



## HAMSTER HABITAT

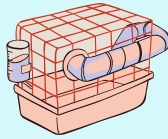
Creating a warm and inviting space for your new family member will make them feel welcomed. Use these tips to create a positive experience for you and your new hamster.

Exercise balls are a great way for your new pal to safely explore outside their enclosure.



Hamsters and gerbils enjoy burrowing. Make sure they have plenty of soft bedding.

Due to their small size, a water bottle is safer than a water dish.



Multi-level enclosures are great for giving your pet room to play.



Not all veterinarians will see hamsters or gerbils. Research veterinary offices ahead of time.



Interested in all things hamster? See our featured story on the next page under Paws and Pages.



## DOES YOUR CAT NAP... A LOT?



Have you heard the phrase "taking a cat nap"? Whether it's a domesticated feline or a wild cat like a cheetah or lion, cats spend the majority of their day taking short naps. These naps typically last about an hour and together total up to 15

to 20 hours of sleep per day! Cats sleep a lot in order to save their energy and prepare for their next hunt. Unlike cats who live in the wild, our house cats don't rely on looking for their own food, but they still continue with this natural behavior. Keep in mind that cats don't often stay in a deep sleep because they need to be alert to their surroundings.

Did you know that when your cat is sleeping on you, or even next to you, it is their way of showing you how much they love, trust and feel safe with you? The next time your cat curls up beside you, remember, it means they see you as their friend.



## VOCAB WORDS

Directions: Research the following terms.

DOMESTICATED

HABITAT

BURROW

## PUMPKIN: A SUPERFOOD

Pumpkin is a favorite treat for many people during fall. Did you know this seasonal snack can also be a great addition to your dog or cat's diet? Pure pumpkin has lots of vitamins and nutrients that help keep your pets happy and healthy. Pumpkin can even help pets who are having belly issues to ease and sooth the discomfort. When sharing this delicious treat with your furry family member, it's important to know that not all parts of the pumpkin are created equal. Make sure you are not giving them the stem, leaves, skin, or raw seeds as these can make them sick. If you have any worries, canned pumpkin works great too, just make sure it is pure pumpkin and not pumpkin pie filling. Always check with your veterinarian first, and feed this healthy snack in moderation.



Do you have a favorite pet snack recipe that includes pumpkin? Share it with us at [Outreach@CThumane.org](mailto:Outreach@CThumane.org)

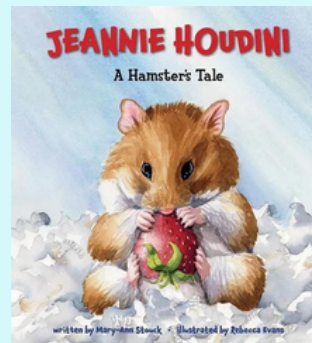


# THE IMPORTANCE OF GROOMING



Similar to how people get hair cuts, it is important that dogs, cats and even small pets receive proper care for their fur. Grooming is an essential step in making sure your furry family member is looking and feeling their best. Brushing and combing your pets' fur frequently helps to keep them clean and free of any knots, also called mats. Matting can occur when fur gets tangled and begins to clump up, making it difficult to brush out. Some pets, like cats, are really good at bathing themselves. Other pets like dogs may need a bit of help and require soap and water. Always ensure you are using soap that is specially designed for your pet. Taking your dog or cat to a groomer a few times a year is another way we as owners can make sure they have a thorough bath. Groomers are people who are trained to bathe, brush and cut pets' fur. Pets have many different types of coats, so not all hair cuts are done the same way. Groomers examine the fur closely and sometimes help make owners aware of fleas, ticks and other health concerns. Keep in mind that not all pets require a bath with soap and water. Do your research to learn what grooming techniques are best for your pet.

# PAWS AND PAGES



Featured Story:  
**Jeannie Houdini**  
A Hamster's Tale



Author: Mary-Ann Stouck  
Illustrator: Rebecca Evans

## Relax with your pet and read a book!

Visit your local library to find this story and others all about pets!

Practice your skills by reading out loud to your pets. Find a cozy spot with your furry friend and settle down with your book. They will enjoy spending time with you and listening to the story.



Do you have a favorite pet-themed book? Tell us what it is: Outreach@CThumane.org

# HALLOWEEN TIPS

Trick-or-treating is tons of fun. Avoid sharing your yummy treats and snacks with your pet as they can be harmful.



If your pet is comfortable wearing a costume, make sure they can easily move in it. Remember, not all pets want to dress up.



If you have an adult who wants to learn more about keeping your pets safe, have them join CHS' next two-part PETtalk. They can register here:



[CThumane.org/PetHazards](http://CThumane.org/PetHazards)

# ACTIVITY

Directions: Answer the clues below to finish the crossword puzzle.

Across:

2. This pet needs vitamin C added to their food or water because their bodies cannot make it.

4. Another word for the environment where animals live.

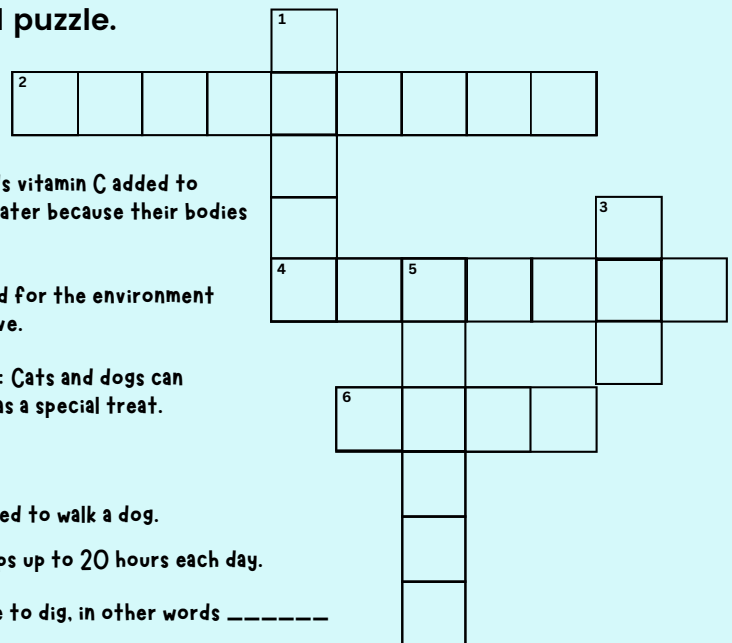
6. True or False: Cats and dogs can enjoy pumpkin as a special treat.

Down:

1. An item needed to walk a dog.

3. This pet sleeps up to 20 hours each day.

5. Hamsters like to dig, in other words \_\_\_\_\_



Crossword answer: 1. Leash 2. Guinea pig 3. Cat 4. Habitat 5. Burrow 6. True

