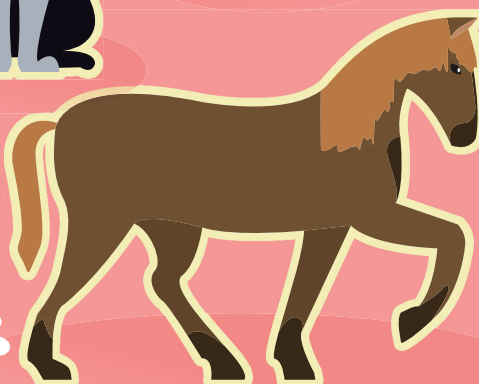
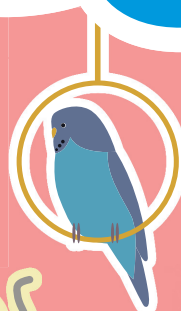


## Goodies

Keeping  
a pet

It would have to be a fish, because cats and dogs can't live underwater!



Oh, I'd love to have a pet!



## Editor's Note

Hi! Last week I wrote that kids look a bit geeky because many of them wear glasses. It is not just Hong Kong kids but also children from around the world.

Parents need to take their kids outdoors more or else the youngsters will develop poor eyesight from staring at small screens, and also become skinny from the lack of exercise. Unfortunately I – like many parents – am guilty of giving a phone to my child to keep her busy while I do something else such as cooking dinner. Let's put away those smartphones and protect our eyes! Turn to G06 to read news about kids having poor eyesight from staring at phones too long.

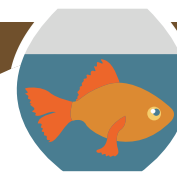


Simon

**M**ANY of us want pets such as a dog, cat or fish. But when you ask your parents, they will may say: "You can't even take care of yourself. How will you take care of a pet?"

But that has not stopped children from having animals at home.





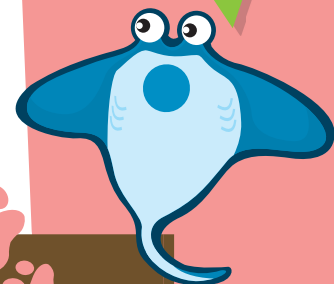
## Popular and unusual pets

GOLDFISH and turtles are easy to take care of. Other smaller pets include hamsters, guinea pigs, **chinchillas** and rabbits. These can be found in almost any pet shop. Reptiles and insects are popular in Western countries, even pythons and tarantulas.

Dogs and cats are popular everywhere. You can adopt one from the Society for **Prevention** of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). If you want specific breeds like a Persian or a German Shepherd, you may have to go to a pet shop.

Some rich people keep wild animals such as lions, tigers and chimpanzees. Wealthy people in the Middle East keep **birds of prey**.

Would it be strange for a stingray to have a goldfish as a pet?



## Why do people like pets?

ANIMALS can do certain jobs. Cats catch mice. Dogs guard the door. Birds can sing a lovely tune. Pets in general provide **companionship** when we are lonely. They help reduce stress. And through feeding and taking care of them, we learn how to take care of other people.



## How to take care of pets

A PET owner should make sure their pet has a place to live, enough food and water, and a place to pee and poop. For example, reptiles are kept in **terrariums**, where they are usually given mice and water. Cats need a litter box for waste. Dogs, on the other hand, need to be walked every day. And when they poop, the owner needs to scrape up the waste and throw it away into special bins, too. Cats and dogs have to be fed a few times a day.



## Lifelong friends

PETS are kept for life. They are not toys and taking care of them is a huge **responsibility**. Spend some time with them to make sure you are not allergic to them. It is all right to keep a pet even if there is a new baby in the family. It is cruel to abandon a pet because you become bored with it. If you must give up a pet, try to give it to another family. If all else fails, give it to the SPCA.

Do not just dump an unwanted pet at random places. About 13 years ago, a crocodile, named Pui Pui, was found in a river. The crocodile belonged to someone who dumped it when it got too big. The government caught it and had to build a special space for it at the Hong Kong Wetland Park.



If you would like to have a pet, now you can get one without going to a pet shop! Go to this government-sponsored pet adoption event with your parents and bring your favourite animal home.



What animal is used for hunting?

A. cats B. dogs C. pigs

Answer on G12

