

A CLASS PET

Volume 1, Issue 1

Date

Asking the Tough Questions

A Quest to Discover the Best Classroom Pet.

Student Name

West Ridge Middle School

As long as I can remember, I have wanted a pet! Every year, I asked Santa to bring me some kind of pet. Maybe the reason I

67% of our class would like to have a classroom pet.

stopped believing in Santa was because he never seemed to listen to my deepest desire to have an animal in my life.

No Help at Home

My mom and dad were not listening either. I have done research on many different kinds of pets, but my mom always had a reason why each pet would not work for our family. We did not have the space in our apartment for a guinea pig. We could not afford the care and feeding of a dog. My dad was allergic to cat hair. Our neighbor had a goldfish that only lived for a week. Any time I mentioned a pet, there were lots of reasons and excuses, but still no pets for me.

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My Findings

- About 3/4 of the students in my class want a classroom pet.
- About 2/3 of the students are willing to take care of a classroom pet daily.
- The students in my class are closely split between wanting a pet that is soft and furry and one that is fun to watch.
- The most popular choice for a pet was a hamster, followed by a rabbit, then a guinea pig, and, last, a turtle.
- More than 2/3 of the students are willing to help raise money to fund a class pet.

A Chance to Learn More

This year, I decided I would try a different approach. I would see if my class could get a classroom pet. I was not sure how I would get this project started, but my teacher provided the perfect way. She asked each of us to select a topic to research and poll our classmates for their opinion. I did not need to be asked twice what I was going to research. I knew my topic would be choosing the best classroom pet.

And I learned a lot about the care and feeding of pets! Having a pet is more than just playing and having a fun with an animal. There are lots of chores and responsibilities involved in taking care of a pet. News! You need to have the right setting for your pet and you need to be involved daily. You need to groom your pet and clean its cage or tank. You need to pay for food, toys, habitats, and vet bills. I guess I had not considered these aspects before I did my research.

The Results Are In

After I researched how to choose the best pet for a classroom, I designed a poll with eight questions. I used the poll to discover how the other students in my class felt about having a classroom pet and taking care of it. I took the data I gathered and analyzed it to find out that a

A hamster or a rabbit were most popular choices among my classmates for a classroom pet.

majority of students want a class pet and are willing to take care of it and help raise money for it. However, four students have allergies so a class pet may not work for our room.

I see now that our apartment is too small for most of the pets I researched and I do not have the time necessary to care for a pet. Now that I know more about the obligations that come with having a pet, I have a better understanding why my parents are so unwilling to give me a pet. I'm glad that I learned all this and I can always walk over to my cousin's house when I want to play with his dog!