



WALK LIKE A CAT

Tiptoe through a puddle and continue a few metres. Retrace your route, trying to tiptoe on your footprints. Congratulations – you’re walking like a cat! Cats walk on their toes with their hind paws stepping on their front paw prints.

BAD BREEDING

Everyone loves pets. Some scientists think owning a pet can make people healthier and more relaxed. But breeding animals with the same features isn’t always good for the animals. When animals are specifically bred to look a certain way, such as having a cute face or short legs, this can cause serious health problems for their descendants.

- Manx cats (without tails) sometimes have short spines.
- Pugs can get breathing problems. Their wrinkled skin can get infected.
- Some dog breeds can suffer from hip and heart defects and deafness.

FOUL FACT

In Ypres in Belgium, it was once traditional to throw live cats from a high tower! The custom continues, but nowadays toy cats are used.



GROW YOUR OWN PET

If you don’t have a pet of your own at home, why not grow a low-maintenance grass pet instead?!

You will need:

- Soil or compost
- 2 tbsps. grass seeds
- Old nylon tights
- A plant pot or bowl
- Elastic bands
- Googly eyes, felt or beads
- Needle and thread or glue

What you do:

1. Soak the seeds in water overnight.
2. Cut off one leg of the tights at knee height and place the seeds inside, at the toe end.
3. Add soil to make a ball shape and then tie a knot at the top.
4. Place the ball, knot-side-down, into your pot.
5. Use elastic bands to make ear or nose shapes. You could even add a tail!
6. Glue or sew a face onto your pet using googly eyes, felt or beads.
7. Place your new pet on a sunny windowsill and water regularly.

You should find:

After a few days, the seeds will germinate and your pet will start to grow fur! Just like a real pet, you need to make sure that your grass pet is given water regularly to stay alive. Why not trim your pet’s fur to keep it in tip-top condition? Thankfully, unlike a real pet, your grass pet doesn’t need exercise or food to flourish, and there are no wees or poos to clean up either – what’s not to love?!



Fetch? I don't think so!

NEED TO KNOW



Plants need to be kept at a suitable temperature, and they require air, light, water and nutrients from the soil. Animals must have food, water and air to stay healthy; most pets also need exercise, cleaning, grooming and vaccinating as well.