

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Pets, Our Nonhuman Friends

Pets are an important part of many people's lives and can bring us joy, comfort, and companionship. Whether you're a dog person, a cat person, or prefer more exotic pets like snakes or birds, there's no denying that pets have a special place in our hearts. In this discussion guide, we'll be exploring different aspects of pets and how they relate to us as individuals. We will be sharing stories, asking questions, and learning more about each other and our furry (or scaly) friends. So, let's get started and have some fun!

Owning a Pet

Becoming a pet owner can be a wonderful experience, but it's important to consider the responsibilities that come with it. We will explore the various factors that you should consider before getting a pet, such as the type of pet that would be best suited for your lifestyle, the costs associated with pet ownership, and the time and effort required to care for a pet.

Choose one question in each set of three to answer.

1. Do you have any pets? If so, what kind and what are their names?
2. What inspired you to have or not to have a pet?
3. What would you name a pet?

4. What type of pet is suited for your current lifestyle?
5. How much time is required for a pet?
6. What are some of the expenses involved with having a pet in the US or elsewhere.

Getting personal with our pets

Pets are an integral part of our lives, and they offer us companionship, love, and joy. Studies have shown that pets can have a positive impact on our mental, emotional, and physical well-being. In this discussion, we will explore the multifaceted relationships between humans and their furry or scaly friends, examining the profound impacts they have on our lives.

Choose one question in each set of three to answer.

1. In what way do pets help our mental/emotional and physical health? Give examples.
2. Do you think pets can sense their owner's emotions? Give a story or explain your answer.
3. Is there a negative side to owning a pet?

4. How do you feel about sharing your personal space with your pet? For example, would you allow your pet to sleep on your bed, walk on your table, or lie on the couch. Explain or illustrate.
5. What do you feed your pet? Is anything inappropriate to give a pet to eat?
6. Do you think pets have a sixth sense? Give a story or explain your answer.

Memories with our pets

Memories with our pets can be some of the most cherished moments of our lives. Whether it's the first time we brought them home, the silly things they did, or the way they comforted us when we needed it most, our pets have a special place in our hearts.

Choose one question in each set of three to answer.

1. What is something your dog or cat has done that demonstrates how smart they are?
 2. What is the funniest thing your pet has ever done?
 3. Is there a scary memory you have that involved your pet or that of someone close to you.
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4. How did you or someone you know cope with the death of a beloved pet?
 5. Some people are afraid of dogs or cats. What is some advice you would give them?
 6. Why should some people not own a pet?

Draw or find a digital image to show your pet or a pet you would someday like to own.