

Keeping Brain Fit At Home

Our Groups: *Pick and Mix, The Giggly Group, Young at Hearts, The Urchins, Passmore Pals, Happy People, Us Lot and Freya's Friends.*

This week our topic is: **PETS**



Here at Memory Matters, we have been talking about some of our favourite pets:

Clarinda has a black labrador called Darcy. She always wanted a white horse when she was little - her Dad said he would buy her one if he won the football pools - she's still waiting!

Lynn loves her two cats; Max and Sox. Lynn found Sox at Sally's rescue, he was originally called Elvis but she changed his name to Sox as he had four white paws.

Laura remembers her Mum making dog biscuits from a Blue Peter recipe. It wasn't long after that that their dog disappeared. Family rumour has it that it was the biscuits!

Sophie had a cat as a child and it always used to wee in their shoes. She remembers not realising once until she had gotten to school and no one wanted to sit next to her. She has only owned dogs as an adult, and she has two Jack Russells (with impeccable toilet habits).

Britain is famous for being a nation of animal lovers and more than half of British families own a pet. Pets are part of our everyday lives and provide us with companionship and unconditional love as well as making us take exercise in all weathers!

- Did you have a favourite family pet when you were growing up?
- How did you choose your latest pet and who chose their name?

Cats Sleep Anywhere by Eleanor Farjeon

*Cats sleep, anywhere,
Any table, any chair.
Top of piano, window ledge,
In the middle, on the edge,
Open drawer, empty shoe,
Anybody's lap will do.
Fitted in a cardboard box,
In the cupboard, with your frocks.
Anywhere! They don't care!
Cats sleep anywhere.*

- What is your pet's favourite place to curl up for a nap?
- Stroking a cat or dog can significantly reduce stress, how does it make you feel when you are stroking your pet's fur?
- If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose?

Animal Categories

Can you think of animals to fit the following:

- A pet that can work for you
- A pet that appears in a children's story
- An unusual pet
- A pet that can communicate with its owner

Animal Sayings

We wonder if your parents ever used any of these sayings and what you think they meant?

"Has the cat got your tongue?"

"It's going to the dogs"

"You're barking up the wrong tree!"

"Let sleeping dogs lie"

She's let the cat out of the bag"

Joke

Did you hear about the sheepdog trials?

Three of the dogs were guilty!

A shepherd and his dog at times appear to have a magical relationship. **One Man and his Dog** was a BBC gem on our TV screens in the 1970's - capturing the amazing levels of communication between dog and handler.



- Which animals do you think are known for their intelligence?
- Have you got any top tips for "pet-proofing" your house?

How many different types of animals can you find on this farm?



Photo Archive:



David and Nigel testing out the ink pens in our "schools session".