

Animal Puppet Information

HUA Curriculum Project

Tabby Cat – “Val”

Val is a “Valley Girl”...always primping and checking her appearance in the mirror. She talks like a snob, and she thinks she is superior to the others. She is a “Valley-Cat” with real catitude. Val has been spayed. When she learned that 81 cats can be born to an unsprayed cat and her offspring in a one year period, she knew what had to be done...that many pregnancies would be terrible for her figure, not to mention that there are just not enough good homes for that many cats!

Basic Information about care: Cats need a warm, dry place to sleep indoors. Cats enjoy small toys and balls, and also a scratching post. They like to climb high places. Special carpeted indoor cat trees can be purchased at most pet stores. Cats are independent, but also enjoy a good petting. They need dry or canned food twice per day, and fresh water available at all times. Cats can live as long as 25 years.

Chihuahua – “Pedro”

Pedro is a very sincere guy. He is devoted to his friends, and is a leader among them. He has a lighter side to his personality that likes to joke and tease and play. He loves Salsa-dancing.

Basic Information about care: Chihuahuas need a temperature-controlled environment. Extreme cold may result in death, and extreme heat will lead to heat stroke. Chihuahuas can be outdoors in a fenced area for recreation and potty-breaks every 2-4 hours. They need access to fresh water at all times, and they should be fed a high-quality canned dog food or a small-bite dry food 2 times per day. Chihuahuas can live 16 years.

Iguana – “Ignacious” (Iggy for short)

Iggy loves to lie in the sun, soaking up the rays and doing nothing for hours. He is always the last one to catch on to jokes. Everyone loves Iggy...he’s just a little slow. When he finally understands a joke, he says ,”Oh, I get it now! Yuck, yuck, yuck...”

Iggy is lazy, and kind of the Fat Albert of the group.

Basic Information about care: Iguanas do well in a large glass terrarium that is warm at one end of the environment, ranging to cooler temps. A moisture-proof warm water circulating pad can be used to provide warmth and humidity. They need climbing territory and a water pond. They eat fruits, vegetables, leaves, hay, and flowers. A moist chow provides protein. As Iguanas grow and mature, they may require larger living spaces. Only people with a good understanding of reptiles

should own one. They require special care and housing. Iguanas can live up to 26 years.

Angel Fish – “Angela”

Angela is a beautiful and wise fish. She is kind to her friends, and they respect her very much. Angela is calm and very skilled at giving good advice.

Basic Information about care: Angel Fish need 2 gallons of water per quarter-sized Angel Fish, in an aquarium that maintains a temperature of about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Clean water is very important for the Angel Fish. An undergravel filter system works well, and approximately 20% of the tank water should be changed each week. A flake fish food should be given 2 times per day. Angel Fish can live up to 10 years.

Amazon Parrot – “Cracker”

Cracker is a jokester. He loves to mimic people, and he is always looking for a good time. He is very intelligent, very witty, and full of energy. Cracker had a girlfriend in the rainforest names Polly. Whenever he gets lonely, he says “Cracker wants a Polly”.

Basic Information about care: Parrots need a large cage to allow movement. They also should have a wood perch outside the cage to allow for exercise. Nails should be kept trimmed. Parrots eat 50% seeds, 45% vegetables, and 5% protein. (Protein can be obtained through well cooked meat, eggs, and cheese). The Amazon Parrot can live up to 104 years. People who buy one should give careful consideration to having a lifelong pet, because the bird will likely outlive the human. There is some controversy about whether or not these birds should be kept in captivity.

Black Lab Puppy – “Midnight”

Midnight is 10 weeks old. She loves EVERYONE. She follows the others around and asks, “Can I play?” She is still a baby, and has needs and actions of a baby.

Basic Information about care: Labrador Retrievers need plenty of room in a fenced area to play and run. They enjoy being outdoors, but should be kept inside to sleep and have interaction time with humans. Prolonged exposure to extreme heat and cold should be avoided. Special puppy formula dog food should be provided 2-3 times per day, and fresh water should be available at all times. Black Labs can live up to 12 years.

