Childhood Pets.com

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

FREE PRINTABLE FOR FAMILIES

Pet Chore Chart

Age-by-age pet jobs that help kids feel proud, capable and close to the family pet, with a daily grown-up check built in.

Dog | Cat | Guinea Pig | Hamster | Cockatiel or Budgie | Leopard Gecko

How to use it

1. **Print your pet's page.**
   Stick it on the fridge or near the cage, tank or food bin.
2. **Pick the jobs that fit.**
   Each job has a dot for the youngest age that can usually do it. Cross out any that don't suit your child yet.
3. **Tick a box each day.**
   Your child ticks the day once a job is done. Weekly jobs only need one tick.
4. **Grown-up check.**
   At bedtime, check the pet really has food, water and a clean home, then initial the day.

What kids can usually do

3+ Little helpers, 3 to 5
Jobs side by side with a grown-up: filling water, tidying toys, talking gently to the pet.

6+ Daily helpers, 6 to 8
Simple daily jobs with a reminder: serving measured meals, brushing, short training games.

9+ Care partners, 9 to 12
Cleaning jobs, health checks and simple logs, with a grown-up checking the result.

13+ Teen keepers, 13+
Can lead most routine care and bigger cleans. A grown-up still oversees health and safety.

A grown-up stays responsible

Chore charts teach responsibility, but a pet's food, water, health and safety are always an adult's job. Check every day that the jobs really got done, and never let a missed chore become a missed meal.

Good to know

Ages are a rough guide, not a rule: you know your child and your pet. Everyone washes hands after pet jobs. This chart is general information, not veterinary advice. If your pet seems unwell, call a vet, and for small pets, birds and reptiles, one who treats exotic pets.

Dog Chore Chart

Dog jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Fill the water bowl Fresh, cool water, filled to the line	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tidy the dog toys Toys back in the basket after play	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Serve breakfast or dinner A grown-up measures it. Step back while the dog eats	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Practice "sit" or "down" Five minutes, a few tiny treats, lots of praise	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brush the coat Short, gentle strokes the way the fur grows	6+	2–3× a week	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Go on the walk With a grown-up. Teens may walk solo if a grown-up says the dog is ready	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pick up the yard Bag or scooper, then wash your hands	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paw & ear check Look for cuts, burrs or anything new. Tell a grown-up	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- A grown-up decides how much food and when, and holds the leash on walks until the dog and child are both ready.
- Teach kids to leave a dog alone while it eats, sleeps or chews, and to ask before petting any dog.
- Wash food and water bowls daily with hot, soapy water.

This week I'm proud that I...

Cat Chore Chart

Cat jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Freshen the water Rinse and refill the bowl or fountain	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wand-toy playtime Ten minutes of chase, then put the wand away	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Serve the meal A grown-up measures it. Let the cat eat in peace	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brush the coat Gentle strokes. Stop if your cat walks away	6+	2–3× a week	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wash the food bowl Warm soapy water, rinse well	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scoop the litter box Clumps into a bag, then wash your hands	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Claw, eye & ear check Anything new or different? Tell a grown-up	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Help change all the litter With a grown-up: empty, wash, refill	13+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- Anyone who is pregnant should not scoop litter (CDC advice). A grown-up checks the box every day: changes in pee or poop are worth a call to the vet.
- Put wand toys and strings away after play. Cats can swallow string, which is an emergency.
- Let the cat choose when to be held. A cat that hides or stops eating needs a grown-up's attention.

This week I'm proud that I...

Guinea Pig Chore Chart

Guinea Pig jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pets' names _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Top up the hay Guinea pigs need a big pile of hay all day	3+	Twice daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Floor-time cuddles Sit on the floor to hold or pet, never standing up	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Refill the water bottle Fresh water, then tap the spout to check it flows	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Serve fresh veggies A grown-up picks safe veggies. You wash and serve	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spot-clean the cage Scoop wet bedding and droppings	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Weigh-in day Kitchen scale in grams. Write it down	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teeth, nail & eye check Anything new? Tell a grown-up	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Full cage clean With a grown-up: new bedding, wash dishes	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- Guinea pigs can't make their own vitamin C, so it has to come from their food every day. A grown-up chooses safe fresh foods.
- Hold guinea pigs only while sitting on the floor. A fall can cause serious injury.
- Weight loss or not eating can be an early sign of illness. Call a vet who treats exotic pets.

This week I'm proud that I...

Hamster Chore Chart

Hamster jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Let them sleep No tapping or waking during the day	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Say hello at wake-up time Talk softly near the cage in the evening	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Refill the water bottle Fresh water, then tap the spout to check it flows	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Check the food bowl Top up the mix a grown-up measured	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Play-pen time In a safe pen, with a grown-up close by	6+	Most days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spot-clean the pee corner Scoop it out and add a little fresh bedding	9+	Every 2–3 days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Health check Eyes, teeth, wet bottom? Tell a grown-up	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Part cage clean With a grown-up. Keep some old bedding so it smells like home	9+	Every 2–4 weeks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- Hamsters sleep during the day. Waking one is a common cause of bites, so plan care for the evening.
- Hold hamsters low over a soft surface or a lap; they wriggle and can fall.
- A wet bottom, diarrhea or not eating needs a vet who treats exotic pets the same day.

This week I'm proud that I...

Bird Chore Chart

Cockatiel or Budgie jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning hello Talk, whistle or sing to your bird	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bedtime routine Help a grown-up dim lights or cover the cage	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fresh water Clean dish, fresh water	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Refill pellets or seed Blow away empty seed husks first	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Swap a toy Rotate one toy so the cage stays interesting	6+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change the cage paper Fold the old paper in, slide new paper under	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Room check before out-of-cage time Windows & doors shut, ceiling fan off, other pets out	9+	Each time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scrub perches & dishes With a grown-up, hot water, rinse well	13+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- Fumes from overheated nonstick (PTFE) cookware, aerosol sprays and scented candles can kill birds. Keep them away from the bird's air.
- Remove fresh veggies after a few hours so they don't spoil.
- Birds hide illness. A fluffed-up, sleepy or quiet bird needs an avian vet soon.

This week I'm proud that I...

Leopard Gecko Chore Chart

Leopard Gecko jobs for kids, with a grown-up check every day

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Gecko watch Is your gecko on the warm side or the cool side? Look, don't touch	3+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Read the thermometers Write down the warm-side and cool-side numbers	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fresh water Rinse and refill the shallow dish, then wash hands	6+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spot-clean Scoop poop from the toilet corner with a scooper	9+	Daily	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeding day With a grown-up: insects with tongs, dusted as shown	9+	Feeding days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeding log How many insects were eaten?	9+	Feeding days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mist the humid hide Keep the moss damp, not soaking	9+	Every 2–3 days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shed check Look for stuck skin on toes and tail. Tell a grown-up	9+	Weekly	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

- CDC advice: children under 5 shouldn't touch reptiles, and everyone washes hands after touching a gecko or its tank, because reptiles can carry Salmonella.
- A grown-up sets up and checks the heat. Ask your vet how often to feed and dust insects for your gecko's age.
- A gecko that stops eating, loses tail thickness or has stuck shed needs a vet who treats reptiles.

This week I'm proud that I...

My Pet Chore Chart

Write in your own jobs for any pet

Childhood Pets.com

My name _____ Pet's name _____ Week of _____

Youngest age for each job: 3+ 6+ 9+ 13+

Job	Age	How often	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grown-up check (initials)			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For grown-ups

A grown-up stays responsible for the pet's food, water, health and safety every day. Wash hands after every pet job. If your pet seems unwell, call a vet.

This week I'm proud that I...