FREE PRINTABLE FOR FAMILIES

Pet Care Planner

What your pet needs every day, every week and every few months, on one page you can stick on the fridge. Pair it with phone reminders from childhoodpets.com/free-printables/pet-care-planner/.

Dog · Cat · Guinea Pig · Hamster · Cockatiel · Budgie · Finch · Leopard Gecko · Bearded Dragon · Chinchilla · Fish

How to use it

1. **Print your pet's page.**
   Put it on the fridge or near the cage, tank or food bin.
2. **Fill in the top.**
   Your pet's name, your vet's phone number and the nearest emergency vet.
3. **Share out the jobs.**
   "Kids can help" jobs suit children with a grown-up checking. "Grown-up" jobs need an adult.
4. **Tick and date it.**
   Tick a box for each week's jobs, and write the date when you do the monthly and yearly ones.

Reading the planner

Kids can help A child can do it, or help, with a grown-up checking it really got done.

Grown-up Medicines, nail trims, deep cleans, vet visits and anything with heat, chemicals or handling risks.

Weekly How often. Numbers like [3] point to the sources below. A dagger (†) means no source gives a fixed interval, so we give a common starting point.

Sources

1. Merck Veterinary Manual: Routine Care of Guinea Pigs
2. Merck Veterinary Manual: Providing a Home for a Hamster
3. Merck Veterinary Manual: Routine Health Care of Hamsters
4. Merck Veterinary Manual: Chinchilla Care Checklist
5. Merck Veterinary Manual: Importance of Veterinary Care in Pet Birds
6. Merck Veterinary Manual: Routine Health Care of Fish
7. Merck Veterinary Manual: Providing a Home for Fish
8. VCA Animal Hospitals: Leopard Geckos, Care and Feeding
9. VCA Animal Hospitals: Bearded Dragons, Feeding
10. AAHA-AVMA Canine Preventive Healthcare Guidelines
11. 2021 AAHA/AAFP Feline Life Stage Guidelines
12. AVMA: Pet Dental Care
13. CDC: Reptiles and Amphibians (Healthy Pets)
14. CDC: Cats (Healthy Pets)

Links to every source: childhoodpets.com/free-printables/pet-care-planner/#sources

A grown-up stays responsible
Kids can take on real jobs, but a pet's food, water, health and safety are always an adult's job. Check every day that the care really happened.

Not veterinary advice
General information for healthy pets; not reviewed by a vet. Young, older or unwell pets often need a different routine. Ask your vet, and for small pets, birds, reptiles and fish, one who treats exotic pets.

Fish Care Planner

Daily, weekly and monthly fish care at a glance

Childhood Pets.com

Tank _____ Vet & phone _____ Emergency vet _____

Every day

Look at every fish [6]

Swimming normally? Fins, eyes and appetite OK?

Daily · Kids can help

Check temperature and filter [6]

Thermometer reading, filter running

Daily · Kids can help

Feed [6]

A small amount; remove what isn't eaten

Daily · Kids can help

Each week

Top up and wipe algae [6]

Add treated water for evaporation, clean the glass and lid

Weekly · Grown-up

Wk ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Every few weeks

Test the water [6]

Ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and pH

Every 2 weeks · Grown-up

Last done _____

Partial water change [6] [7]

Every 2 weeks for most tanks; bowls and small betta tanks need more, up to 50% a week

Every 2 weeks · Grown-up

Last done _____

Filter care [6]

Change or rinse cartridges in tank water, never tap water

Monthly · Grown-up

Last done _____

Twice a year & yearly

Check the lights and equipment [6]

Replace UV tubes; service pumps

Every 6 months · Grown-up

Last done _____

Notes from our vet

For grown-ups

- Unplug heaters and filters before hands go in the tank. Wash hands after.
- Find a vet who treats fish before you need one.
- A grown-up stays responsible for food, water, health and safety. If your pet seems unwell, call a vet.

Dates to remember

Next checkup _____

Last water test _____

Filter changed _____