

## 1 Finding the right pet for you

- Tom:** Right, here we are again! I'm Tom and the topic of today's programme is *Finding the right pet for you*. With us is Dr Chase from London. Dr Chase, I always get lots of emails from children who really really want a pet, but their parents say *no*. Like this one. Kenny, from Lincolnshire. He writes: I really want to have a dog, a Golden Retriever. And I will look after it. But my parents don't want the dog. They say *no*. What can I do? Now, Dr Chase. What do you say to Kenny? Can you help him?
- Dr Chase:** Well, the question is: What sort of pet do the kids want? You know, sometimes – like Kenny – they want a big dog. But somebody must go for a walk with the dog in the morning and in the evening. And that is a problem because sometimes the children are too young. So they cannot go alone. Or they cannot control the dog. Then the dog can become dangerous. It can bite other dogs or even other people.
- Tom:** So you must train your dog.
- Dr Chase:** Oh yes! And you must play with your dog. If you don't play with your dog, it's very boring for him or her.
- Tom:** So what do you say to Kenny?
- Dr Chase:** What I say is this: try and talk to your parents about getting a small dog. Or think of getting another pet. How about a rabbit? Rabbits are very cute and you can also play with them. And they are not too much work. All you need to do is clean their cage and feed them.
- Tom:** That's a good point. But having a rabbit is not like having a dog. You cannot train a rabbit to do tricks, or bring you a ball, can you?
- Dr Chase:** That's the problem. A rabbit can be boring. But they are very cute and they are easy to look after. So if you can't have a dog, a rabbit is maybe a good idea. Or you go for a cat. You can play with a cat.
- Tom:** But cats do not bring you a ball, do they?
- Dr Chase:** No, they don't. But some cats bring you a mouse.
- Tom:** A mouse? Yuck. Why do they do that?
- Dr Chase:** They want to be nice to you.
- Tom:** No, thank you. Then I don't think having a cat is a good idea. Now, another question: can you keep a cat in the house all the time?
- Dr Chase:** Yes, you can. Some cats. We call them "house cats". But I don't like keeping cats in the house. You see, they can't do things like running, climbing or hunting. So living in the house can be very boring for them and then they don't feel good.
- Tom:** But letting it out can be very dangerous for the cat. There are so many cars in the streets.
- Dr Chase:** That's a very good point. Cars are really dangerous to cats. That's why it is sometimes a good thing to keep the cat in the house. But then, you should talk to it and play with it.
- Tom:** Well, I'm sorry but we have come to the end of today's programme. Thank you very much for talking to us, Dr Chase.
- Dr Chase:** You're welcome, Tom.