



Tales for the
pet lover's
heart

Activities
for Ages
7-12



**Fun for You
and Your Pet**

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Meaningful learning is fun...

Over time, relationships grow and change. They also become more complex.

In middle childhood it is important to understand *expectations, consistency, trust, and responsibility*. With practice and reinforcement

from a loving pet, children learn to read patterns, identify priorities, take initiative, and demonstrate reliability. They begin to recognize the cause and effect balance of their behaviors...and the power they have to make an impact.

These activities are designed to initiate investigation and interpretation of the bond your child shares with the family pet.



Caring: Meeting Expectations

- On individual note cards, write down what your pet expects of the family. Then create similar cards listing what each family member expects of your pet. Build a chart or graph to **compare the expectations** of the pet to the expectations of the family.
- Plan with a helper to set up a video camera in your house, then go to school. Before you get home, have your helper begin to record. **What does your pet do around the time you are expected home?** Share the videos with friends.
- Create a family game show called **"Who knows best?"** Create question cards like "What will your pet do when the doorbell rings?" All write individual answers, hold up to compare...those guessing correctly earn points.



Communication: Practicing Consistency



- Design an investigation with your pet. Identify an existing pet task (i.e. feeding time, bed time, walk time). Add a behavioral cue to the pattern. (clap 3 times before each feeding). Consistently practice the cue for two weeks. Document your observations in a journal. In the third week, present only the cue to your pet. Record observations. What do your actions communicate to your pet?
- **Rituals and traditions** are the practices that mark important shared experiences. Create a new daily tradition to share with your pet (i.e. reading to your pet at bedtime, high five when you come home) and consistently participate.
- Include your **pet's agenda** on the family calendar for one month. Next to each item, document who took responsibility for that task. Create awards for the most consistent caregivers in different categories.



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Loyalty: Understanding Trust



- Create an obstacle course for your pet... document how you got your pet to participate.
- With the help of a friend or grown up, take a dog for a walk...while blindfolded (you, not the dog)! What does it mean to place your trust in your dog?
- Learn techniques to teach your pet to meet new people. Invite friends over for your pet to practice approaching and engaging with your guests.



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Leadership: Demonstrating Responsibility



- Be a Non-fiction writer...conduct research by interviewing family members to create a "Pet Biography."
- Interview pet owners on the responsibilities of owning a pet...offer a backyard clinic for friends in the neighborhood on how to be a good pet owner.
- Use the internet to research the family or breed(s) of your pet. What traits can be expected of your pet? How has your family created the best possible environment for your pet's needs?

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:

Scientific Ways of Knowing: Able to conduct scientific inquiry.

Social Science: Create time lines and identify possible relationships between events.

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.

Mathematics: Develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data

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