

How to keep your pet healthy (Grades K-2)

Slide 1:

How to keep your pets healthy at home

Slide 2:

Who has a pet at home? [raise your hands] How many of you have a dog? How many of you have a cat?

Slide 3:

Do any of you have other pets, not dogs or cats? What other pets do people have? People can have a lot of different pets, like birds, rabbits, hamsters, fish, horses, and even reptiles like lizards and snakes.

Slide 4:

Not everyone has a pet. Why might some people not have pets? Sometimes people live in a place where pets are not allowed. Some people are allergic to animals. It takes a lot of time to take care of a pet. Some people are too busy going to work or going to school, and they just don't have time to take good care of a pet, so they don't have one. But even though you don't have a pet now, you might have a pet someday, so it is important to know how to keep them healthy.

Slide 5:

What does it mean to be healthy? Being healthy means that you feel good and you are not sick or hurt.

Slide 6:

How can we keep ourselves healthy around our pets? Remember to wash your hands after you touch your pet. Sometimes pets have dirt and germs on their fur and it gets on our hands. We always want to wash our hands after touching our pets and before we eat or touch our eyes or mouth.

Slide 7:

How else can we stay healthy around our pets? Don't share kisses with your pet. Pets can have germs in their mouths and on their fur or skin. We don't want to pass those germs around! Better not let your pet kiss you on the mouth.

Slide 8:

So how can you help keep your pets healthy at home? Just like people, some pets might need to have baths to stay clean and healthy. You can help wash your pets at home.

Slide 9:

You can also help brush your pet's hair or fur to help keep their fur healthy. You can even brush your dog's and cat's teeth, just like you brush your teeth every day – but make sure you only use toothpaste for pets, not toothpaste for people!

Slide 10:

Pets also need fresh food and water every day to stay healthy, so you can help feed your pets and change their water.

Slide 11:

Don't share people snacks with your pet! Sometimes people food can make your pets sick. Some people food is even poisonous for pets. Don't share your people food with your pets, even though they might beg and look sad or hungry – it's not healthy for them.

Slide 12:

Here are some "people foods" that you should not give your pets. Can you name these foods that are poisonous for pets? [Answers: alcohol, onions, grapes, coffee, avocado, garlic, chewing gum, chocolate, some nuts]

Slide 13:

Pets need exercise everyday to stay healthy. How can you help your pet exercise? You can walk your dogs. You can play with your pets – what are some ways we can play with our pets? [Sample answers: throw a ball, let them chase a laser pointer, put small animals like hamsters or rats into an exercise ball, ride a horse, etc.]

Slide 14:

How else can you help keep your pet and your home healthy? You can help make sure your pet's poop gets cleaned up. Poop is filled with germs and we don't want all these germs staying in your yard or staying in your pet's cage. Ask your parents to help you make sure your pet's poop gets cleaned up everyday. Don't forget to wash your hands after cleaning up!

Slide 15:

What should you do if your pets are sick? You ask an adult to take them to the veterinarian. The vet is a doctor for animals and can help them feel better. Your pets should also go to the vet for regular check ups, just like you do, to make sure that they are staying healthy.

Slide 16:

How do you know if your pet is sick? Sick pets usually don't want to eat.

Slide 17:

Some pets like to sleep a lot, and that is normal (like cats and hamsters). But if your pet is sleeping more than they normally do, they might be sick.

Slide 18:

Some pets will hide when they feel sick. If you cannot find your pet for a few days, they might be hiding from you because they don't feel well.

Slide 19:

If your pet doesn't want to play, they might not feel well. If your pet usually likes to play, but starts to act tired all the time, they might be sick.

Slide 20:

How else do we know if your pet is sick? Sometimes your pet might be sick if they go potty where they shouldn't. If your pet normally goes potty outside or in a litter box, and then they start going potty in the house or on your bed, they might be sick.

Slide 21:

So how can we tell if our pet is sick? If your pet is acting weird (or sad, scared, mean) they might be sick. If your pet is doing things they don't normally do, ask your parents or other adult to take them to the vet.

Slide 22:

The vet can find out what is wrong with your pet and help them feel better. The vet can help keep your pets healthy!

Slide 23:

Healthy pets are happy pets!

Slide 24:

Questions?