

This week's issue:

DO THE BENEFITS OF RENTING A PET OUTWEIGH THE POTENTIAL HARM IT CAN CAUSE THE ANIMALS?



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. People who are against pet rentals give several reasons to support their position. To be happy, they say, a dog needs **ongoing** contact with one person. In addition, 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 that dogs have stable homes, and each dog has a special right to a permanent home with ongoing companionship. Also, they say, who will want rental dogs when they are sick or old?

Marlena Cervantes 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 a fee. 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.

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

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whereas | capable | ongoing | compatible | notion

USE THE FOCUS WORDS

whereas (*conjunction*) although, in contrast with the fact that

➡ **Sample Sentence:** **Whereas** people who own dogs leave them home alone, Marlena says people who rent dogs give the animals lots of attention.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** How is middle school different from elementary school? (Try: In elementary school, _____, **whereas** in middle school, _____.)

capable (*adjective*) able to do or accomplish something

➡ **Sample Sentence:** Davonte Reese wanted a dog, but his parents didn't think he was **capable** of taking care of one.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** What is one thing that people say you are **capable** of? Do you agree or disagree with them?

ongoing (*adjective*) continuing without interruption

➡ **Sample Sentence:** Each dog has a special right to a permanent home with **ongoing** companionship.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** What is an **ongoing** argument or debate that you have with your friends?

compatible (*adjective*) able to exist together well

➡ **Sample Sentence:** People domesticated dogs to be socially **compatible** and live with humans.

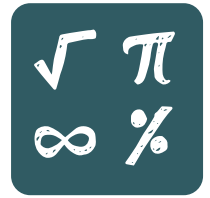
🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** What are some qualities of the people with whom you are most **compatible**?

notion (*noun*) idea or belief

➡ **Sample Sentence:** Marlena Davis disagrees with the **notion** that pet rental is bad for dogs.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** Do you agree with the **notion** that world peace is possible?

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DO THE MATH

Even though the **notion** of putting unwanted pets to sleep is a sad one, millions of dogs and cats are put to sleep in shelters each year. People disagree about whether pet rental can help save these animals. Some people say that rescuing a shelter pet is better than renting, **whereas** others say pet rental keeps pets from going to the shelter in the first place. Pet renters can return a pet if it is incompatible with the renter's lifestyle, or if the renter is incapable of giving the pet **ongoing** care. This way, the unwanted pet goes back to the store instead of the shelter.

Option 1: About three million pets are put to sleep in U.S. shelters each year. Which of the following shows three million written in standard form?

- A. 3,000
- B. 300,000
- C. 3,000,000
- D. 3,000,000,000

Option 2: Cyprian loves dogs, but he knows that he is too busy to take care of a full-time pet. He tries renting a dog and finds that pet rental is **compatible** with his lifestyle. He recommends the same pet rental business to three of his friends, who try it a week later. They enjoy the experience, and each gets three of their own friends to try it the next week. At this rate, how many customers will the pet rental service have gained within 8 weeks of Cyprian's recommendation?

 **Discussion Question:** Pets are incapable of defending their rights. **Whereas** people have many rights, pets have very few. Do pets have the right not to be put to sleep? The right to be spayed or neutered? The right to **ongoing** care? Does the **notion** of pets' rights make sense, or are rights something that only people have? If pets have rights, are those rights **compatible** with pet rental?

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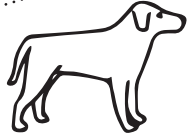
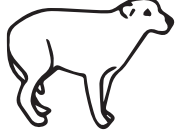
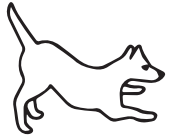


THINK SCIENTIFICALLY

Many people argue that families that rent pets don't have enough experience with pet needs and behaviors. Others think it is common knowledge that dogs are happy when they wag their tails and afraid when they lower their bodies and look down. Ms. Kahn's student Shatara agreed with this **notion**. She shared, "Our poodle, Toots, wags his tail whenever we take him for a walk around the neighborhood, **whereas** Rusty, our sheepdog, cowers and is never happy about going for walks. My mom says that Rusty's fear of city noises has been an **ongoing** problem since Rusty was a puppy."

Ms. Kahn chimed in, "My family's dog, Rex, is **compatible** with urban life, but he is afraid of new people inside our apartment. He'll actually hide when we have guests."

This got Shatara thinking about observing the behaviors of dogs. She sketched different ways that dogs held their bodies as she observed them. She was curious about how much she could infer from the posture of dogs. Examine Shatara's sketches to see if there is enough information for you to make an inference. If so, write it down.

Here are some of Shatara's sketches

	Possible Dog Feeling	Inference Statement
1 	<input type="checkbox"/> submissive <input type="checkbox"/> fearful <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> neutral/relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> playful	Example: I think that sketch #1 shows a neutral/relaxed posture because the ears and tail are drooping down instead of pointing up.
2 	<input type="checkbox"/> submissive <input type="checkbox"/> fearful <input type="checkbox"/> neutral/relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> playful	Your Inference: _____ _____ _____
3 	<input type="checkbox"/> submissive <input type="checkbox"/> fearful <input type="checkbox"/> neutral/relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> playful	Your Inference: _____ _____ _____
4 	<input type="checkbox"/> submissive <input type="checkbox"/> fearful <input type="checkbox"/> neutral/relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> playful	Your Inference: _____ _____ _____
5 	<input type="checkbox"/> submissive <input type="checkbox"/> fearful <input type="checkbox"/> neutral/relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive <input type="checkbox"/> playful	Your Inference: _____ _____ _____

Some people might say that sketching is not a very scientific way for Shatara to take notes about her observations. What do you think?

