



Picking a Pet Cloverbud Lesson



OVERVIEW

This lesson looks at different types of pets and helps children understand responsibilities of pets.

OBJECTIVES

Participants will:

- understand the responsibilities of pet ownership.
- be able to compare and analyze criteria for selection of pets.
- consider advantages and disadvantages of pets and make a selection.

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
Lesson Material Preparation	Print power point on cardstock; laminate if possible.
Supplies & Equipment	Posters of animals and chart; tape; stickers.
Background Information	Cloverbud members will be able to consider advantages and disadvantages of pets and make a selection.

TEACHER NOTES	
<p>Review the entire contents of the lesson and prepare accordingly. Presenter should print power point pictures of pets and chart on cardstock and laminate if possible. May also want to print the description for each pet and use for discussion with the group. The pictures of pets will be taped to walls around the room.</p> <p>Teacher should review the posters (power point) to be familiar with why the particular pets make good choices.</p>	
OUTLINE	SCRIPT & INSTRUCTIONS
Introduction (What I know about the topic)	How many of you own a pet? What are some pets you like? Pets are considered our friends, and we care about them. Besides love what else do we get from pets?
Classroom Discussion (What I want to know about the topic)	<p>Discuss the benefits of pets. Examples: Dogs are used for seeing eye dogs, search out bombs and criminals; used for hunting; etc.</p> <p>Pets teach us how to care and love. As we are taking care of pets we learn how to take care of all living things.</p> <p>What are the things that pets need from us?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Water • Safety • Love • Comfort • Medical care (veterinary care) • Exercise
<p>Activity (What I learn about the topic)</p>	<p>Today we are going to do an activity where we get to choose a pet. Look around the room at the photos of different pets. There are little pets and large pets. Think about what you like about the pets.</p> <p>To do the activity, I am going to give each of you a sticker that you are going to place on the picture of the pet you would most want to own.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give each child a sticker. 2. Allow them to place the sticker on the poster of their choice. 3. Share the graph with the class. 4. Explain to the class that we can collect information from the posters to see which pet is the most popular or the least popular. 5. Have a helper from each pet group count the stickers on each poster. Have the helper place the information on the graph. 6. Which pet is the most popular, least, are there any equal pets? <p>After the graph is completed, discuss the care for each animal as well as life span. Have students consider what are advantages and disadvantages of different pets.</p>
<p>Wrap Up (What does this remind me of?)</p>	<p>Sometimes we must look past the cuteness of a pet and realize that we have certain responsibilities as a pet owner. What other types of decisions does this remind you of?</p>

RESOURCES

Discovering 4-H Project Book;
Publication 2348, LSU AgCenter

EXPLORING (DIG DEEPER)

Children can investigate further into care of the pet of their choice.

