets and friends together to learn about each other.
- Write a list of **WHY** questions for the veterinarian, to ask the next time you take your pet for a check up. For example, "Why does my cat walk in circles before lying down?" or "Why does my dog eat grass?"



Communication: Understanding Respect



- To better understand your pet's view of the world, photograph or draw a room in the house from the pet's point of view.
- Create a map of your house, outline rooms with colors assigned to members of the family that "own" that space. Identify a space that belongs to your family pet. Respect that space by helping to keep it safe, free of clutter, easy to get to.
- With your family, create a **Family Bill of Rights**. Include what the pet can depend on from the people, and the people can depend on from the pet.





Loyalty: Honoring Commitment

Clean My
Room

Watch TV

Play
Video
Games

- Identify one important task in caring for your pet... like taking a walk. Then, Create 10 option cards – write 5 things you love to do, and 5 things you don't like to do. Now, play "Test your Commitment." When it is time to walk your pet, pull a card from the deck of options...will you walk your pet?, or choose to do what's on the card? When is it easy to choose the right thing? When is it hard?

- Pledge a donation to the local animal shelter. Then, search on the internet about how to make your own Pet Treats or Toys. Invite friends, and ask a grown up to help. Sell your creations in the neighborhood collecting the money to honor your commitment to the shelter.



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- How committed is your family to your pet? Become the family pet for the day... depend on your family to be fed, let into the bathroom, played with, talked to, etc. Communicate only in ways that your pet would typically use. Share your observations with the family when your experiment is over. What required the most patience in the day? How did it feel to depend on the family? Did the family honor its commitment to the "pet?"





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Leadership: Demonstrating Care



- Write and illustrate your own **AlphaPet Book**...the A, B, C's of caring for a pet. A is for Attention, B is for Bathing, C is for...
- Shadow a veterinarian or local shelter worker for a day...learn how leaders in the community care for our pets.
- Host a **Furry Film Festival**...invite friends to make a home movie about their pet. Have a film festival, charge admission, donate the money to a pet shelter or rescue shelter.

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 employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Scientific Ways of Knowing: Recognize the importance of respect for all living things.

Mathematics: Understand patterns, relations, and functions.

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

Social Science: Identify the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

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

