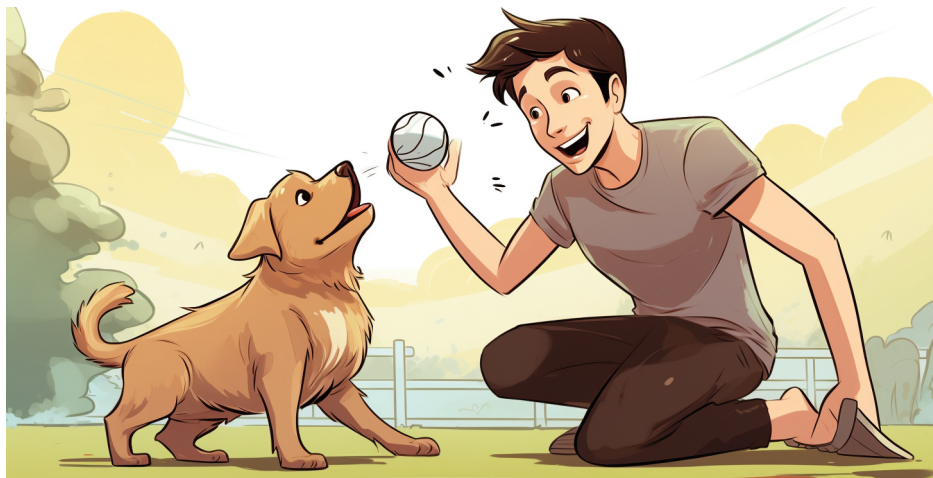




Pets – Good for Children’s Health?

Level:	A2
Topic:	Body and health
Competence area:	Reading for main idea and supporting details
CEFR Descriptor:	Can understand the main points of short texts dealing with everyday topics (e.g. lifestyle, hobbies, sports, weather).
Source:	Nick Lang



Read the following text.

Then tick (✓) the questions on your task sheet.

Children who have pets at home do not get sick as easily as children who don't have pets. Scientists believe that having a cat or dog means more infections early in life for children. This has a positive effect and helps them to grow up healthier. Children with pets have more days at school during a school year as they don't get ill as much.

If this is true, it proves something that specialists have been talking about for a long time, namely that too much cleanliness early in life can leave the immune system weak later on. For some doctors this also explains why the number of young children who have asthma has risen greatly in the last twenty years.

Another very different danger to the health of children is that more and more of them are being attacked by animals kept as pets. For example, a four-year-old girl from Barnsley was taken to hospital after her neighbour's escaped Rottweiler dog bit her and threw her against a wall when she was playing in her garden. Her father told newspaper reporters that the law was not strict enough and that such things should never be allowed to happen.

The text says that...

(1) Children with pets at home...

- are ill more often than kids without pets.
- are ill less often than kids without pets.
- are happier at school than kids without pets.

(2) Some doctors think that kids have asthma because...

- pets are a health risk.
- their parents kept their home too clean when they were very young.
- they were born with a weak immune system.

(3) A little girl was attacked by a dog because...

- she wanted to play with it.
- the dog had run away from home.
- the girl was playing in the dog's garden.

Solution

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