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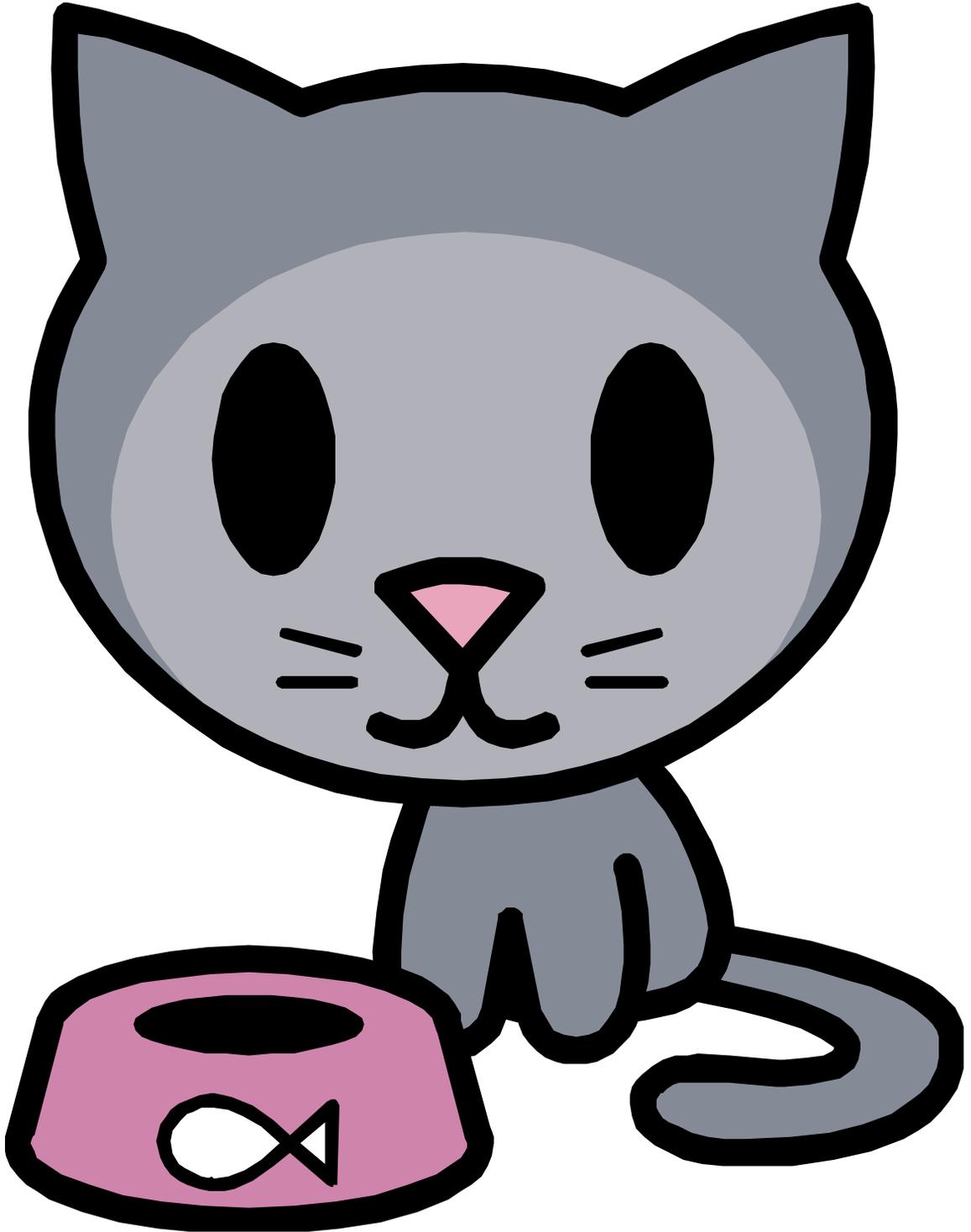
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Playful Pets



