

Pet Project

Stop 14: July Pet Project

Stamp
passport
when
destination
is complete

Destination Checklist

Download and
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Fact File

Pet Project



July is *Carers' Month*, with a focus on people who look after other people. Some children are carers – they might help to look after parents who are ill, or other relatives.



We know now that children need time to have fun and they need time away from their worries. In the past it was not unusual for children to play a caring role – very often taking care of younger brothers and sisters when their parents were out at work.



In the modern age, quite often the first experience we have of caring for something (or someone) else comes when we get our first pet or a special toy. Or for some children, it might be nurturing a plant or a patch of garden.

We're keen to find out about who (or what!) *you* help to take care of, and to tell you a little bit about pets and animal helpers from the past:

Fact! Dogs were domesticated at least 14,000 years ago. We know this from dogs wearing collars being found in grave sites.

Because humans started selectively breeding dogs for certain characteristics a very long time ago, dogs are the most different-looking of all animal species. This tiny bald chihuahua has just as much right to call herself a dog as this huge hairy mastiff!



Fact! Horses were first put to work by man at least 6,000 years ago.

Fact! Cats were tamed by humans at least 9,500 years ago. Ancient Egyptians worshipped cats and there are lots of images of them in the pyramids.



Fact! Romans kept small dogs over 2,000 years ago. We think they were pets that they would carry around – but they may also have been used for killing rats.

A modern 'handbag' dog. It's not just modern celebrities who carry their little dogs around in special bags: evidence suggests that the ancient Romans began this practice.



From our collections



A young evacuee who arrived in Gloucester clutching her most valued possessions.

This little girl who has had to leave her home in wartime has taken her toys with her. We get a lot of comfort from our precious toys and pets, especially when we are worried or sad, in return for taking care of them.

Cute photo from our collections of a cat who decided to 'adopt' an orphaned pair of fox cubs. It's not just humans who are 'programmed' to care for others.



Here are just some of the toys which were brought into our event about favourite toys and games. Some of the owners of these toys are now over 80 years old and have loved their special toy since they were children.



Cat-headed ancient Egyptian deity Bastet. She was the goddess of good health and enjoyment.

If your pet was a god, what would they be worshipped for?

Dog figurine from Roman Britain. The fact that artefacts like this exist shows that dogs were much-loved in Roman society.



By The Portable Antiquities Scheme/ The Trustees of the British Museum, CC BY-SA 2.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=55526577>

More from our collections



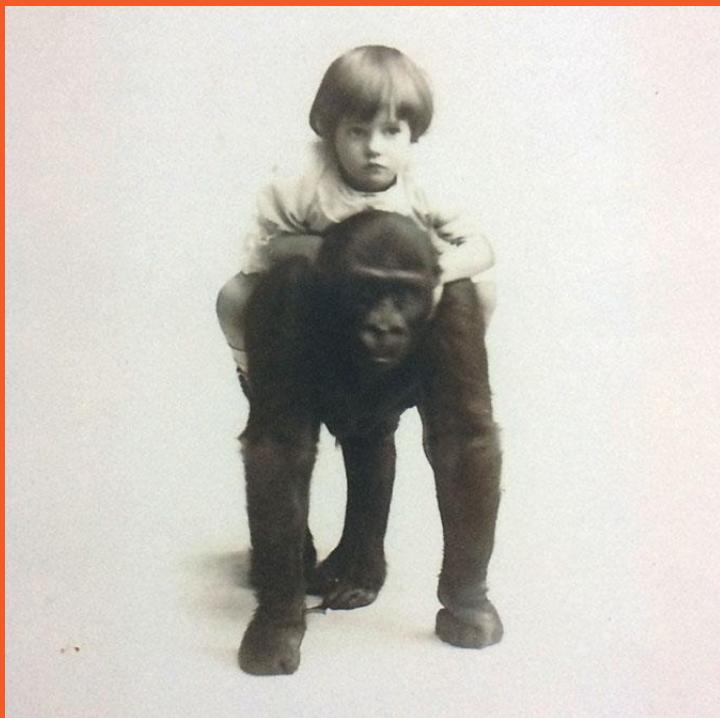
Somebody must have taken very good care of this hollyhock flower for it to grow so tall!

'Frisky' the rabbit was taken by his owner to a special church service for animals near Stroud over 60 years ago.



'Bessie' the Welsh collie won first prize at a dog show in 1960. She and her owner both look very proud!

More from our collections



This is John Daniel, a gorilla who lived as part of a family near Stroud, with one of the family's children. This was over 100 years ago. We are going to hear his story.

How do you feel when you look at this photo?



Pets ABC

Pets ABC. Think of the most unusual pet, plant or toy beginning with every letter of the alphabet. You get one point for every one which nobody else thought of.

A	For example.....anaconda (a kind of snake)
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	
N	
O	
P	
Q	
R	
S	
T	
U	
V	
W	
X	
Y	
Z	Hmmmm....this is tricky...

Pet Story

Write the first line of a story about a pet you know, or a pet you would like to have.

Something like this:

*'My dog Ruby is probably the greediest dog in the world and there is **nothing**- literally nothing - she won't eat...'*

We are all going to add to the story and see what kind of craziness we can come up with! It's our last session before we break for the summer, so let's give it everything we've got!



Don't forget to bring your pet, toy or favourite thing to the session – or bring a picture if you can't bring the real thing. We want to hear all about them.

