Jumbo
Pets
Activity Guide

Mascotas Jumbo
Guía de actividades

Animaux Domestiques Jumbo
Guide d’activités

Jumbo Haustiere
Anleitung
Animal Facts

Dog
- Some experts believe dogs first became house pets more than 15,000 years ago!
- Did you know there are around 400 million dogs in the world?
- Dogs have the nickname “man’s best friend” in part because they provide important help in farm work, security, and many other tasks.
- The gentle and energetic Labrador is the most popular breed of dog in the world. Labradors play well with other animals and make excellent guide dogs for blind and visually impaired people.
- Dogs have a sharper sense of sound and smell than humans. In fact, their ability to detect scents in the air is over one million times superior!

Cat
- There are over 500 million domestic cats in the world.
- Cats conserve energy by sleeping for an average of 13 to 14 hours a day.
- The heaviest domestic cat on record weighed in at nearly 50 pounds (22.6 kg)!
- Cats have powerful night vision—they only need one-sixth the level of light that humans require to see in the dark!
- In human terms, a kitten is actually fifteen years old at the end of its first year.

Rabbit
- Cottontail rabbits can be found in many places, from Canada to South America and throughout the United States. Although they vary in color, all cottontails have a fluffy tail that looks like a cotton ball.
- Cottontails live in fields, meadows, and farms. They also can adapt to the places where people live. Have you ever seen a cottontail hopping near your home?
- Cottontails usually graze on grass and herbs, and often sneak into gardens to munch on peas and lettuce. In winter, their diet changes to include bark, twigs, and buds.
- Cottontails are shy animals who hide from view in bushes and other plants. If spotted, they can hop away quickly at speeds of 18 miles (28.9 km) an hour!

Guinea Pig
- Guinea pigs are born with their eyes open. They grow quickly during their first few days. In fact, they are able to run after only four hours!
- Guinea pigs enjoy the company of other guinea pigs. If you are thinking of adopting guinea pigs, experts recommend keeping two of the animals together.
- Guinea pigs require a diet high in vitamin C. Feed them leafy greens (especially spinach), green pepper, and squash, along with vitamin C tablets, to keep them happy and healthy.
- Among other animals, guinea pigs enjoy the company of rabbits most of all. But be careful! Although they may look alike, hamsters and guinea pigs do not get along very well and should not be kept in the same cage.

Fish
- Goldfish were first kept as pets in China thousands of years ago.
- We may think of goldfish in the colors of orange, yellow, or red, but their normal color is actually silver!
- Did you know goldfish cannot close their eyes even while sleeping?
- Some fish live in both freshwater (lakes) and saltwater (oceans) environments. These fish are called diadromous fish and include eels, smelt, and rainbow trout.
Many kinds of fish protect their young by sheltering them in their mouths until they grow old enough to swim!

Two species of fish do not have jaws: lampreys and hagfish. Both were among the earliest fish species, with fossils dating back over 500 million years.

**Bird**

- There are more than 350 birds in the parrot family including macaws, amazons, lorikeets, lovebirds, cockatoos and many others.
- All parrots have four toes on each foot—two toes point forward and two point backward.
- Parrots have a varied diet that includes fruit, flowers, buds, nuts, seeds, and some small insects.
- The most common pet parrots are macaws, Amazon parrots, cockatiels, parakeets, and cockatoos. Many of these birds are very intelligent and can imitate human speech.
- Paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) have discovered parrot fossils dating back almost 50 million years! This was a little after dinosaurs roamed Earth.
- Although parrots come in many bright and beautiful colors, their eggs are always white.

**Discussion Starters**

In addition to providing great opportunities for pretend play, Jumbo Pets are helpful early science discussion starters. Ask questions, such as the following, to help students understand the similarities and the differences between the animals.

- Which pets have fur or hair?
- Do any of the pets lay eggs?
- Are any of the pets herbivores (plant eaters)?
- Do any of the pets interact well with other pets?
- Talk about the different kinds of habitats pets need to live inside your home. For instance, where should you house a bird? How about a guinea pig?
- Take a poll of which pets your students own. Then, create a graph or chart with your students and compare the numbers.

Questions like these help students develop early classification skills based on the characteristics of the animals.

**Animal Act**

Encourage students to move and make noise like each of the animals as you hold them up in view. Have students take turns acting like one of the animals and have others guess which animal the actor is pretending to be. Discuss how the animals sound and move in comparison to each other. How are they alike? How are they different?

**Care Instructions**

To clean, wipe the surfaces of the animals with a damp cloth. Dry immediately. To prevent water from trapping inside the animals, do not immerse them in water. Pieces are not dishwasher safe.
**Actuación animal**
Anime a los estudiantes a que imiten los sonidos y el movimiento de los animales a medida que se los va mostrando. Organice a los estudiantes para que imiten en uno a uno a un animal, de manera que el resto deba adivinar de qué animal se trata. Compare con los estudiantes el sonido que emite y la forma que tiene de moverse cada animal. ¿En qué se parecen? ¿En qué se diferencian?

**Cuidados de uso**
Para limpiar, pase un trapo húmedo sobre la superficie de los animales. Séquelo inmediatamente para evitar que el agua entre en los animales. No los sumerja en agua. Las piezas no se pueden lavar en el lavavajillas.