



Word of the Day: Domestic Animals

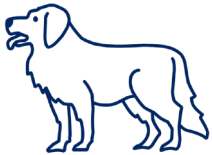
A domestic animal is an animal that is taken care of by humans for food, fiber, work, or companionship. After many generations of breeding, domestic animals are different from their wild cousins.

Veterinarians are needed to help take care of all different types of animals, not just cats and dogs! For example, some veterinarians specialize in taking care of livestock, such as cows or horses.

Discussion Question

- Why are farm animals important to people?
- Why are pets important to people?

Types of Domestic Animals



Dog

Provides love and companionship. Some dogs have jobs, such as herding animals.



Cat

Provides love and companionship. Cats also used to help hunt pests.



Ferret

Provides love and companionship. Ferrets also used to help hunt pests.



Rabbit

Provides love and companionship. Some rabbits produce wool.



Cow

Provides milk for people to drink.



Horse

People can ride horses or use them to pull heavy things.



Sheep

Provides wool for people to keep warm.



Chicken

Provides eggs for people to eat.

Activities



Infants/Toddlers

Farm Animal Sounds

Materials: computer/tablet, photos of animals or animal toys

- Introduce your child to what different farm animals sound like!
- Show your child a photo of an animal or an animal toy. Start by asking your child if they know what sound the animal makes. Demonstrate the sound and let them practice with you. For example, "What sound does a cow make? Cows go **moo!**"
- Search online for videos of different farm animal sounds. Have your child practice their listening skills and mimic the sounds in the video.

Farm Sensory Bin

Materials: plastic containers, various substrates, plastic animal toys

- A sensory bin is a container filled with materials of different textures that children can explore.
- The textured material of a farm-themed sensory bin can include items such as grass, hay, or corn kernels.
- Include farm animal toys and products.
- Help your child differentiate between different textures. For example, an egg feels smooth while wool feels soft.

Activities



PreK - Kindergarten

Day at the Farm

Materials: stuffed animals, toy tools

- Set up a “farm” with the stuffed animals in your home!
- There are endless possibilities. You can:
 - Gather "eggs" and collect them in a basket
 - Pretend to milk a cow or a goat and use a toy bucket as the "pail"
 - Spread out pom pom balls as pretend feed for chickens
 - Pretend to file and take care of the hooves of a horse

Animal Sorting Game

Materials: plastic animal toys or stuffed animals, farm animal products

- Learning how to match and sort objects is an important skill for young ones! A fun way to help develop these skills is to challenge your child to sort between domestic animals and wild animals.
- Lay out a pile of animal toys and ask your child to put the domestic animals in one group and the wild animals in another. Make sure your child understands that a domestic animal is an animal taken care of by people for a specific purpose (companionship, food, fiber, or work).
- For a bonus challenge, have your child match the product to its domestic animal. Some examples include:
 - Chickens and eggs
 - Cows and milk
 - Sheep and wool