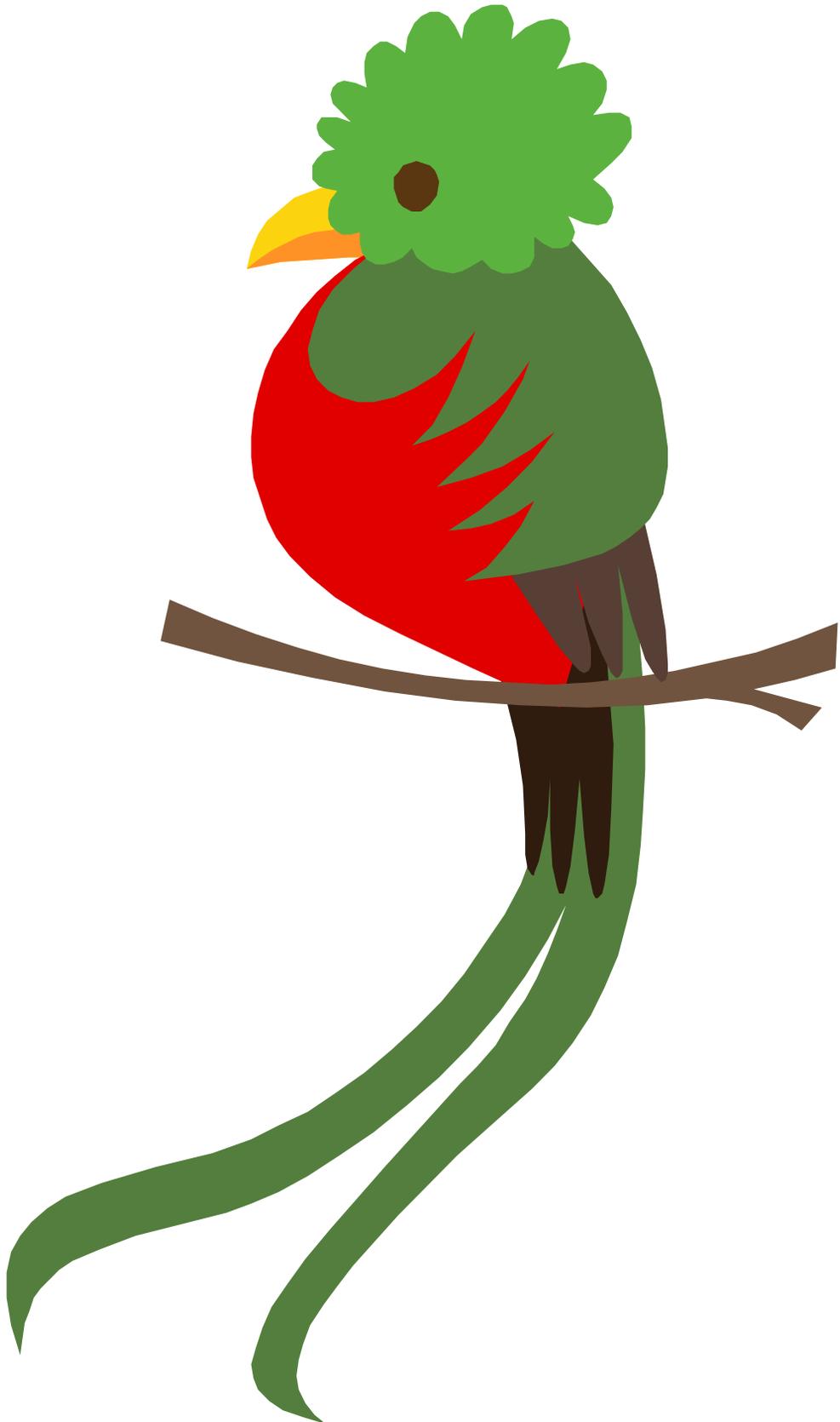
Dogs

- Dogs have been developed for pets and work. Boxers, German shepherds, and others have been raised to defend or protect their owners. Others like the Border collie, Australian shepherd and collies have been developed for working livestock. Still others have been raised to provide companionship.
- Meat is their main food. Dogs weigh from a few pounds to more than 100 pounds. They reach full height in about one year.
- The babies are called puppies.
- Dogs will live to be 10-15 years old.



