

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF KEEPING PETS

In Malaysia, pet ownership has increased over the last 2 decades. Keeping pets is encouraged in schools during early education. The choice of companion pet is made by the public. Among the different breeds kept as companion pets, the most common in Malaysia are dogs and cats.

Dog breed sizes range from small to large, so the public can choose a dog that suits their lifestyle. Small dogs are usually kept for family companionship in the house. Meanwhile large breed dogs commonly serve as guard dogs to protect their owner's house from thieves and predators such as monitor lizards, snakes, and crows. However, dogs can be fierce, biting others and sometimes even their owners. Thus, owners must be selective when choosing the breed of pet dog.

Cat breeds also range from small to large size, with some breeds being imported while others are bred locally. Special breed cats must be kept in an air-conditioned environment. While cats have a weaker bite force compared to dogs, some cats are quick to hiss, scratch, and bite when disturbed.

ADVANTAGES OF KEEPING COMPANION ANIMALS AS PETS

Owning pets can improve child development by teaching responsibility, empathy and caring for others

Service dogs assist in managing physical disability & long-term diseases e.g., Alzheimer's.



Dogs guard the house and prevent intruders

Pets help decrease blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels



Daily dog walking increases your activity levels and reduces likelihood of obesity

Pets provide unconditional love and constant companionship

Pets help reduce feelings of loneliness and depression

Pets are useful in managing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety

Pets improve mental health by lowering stress and anxiety

Therapy dogs give comfort and support in stressful situations

Medical response dogs detect medical conditions like Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (PoTS) and alert their handlers



Pets boost cognitive function in seniors

DISADVANTAGES OF KEEPING COMPANION ANIMALS AS PETS

HIGH COST FOR PET FOOD, VET BILLS AND GROOMING EQUIPMENT



Edible supplements for coat, joints and gut health come in liquid, pills, or chewable form

AS NO MEDICAL CERTIFICATE IS GIVEN, TAKING TIME OFF WORK IS INCONVENIENT WHEN PETS ARE SICK BECAUSE OWNERS HAVE TO APPLY FOR LEAVE

TIME CONSUMED TO CONSTANTLY CHECK PET'S EYES, EARS, MOUTH, AND CLAWS TO CATCH POTENTIAL HEALTH ISSUES QUICKLY

DOGS AND CATS NEED VARIED DIET WITH SUPPLEMENTS TO MEET THEIR VITAMIN AND MINERAL REQUIREMENTS



DOGS AND CATS CATCH RATS, DANGEROUS SNAKES OR OTHER WILDLIFE WHICH MAY CARRY DISEASE INTO THE HOME (LEPTOSPIROSIS, ENDOPARASITES)

TIME CONSUMED TO TRAIN AND SOCIALISE DOGS

In conclusion, keeping companion animals as pets is an immense commitment but can also be extremely rewarding. Clearly, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of keeping pets. This is why the choice of adopting a pet should be taken into serious consideration.

INCONVENIENT TO FIND BOARDING SERVICE FOR BIG DOGS WHEN OWNER IS NOT HOME

TIME CONSUMED TO GROOM PETS AND FOR FREQUENT CLEANING DURING SHEDDING SEASON TO MAINTAIN CLEANLINESS OF KENNELS/LITTER BOXES

DANDER, SALIVA AND MOLTED FUR CAN TRIGGER ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESPONSE

DOGS CHEW AND DESTROY FURNITURE AND SHOES, CATS SCRATCH FURNITURE/ WALLS



DOG PARASITES (ROUNDWORMS, TAPEWORMS, RINGWORM ETC.) AND CAT DISEASES (TOXOPLASMOSIS, CAT SCRATCH FEVER, SCABIES ETC.) CAN SPREAD TO HUMANS IF HYGIENE AND PREVENTIVE MEASURE ARE NOT FOLLOWED.



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