

**BANFIELD  
PET ACADEMY**



# A Kid's Guide to Owning & Loving Pets



**Banfield**  
PET HOSPITAL

## DEAR STUDENTS,

Welcome to Banfield Pet Academy – the “school” where you learn to be a responsible pet owner. We know how much fun pets can be, but they also rely on us for their care, which is a big responsibility. Banfield veterinarians wrote this guide with important facts about pets, so you can help them be healthy, happy and safe. We also feel lucky

to work with pets every day, so we included information about jobs working with pets that you might want to consider when you grow up.

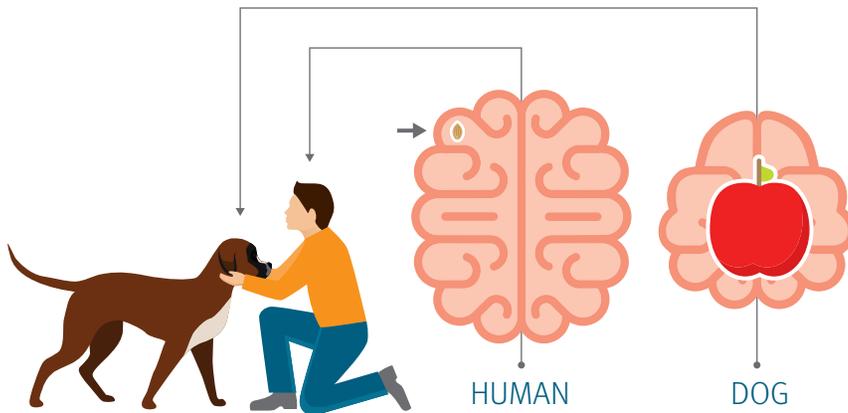
We hope you enjoy reading this book and sharing it with your family and friends, and of course, your pet!

Sincerely,  
Your friends at  
Banfield Pet Hospital



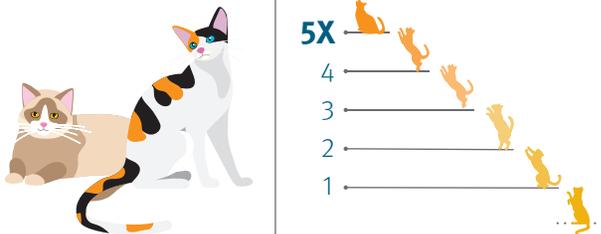
## FUN FACTS

THE PART OF A HUMAN'S BRAIN DEDICATED TO SMELLING IS THE SIZE OF AN ALMOND. FOR AN AVERAGE DOG, IT'S THE SIZE OF AN APPLE.



- Cats have better night vision than humans, and use their whiskers to find their way in the dark.
- Cats cannot see directly under their nose.
- Some dogs can see color, just not as brightly as humans.

**CATS ARE ABLE TO JUMP AT LEAST 5 TIMES THEIR OWN HEIGHT.**



A dog's noseprints are as unique as a human's fingerprints.



Great Danes are the tallest dog breed.



A veterinarian can treat any animal, except humans.



A group of cats is called a "clowder."



Dogs cannot sweat; they cool off through their tongue and paws.

# DO'S & DON'TS FOR PETS

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT HELP A PET BE HEALTHY AND MANY THINGS THAT ARE UNSAFE. **FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE:**

## YES, PLEASE...

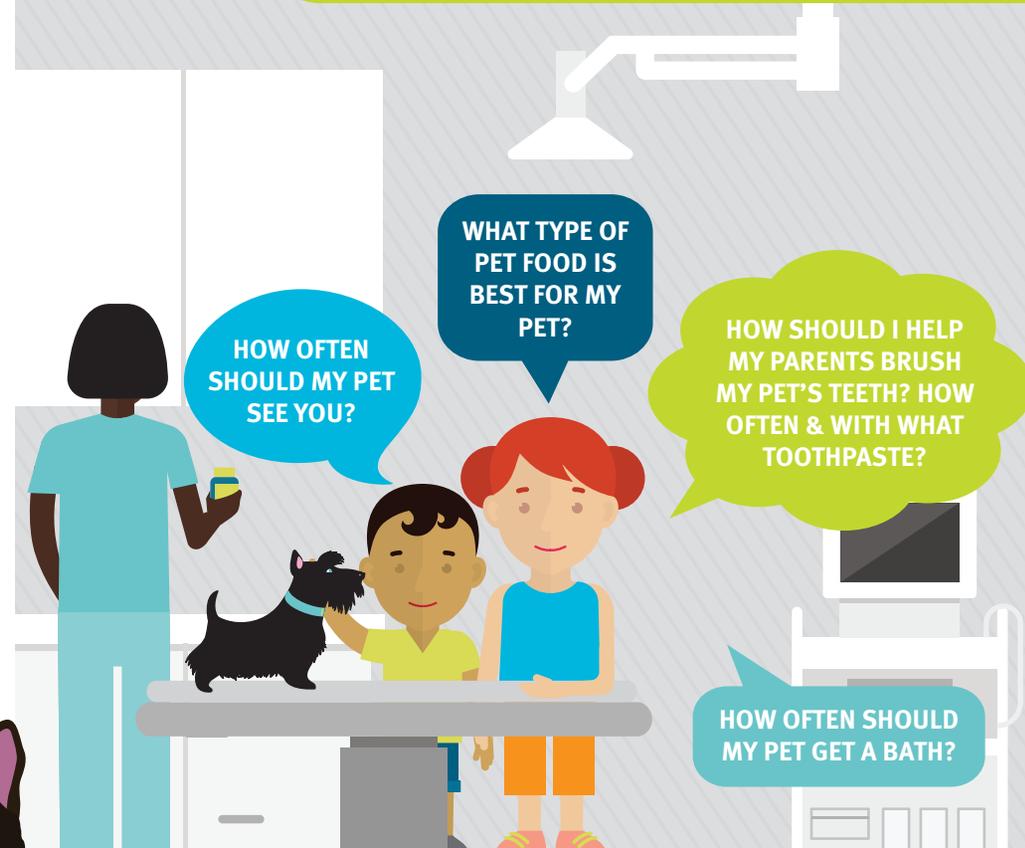
- Healthy pet food
- Fresh water
- Shelter (if the pet lives outside)
- Soft bed
- Exercise
- Regular vet visits
- Collar with ID tags (enough room for two fingers to fit between the neck & collar)
- A microchip (helps if your pet gets lost)
- Regular baths & nail trims

