

Name _____

Paws and Claws: The Benefits of Having a Furry Friend

Short Answer Key

1. The presence of a pet alleviates feelings of loneliness by providing constant companionship. They offer emotional support through their affection and non-judgmental presence, making people feel loved and valued.
2. Caring for a pet encourages responsibility by requiring individuals to meet their needs, such as feeding, grooming, and healthcare. Children learn the importance of prioritizing these needs and taking care of another living being.
3. Pets encourage physical activity by motivating owners to engage in activities like walking, playing, and exercising with them. This interaction promotes a healthier lifestyle for both pets and owners.
4. Interacting with pets, such as petting a dog or cat, can reduce stress by triggering the release of oxytocin (the "feel-good" hormone) and lowering cortisol (the stress hormone). This physical response leads to relaxation and stress reduction.
5. The bond between children and their pets is often special because pets become playmates, confidants, and sources of comfort for children. This bond can be particularly strong and cherished as children grow up with their furry companions.

