

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Think about a picture

- Look at the picture: *My Pet*. What do you think has happened just before this picture was taken? What might happen next? What names would you give these dogs? Who might own them?
- Can you think of three reasons why people like to keep pets?
- Make notes about your answers or tell someone about them.

### 2. Read a poem

- Read the poem: *My Dog*. Read it two times, once in your head once out loud.
- Read and think about the *Poetry Questions*. Write some of your answers as clear sentences.

### 3. Read a poetry collection

- Read the poems in *Animal Poetry Collection*.
- Read at least three of the poems. Challenge yourself to read them all.
- Complete *Poetry Notes* and write about your favourite poem.

Well done. Share the poems with a grown-up. Do they have the same favourite as you?

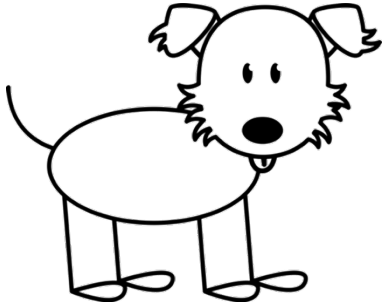
### Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Can you practise reading your favourite animal poem, then record it and share your recording with someone else?
- Can you make an illustration for your favourite animal poem?

## My Pet



## My Dog by Vernon Scannell



My dog belongs to no known breed,  
A bit of this and that,  
His head looks like a small haystack,  
He's lazy, smelly, fat.

If I say, 'Sit!' he walks away,  
When I throw stick or ball  
He flops down in the grass as if  
He had no legs at all.

Then looks at me with eyes that say,  
'You threw the thing, not me,  
You want it back? Then get it back,  
Fair's fair, you must agree.'

He is a thief. Last week but one  
He stole the Sunday roast  
And showed no guilt at all as we  
Sat down to beans on toast.

The only time I saw him run –  
And he went like a flash –  
Was when a mugger in the park  
Tried to steal my cash.

My loyal brave companion flew  
Like a missile to the gate  
And didn't stop till safely home,  
He left me to my fate.

And would I swap him for a dog  
Obedient, clean and good,  
An honest, faithful, lively chap?  
Oh boy, I would, I would!

*(Read Me Out Loud p310)*

## Poetry Questions

**What do you like about the poem? Is there anything that you dislike about it?**

**Does the poem remind you of anything that you have ever read? Does it remind you of any person you know? Does it remind you of anything that has happened to you?**

**What patterns can you find in the poem? Are any of the words or phrases linked with other words or phrases? How?**

**What puzzles does the poem leave? What questions does it make you want to ask?**

## Animal Poetry Collection

Mother doesn't want a dog

Mother doesn't want a dog.  
Mother says they smell,  
And never sit when you say sit,  
Or even when you yell.  
And when you come home late at night  
And there is ice and snow,  
You have to go back out because  
The dumb dog has to go.

Mother doesn't want a dog.  
Mother says they shed,  
And always let the strangers in  
And bark at friends instead,  
And do disgraceful things on rugs,  
And track mud on the floor,  
And flop upon your bed at night  
And snore their doggy snore.

Mother doesn't want a dog.  
She's making a mistake.  
Because, more than a dog, I think  
She will not want this snake.



by Judith Viorst

The Dog Lovers

So they bought you  
And kept you in a  
Very good home  
Central heating  
TV  
A deep freeze  
A very good home-

No one to take you  
For that lovely long run-  
But otherwise  
'A very good home'  
They fed you Pal and Chun  
But not that lovely long run,

Until, mad with energy and boredom  
You escaped- and ran and ran and ran  
Under a car.  
Today they will cry for you-  
Tomorrow they will buy another dog.

by Spike Milligan

## Black Cat

Sleepy-purred cat peers out  
from the nest of my duvet  
eyes glinting green gold black

He yawns  
mouth prawn-pink.

Settles.

Sleek black paw  
over coal black nose  
and sleeps.



by Suzanne Elvidge

## The Dog

The truth I do not stretch or shove  
When I state that the dog is full of love.  
I've also found, by actual test,  
A wet dog is the lovingest.

By Ogden Nash

## Barry's Budgie... Beware!

Dave's got a dog the size of a lion  
Half-wolf, half-mad, frothing with venom  
It chews up policemen and then spits them out  
But it's nothing to the bird I'm talking about.

Claire's got a cat as wild as a cheetah  
Scratching and hissing, draws blood by the litre  
Jumps high walls and hedges, fights wolves on its own  
But there's one tough budgie it leaves well alone.

Murray my eel has teeth like a shark  
Don't mess with Murray, he'll zap out a spark  
But when Barry's budgie flies over the houses  
Murray dims down his lights, blows his own fuses.

This budgie's fierce, a scar down its cheek  
Tattoos on its wings, a knife in its beak  
Squawks wicked words, does things scarcely legal  
Someone should tell Barry it's really an eagle.

by David Harmer

## My Praying Mantis

I once had a mantis as a pet  
A praying mantis, you must not forget,

is the tiger of the insect world,  
hungry, fierce and extremely bold,

and if you are an insect, keep away  
should a mantis be lurking where you play.

Anyway my mantis was my very best friend.  
He sat on my shoulder and I did defend his

insect's right to stay with me,  
protect him from people's curiosity;



for they thought it very strange  
the way his body was arranged.  
For a start his neck was very long,  
and his heart-shaped head did not belong

to that thin neck and bulbous abdomen  
or toothed arms as strong as ten,

wings which gave him speed in flight  
when he attacked and with delight

grabbed a cockroach for his supper,  
tore and ate it with his choppers.

However, one day, Phoebe, the neighbour's cat,  
gobbled up my mantis and that was that.

Phoebe licked her lips, seemed satisfied  
with a chewed up mantis in her inside.

I suppose, for a mantis, the moral to this story  
is, look out for cats or you'll be sorry.

by John Lyons

## The Gerbil

“Can we have a gerbil, Mum?”  
 “We can’t,” is what Mum said.  
 “I’m sorry, love,” she added.  
 “I’m having a baby, instead.”

“I’d rather have a gerbil, Mum  
 I’d like a pet,” I said,  
 But what I’ll get is a baby,  
 With a face all screaming and red.

“I’ll tell you what,” said Mother,  
 “I’ll tell you what we’ll do.  
 If you help me with the baby,  
 You can have a gerbil, too.”

I got the gerbil I wanted,  
 And I help Mum every day.  
 The baby isn’t too bad –  
 But the gerbil’s quieter, I’d say.

by Tony Bradman

## Rabbit Poem

To keep  
 a rabbit  
 is a good  
 habit.

A rabbit is truly curious:  
 his eyes are soft  
 but his whiskers wiggle  
 and his nose twitches  
 and his ears jiggle

and his tail  
 is a bump  
 on  
 his rump.



A rabbit  
 Is cheerful  
 but not especially  
 careful  
 about multiplying:  
 the answers  
 he gets  
 to the simple  
 sum  
 of one and one  
 are mystifying...

A rabbit Is easy  
 to care for:  
 to munch on grass  
 is what he’s hare for.

So if you get  
 the chance  
 to have a rabbit  
 grab it!

by Pamela Mordecai



## Feedback on poems

Poem	Like or not? (Give a score)	Patterns I noticed.	Questions I have.
Mother doesn't want a dog			
The Dog Lovers			
Black Cat			
The Dog			
Barry's Budgie... Beware!			
My Praying Mantis			
The Gerbil			
Rabbit Poem			

My favourite poem is... \_\_\_\_\_  
My reasons are....