## NO, THANKS...

- Giving human food to your pet (foods like onions, chocolate & raisins are especially dangerous for dogs)
- Drinking ocean or pool water
- Leaving a pet alone in a car
- Giving your pet medicine not prescribed for them



# THINGS TO ASK YOUR VET



## PLANNING FOR AN EMERGENCY:

Help your family plan for an emergency by putting these pet-related items in your emergency kit:

- One week's supply of food & water
- Pet carrier
- Extra leash
- Can opener, if needed
- Photo of your pet
- Copy of medical records
- Poop bags or kitty litter
- Medications your pet takes regularly

# HOW TO SAY “HELLO” TO A PET



Meeting a pet is exciting for us, but can sometimes be scary for a pet. Follow these guidelines to help keep you safe:



Always ask the owner first before you touch a pet.



Turn your body sideways to the pet.



Let the pet come to you at their own speed.



Let the pet sniff the back of your hand first.



Pet the dog or cat gently and slowly, away from their face.

If you see a dog without an owner, tell an adult and do not try to pet or catch it.



## HOW DO YOU SAFELY GIVE A TREAT?

- 1 | Ask permission of the owner first
- 2 | Keep your hand flat
- 3 | Put the treat on your finger tips
- 4 | Let the pet approach you

# ASK A VET

Q

## WHY DOES MY DOG EAT POOP?

This is pretty gross, but we're not sure why dogs do it. Sometimes it might be because they aren't getting enough nutrients or because they are stressed. To help prevent your dog from doing this, feed them a balanced diet, keep the poop picked up in your yard and give them plenty of playtime.

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## WHY DOES MY DOG EAT GRASS?

There are a few reasons—it's possible your dog has an upset stomach or might not be getting enough nutrients. Most often, dogs that do this are perfectly healthy and this is just normal dog behavior.

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## WHY DO DOGS SNIFF EACH OTHER?

Dogs' noses are more sensitive than people's, and sniffing each other is a way for dogs to get to know each other.

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## WHY DO CATS POUNCE?

Pouncing is a skill used by cats when hunting prey, just like lions and tigers do. Cats also use pouncing as a form of play and fun, and it helps them improve their physical coordination.

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## WHY DO CATS PURR?

Purring is the most common sound that cats make and one way to communicate with you. Most often, cats purr when they are happy, but they sometimes purr when they are hungry, in pain or just want something.

# ANIMAL HEALTH CAREERS

## VETERINARIAN



Veterinarians attend a special school to learn how to diagnose and treat animals. Veterinarians can specialize in caring for pets, farm animals and even zoo animals!

## VETERINARY TECHNICIAN



A veterinary technician also goes to extra school and helps the veterinarian in all medical procedures. They can run tests to help diagnose a pet, clean their teeth and give vaccines to help pets stay healthy.

## VETERINARY ASSISTANT



This position in a veterinary hospital is responsible for feeding and giving fresh water to the pets, helping hold them while they receive medicine and taking them for walks during the day.

## HOSPITAL RECEPTIONIST



This position in a veterinary hospital schedules appointments, calls clients and helps to make sure the clinic runs smoothly.

## ANIMAL TRAINER



An animal trainer helps pet owners work with their pet to learn how to follow instructions, walk safely on a leash and correct bad habits that might be impacting the family.

## ANIMAL GROOMER



Grooming is an important part of a pet's overall well-being. An animal groomer gives a pet baths, cuts their fur and trims their nails to help them stay healthy and comfortable.

**IF YOUR PET COULD HAVE A SUPERPOWER,  
WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

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**IMAGINE YOUR PET CAN TALK. WHAT WOULD BE THE  
FIRST THING HE WOULD SAY TO YOU?**

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**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SILLIEST PET NAMES  
YOU CAN THINK OF?**

1   _____	4   _____
2   _____	5   _____
3   _____	6   _____

**GRAB YOUR CRAYONS!**



# MY BEST FRIEND PROMISE



Kids like you play a very important role in the family, especially when it comes to keeping pets happy and healthy.



Read and sign this promise to remember how you can help your family take the very best care of your pet.\*

**\*Please consult your veterinarian for food and exercise recommendations based on your pet's breed, age and lifestyle.**



## I PROMISE TO:

- FEED MY PET HEALTHY FOOD & FRESH WATER EVERY DAY
- BE A SAFE PET OWNER & NEVER LEAVE MY PET ALONE IN A CAR
- GIVE MY PETS LOTS OF EXERCISE & LOVE
- TAKE MY PET TO THE VET FOR REGULAR CHECKUPS
- KEEP ID TAGS ON MY PET IN CASE THEY GET LOST

PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



LEARN MORE AT  
**BANFIELD.COM**