



## Do the benefits of renting a pet outweigh the potential harm it can cause the animals?

### GETTING ORIENTED

The weekly passage discussed issues related to dog ownership. Here is some information that might be helpful to students less familiar the topic.

#### Animal Shelters

Animal shelters are community businesses that house and protect animals. People can adopt pets from animal shelters. When you get a new pet, you can learn about how to care for your pet at animal shelters. You can also learn about laws that protect animals or laws that protect people who have neighbors with noisy pets!



#### Mixed-Breeds

Mixed-breeds are dogs that are not purebred. Purebred dogs have parents that are the same breed, whereas mixed-breed dogs have parents of different breeds. Mixed-breed dogs have no purebred ancestors. The term mixed-breed is not the same as crossbreed. The term crossbreed refers to dogs produced by breeding two purebred dogs in order to



produce a particular animal. A Labradoodle is a crossbred dog. It is a combination of a Labrador and a Poodle. These dogs are very popular because they don't shed and they are hypoallergenic or less likely to cause allergic reactions. People like to have them for house pets. When you go to an animal shelter, you will usually find mixed-breed dogs.

#### Domesticated Animals

Originally, all animals were wild. People began to domesticate them (or train them) as helpful pets many thousands of years ago. Dogs were helpful for herding sheep, alerting people to danger and helping people keep warm. Dogs are descended from or come from wolves. Other animals that were domesticated include sheep, cats, and goats.



#### State Assembly

The State Assembly is one of two legislative groups of each state in the United States. The other group is the Senate. These two groups make the laws in each state. All members of the State Assembly are elected to office in democratic elections. People can write letters to the members of these groups to express their opinions on issues that people don't agree on. The letter writers hope their letters will change the view of the representatives.





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### EVIDENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

	<i>Some may have this view:</i>	<i>But others may think:</i>
<b>General Public</b>	Yes. Most people are concerned about domesticated animals. They want animals to be healthy and safe for their interaction with animals and for the sake of the animals. If pet rental services benefit people and animals, why wouldn't that be a good service to the community?	No. Some people feel that pet rental would be unfair to the animals. Domesticated animals traditionally form attachments to people and short-term rentals would not allow this to happen.
<b>Parents</b>	Yes. Some parents see pet rental as a great way for a child to learn about how much time it takes to care for a pet. Parents can experiment before they buy a pet to find out how interested their children are in really caring for the animal.	No. Some parents feel pet rental is cruel or mean to the animal. Furthermore, some parents think pet rental may be upsetting if the child becomes attached to the animal and then has to give it back.
<b>Animal Activists</b>	Yes. Animal activists—people who fight for animal rights—have many different approaches to the care of animals, but all believe that animals should not suffer. Activists may feel that people who rent pets would give them more attention than people who take their pets for granted. Activists also might consider that the owners of a pet rental agency are especially caring to the animals because they want them to be in good health, appearance and temperament (or behavior) for potential renters.	No. Some activists would say pet rental is another way of pleasing people and not thinking about the needs of the animals. They might argue that rented animals are just used for the pleasure of the renters.

☒ The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the largest animal protection agency in the U.S.

☒ In 2011, the HSUS provided hands-on care for over 50,000 animals.

☒ The HSUS works with law enforcement organizations to shut down illegal animal-fighting operations and illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking.

☒ Many animals in Rent-a-Pet programs come from shelters.

☒ It is estimated by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) that there are 70,000,000 stray cats in the United States.

☒ Five out of ten dogs in shelters and seven out of ten cats in shelters are destroyed simply because there is no one to adopt them.

☒ According to the ASPCA, the average cost to care for a medium-sized dog in the first year of ownership is \$1,580.

☒ The earliest known evidence of a domesticated dog is a jawbone found in a cave in Iraq and dated to about 12,000 years ago.

#### Additional Information for Teachers

History of the Domestication of Animals  
[www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp](http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp)

Dog Breed Info Center  
[www.dogbreedinfo.com](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com)

Information about the ASPCA  
[www.asPCA.org/Home/Adoption/pet-care-costs](http://www.asPCA.org/Home/Adoption/pet-care-costs)





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### ANNOTATIONS FOR TEACHERS

#### Features of Academic Text: *Logical explanation*

Word Generation articles offer at least two perspectives on a topic. The materials include an explanation of each perspective with reasons and examples for support. The highlighted paragraph below is a good example of a typical, expository paragraph.

Davonte Reese wanted a dog, but his parents didn't think he was **capable** of taking care of one. Then they heard about a company that rents pets.