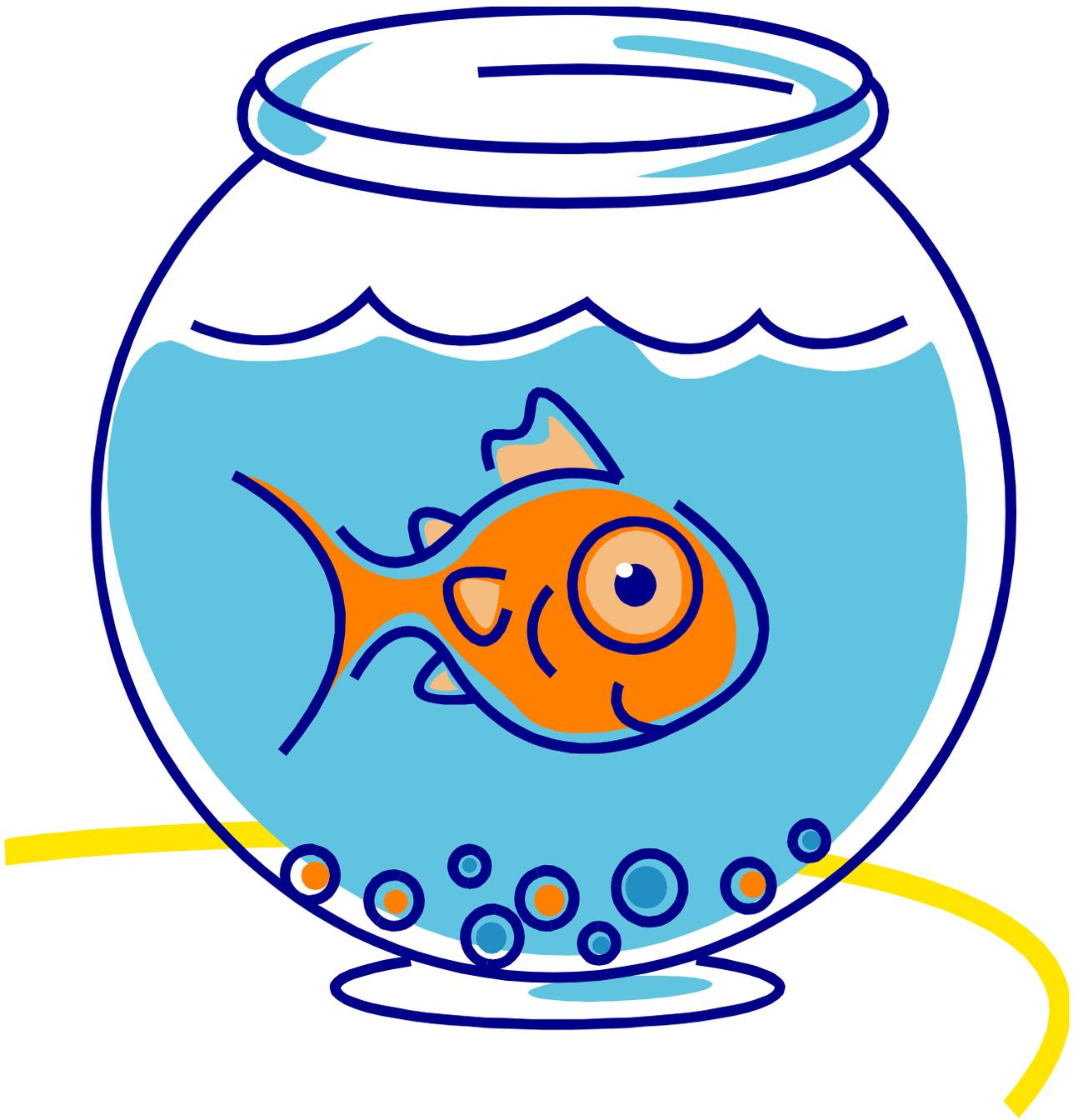
Cats

- Cats are relatives of lions, tigers, jaguars, and leopards. Cats are one of our most loved pets. As pets, cats earn their keep. They catch rats and mice. Each year cats save millions of dollars worth of food that rodents (rats, mice) would destroy.
- There are many breeds of cats. The best known are Persian, Siamese and domestic short hair (alley cat).
- A cat can live 10-14 years.
- They have several offspring in each litter. The babies are called kittens.
- Cats are carnivorous (meat eaters), like dogs.



Birds

- Birds are pets with built-in air conditioning. They have hollow bones, and air sacs or pockets. Their lungs pump cool air into the bones and pockets. The hollow bones make birds lighter so they can fly.
- Birds are popular pets because of their beauty and singing ability. Birds are animals with feathers. There are more than 9,000 kinds.
- Parakeets and other parrots are the most popular talking birds. The canary is noted for its singing. Finches are smaller than canaries and parakeets. They are noted for their constant activity. Canaries and finches rarely become tamed enough to be handled. Parakeets and other parrots, if handled when they are young, will respond to training.
- Most birds eat grains or seeds.
- A parakeet has an average lifespan of 7 to 18 years. Finches average 5 to 10 years while canaries average 10 to 15 years.



Fish

- Fish are animals with backbones that live in water throughout their lives. They do not have lungs; they breathe by gills. Gills take oxygen from the water.
- Pet fish live about 3 to 5 years. Goldfish may live up to 20 years with proper care.



Small Mammals

- Small mammals are kept as pets. Mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and rabbits are favorites. They are good pets if space is limited.
- Small mammals usually eat seeds and grains.
- They have litters.
- Rabbits may live for 8 to 12 years inside a home and only 1 to 3 years if kept outside. A Guinea Pig will live for 5 to 7 years.