Mouse – “Incognito”

Incognito was born with a deformed leg, which causes him to walk with a limp. Incognito knows something about EVERYONE. He is that quiet little mouse in the corner of the room who hears lots of things. He often is unnoticed by the others, but when he speaks the others listen, because he knows a lot!

Basic Information about care: Mice need a cage with a small exercise wheel. They need special mouse pellet food, and small amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mice need access to plenty of fresh water daily. Mice can live up to 3 years.

Hamster – “Sprinter”

Sprinter loves to run and work out in his cage. He is kind of a health nut. He runs approximately 2 miles per day on his wheel, and someday he would love to run in a marathon. He loves to tell the others when they look like they have put on a few pounds, and he suggests that they get their own exercise wheel to shed those pounds.

Basic Information about care: Hamsters are most active during the night. They run up to 2 miles per day on their exercise wheels located in their cages. They are herbivores, eating mostly fruit, vegetables, seeds, and grassy roots. Special dried food can be purchased in most pet stores. Hamsters hoard food in their cheek pouches. They need a cage large enough to run. Hamsters like to live alone, so there should only be one per cage.

They should have plenty of fresh water available at all times. A water bottle works best. Wood chew sticks available in the cage help the hamster keep the large front tooth in good condition. Hamsters need warm, dry bedding. Aspen chips work well for this purpose. Hamsters can live 2-4 years.

Guinea Pig – “Grandma Greta”

Grandma Greta is getting near the end of her life. She was a classroom pet in a kindergarten class for 6 years, and then the teacher “retired” Greta. The teacher said that Greta had been a faithful and loving friend to many children through the years, and it was now time for her to relax and let people take care of her. Greta is almost blind, so she depends on her friends for help getting around. The others come to Greta when they need wise advice.

Basic Information about care: Guinea Pigs are herbivores. They eat vegetables, seeds, grasses, and fruits.

They should be given water in a bottle, because they make messes when water is given in a bowl. Guinea Pigs need a vitamin C supplement in their diets. This can be added to their food sources. They are messy housekeepers. They should be kept in solid floor cages. Wires can cause foot problems. Guinea Pigs should be kept in a dry environment, with no extremes in temperature. Guinea Pigs can live up to 8 years.

Duckling – “Hatch”

Hatch was an Easter duckling. A department store in the city was giving away chicks and ducklings for Easter. Their only problem was the family that took Hatch had no way to keep him in the city, so Hatch was taken to a farm pond and dumped. Hatch has some pretty strong feelings against making pets out of wildlife or farm animals.

Basic Information about care: Ducks should be in an enclosed pen outside, with a house for shelter. Special duck food can be purchased at farm stores. Ducks need plenty of water to drink, and an area of water for swimming, bathing, and playing. Ducks can live up to 22 years.

Baby Rabbit – “Hopper”

Hopper is a happy, hyper, honey of a rabbit. He came from a home where the children loved him when they were younger, but then as the children got older they lost interest in him. His cage was all wire, which caused Hopper to have some foot problems. When his foot problems developed, the family took him to the local animal shelter. Hopper is an eternal optimist, and he hopes that someone will adopt him.

Basic Information about care: Rabbits are herbivores. Eating night feces is an important part of their digestive process. Rabbits should be given rabbit pellet food 2 times daily, and small quantities of fruits and vegetables. They need fresh water. A cage that is part wire and part solid floor is best for the rabbit. Rabbits can live up to 10 years.

Red-Legged Frog – “Belcher”

Belcher never quite perfected his croak, so when he makes his frog sounds, he makes a deep, long “errrp”. Belcher was sold in a pet shop. He is very concerned that frogs are kept as pets. They were never meant to be held in captivity. Numerous factors in the environment are resulting in the disappearance of many red-legged frogs in their native California. Belcher is angry, and is becoming a spokesman for his followers. He is a frog with an attitude.

Basic Information about care: The red-legged frog eats insects, mosquitoes, flies, and insect larvae. They need an environment with heat, humidity, foliage, and water. Frogs live up to 14 years.