Davonte's parents were glad the pet rental company gave them the chance to rent a Dalmatian for a day. Renting a Dalmatian helped them realize that Davonte was ready to own a dog. His parents then took Davonte to an animal shelter and adopted a mixed-breed dog named Lucky.

Some people say renting a dog should be illegal. They believe rental businesses are harmful to dogs. To be happy, they say, a dog needs ongoing contact with one person. People who are against pet rentals give several other reasons to support their position. For example, a dog likes to know its home. Dogs and people evolved together, so dogs depend on their human "family." They have some social skills that are like those of humans. People domesticated dogs to be socially **compatible** and live with humans. Therefore, people have a special responsibility to ensure dogs have stable homes.

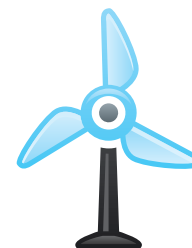
Dogs have a special right to a permanent home with **ongoing** companionship. Also, who will want rental dogs when they are sick or old?

Marlena Davis disagrees with the **notion** that pet rental is bad for dogs. She has a pet rental business. She buys mostly purebred dogs and then rents them for \$50 or more a day. A dog can spend time with a different family every day of the week. **Whereas** people who own dogs leave them home alone,

Marlena says people who rent dogs give the animals lots of attention. Also, families like Davonte's can use pet rentals to make an informed decision about whether to own a dog or not. Marlena's business also creates jobs.

In some states, it may be against the law to rent pets. If you were going to write to a member of your state assembly, what would you say? Should it be illegal to rent a pet?

<i>Topic Sentence:</i>	Some people say renting a dog should be illegal.
<i>Reason:</i>	They believe rental businesses are harmful to dogs.
<i>Example #1:</i>	To be happy, they say, a dog needs ongoing contact with one person.
<i>Example #2:</i>	A dog likes to know its home.
<i>Further Elaboration on Example #2:</i>	Dogs and people evolved together, so dogs depend on their human "family." They have some social skills that are like those of humans. People domesticated dogs to be socially compatible and live with humans. Therefore, people have a special responsibility to ensure dogs have stable homes.



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## GENERATING WORDS

### Compound words

Many words in English are made up of two words that are joined together. Sometimes, you can understand the compound word if you know the meaning of both of these smaller words. For example, a sentence from this week's passage says the following,

She buys mostly **purebred** dogs and then rents them for \$50 or more a day.

**pure**  
(adjective)  
doesn't contain anything different or less in quality  
(100% pure orange juice)

**bred**  
(verb; past tense of the verb *to breed*)  
produced babies

Try to determine the meaning of the word “outweigh” by thinking about the two words that make up this compound word.

Do the benefits of renting a pet **outweigh** the potential harm it can cause the animals?

I think that in this situation, “outweigh” means \_\_\_\_\_

Using the following words, make a list of compound words that you have seen or heard before.

where

who

ever

which

as

what

going

by

on

ex: ongoing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

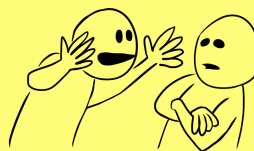


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### DEVELOPING DISCUSSIONS

What's **wrong** with this conversation?



Pets don't deserve any extra rights. They're animals!	
	Uh, huh.
They are not like a family member!	
	Uh... yeah.
They should just be like any other animal.	
	What?
They should just be like any other animal.	

#### Paired Academic Conversation: Elaboration

We often have conversations because we want to understand something better or learn more. In order to share our ideas clearly, we will need a few skills. One skill is to **elaborate**, or explain more, when people don't understand or believe what we have said. Sometimes a person in the conversation has to *prompt* (or ask) the person to **elaborate**.

Words and phrases that people say when they need someone to elaborate:

- ☐ Can you say more about that?
- ☐ Can you elaborate?
- ☐ Tell me more about...
- ☐ Can you explain your reasoning to me?
- ☐ Can you clarify the part about...?
- ☐ Why do you think that?
- ☐ What do you mean by...?

Words and phrases that people say when they are elaborating for someone:

- ☐ Sure, let me be more clear...
- ☐ To be more specific, I should add that...
- ☐ It's like when...
- ☐ It's similar to the idea that...

**Directions:** Have an academic conversation with your partner about the benefits of pet rentals. Partner A should read any of the statements below. Partner B should ask for elaboration by using some of the words and phrases above. Partner A responds. Switch roles.

#### Statement Card

- "Pets should have more rights than they do."
- "Pets are like family members in many households."
- "Pets benefit the world in many ways."
- "Pets can be a financial burden on families."
- "Pet rental can be psychologically harmful to pets."

#### Points I want to remember:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_