



Handout 5

Life Science: Animals

Studying Pets in the Classroom

Classroom Pet Tips:

- ✓ Make sure that your school allows pets in the classroom (some schools have policies against classroom pets).
- ✓ Make sure that there are no children with pet allergies.
- ✓ Research what pet would be best for your particular classroom and discuss with the children specific pet care.
- ✓ Make sure you create a pet area away from direct sunlight; make sure that the temperature is regulated for the needs of your pet (some schools lower temperatures at night and/or on the weekends).
- ✓ It is best not to have young children handle pregnant pets or those with babies; these pets can be extra protective and/or irritable and they may nip little fingers.
- ✓ Children will need to wash hands thoroughly with soap & water before and after handling class pets (some may carry diseases)



Types of Preschool Pets

Some popular choices for preschool pets include the following:

hamstersrabbits***fish***
birdsguinea pigs***
turtlesfrogs***hermit crabs***

Purposeful Planning with Pets

Each week plan ways that class pets can be used to help children sharpen skills in scientific inquiry, responsibility, and in content areas (such as literacy, mathematics, science and social studies).



Excellent "Pets in the Classroom" Internet Resource:
<http://www.petsintheclassroom.org>

