

Pets and the law – role play cards (1)



RSPCA inspector

- You have had a number of complaints about non-domestic (exotic) pets in the local area and you are concerned for their welfare. Some 'exotic' pets can be difficult to look after properly. Often, owners are inexperienced or do not have enough information, time or money to make sure they can provide for all of the animal's needs.
- You know that many of these animals will suffer if they escape, particularly those not native to the UK, as the correct environment for them does not exist here.
- You would like a local campaign to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage people to do lots of research before buying a pet to ensure that they choose one they can look after well.



'Exotic' pet owner

- You are over 16 and have recently bought a baby iguana called Iggy. You think it's a fascinating pet.
- You read a book about how to look after reptiles first and have all the correct equipment so you're confident that Iggy is happy.
- You've found a local vet who specialises in reptiles, so you know where to go if Iggy gets sick or if you need to know more about how to care for him.
- You think owning an 'exotic' pet is fine if you make sure you look after it properly.



Environmental services officer

- You work for the local council and check that pet shops and breeders are not breaking the law.
- You are worried that local pet shops and breeders don't know the law, or are deliberately breaking it by selling pets to young people under 16.
- You want to raise awareness amongst teenagers and parents about the issue.
- The Pet Animals Act 1951 requires any shop that sells pets (livestock) to be licensed by the local authority. Environmental services officers inspect the premises to check compliance with general health and safety requirements and also the welfare of the animals prior to issuing of the licence.

Pets and the law – role play cards (2)



Non-domestic (exotic) pet breeder

- You breed lizards and snakes to sell to pet shops, and sometimes through the local free-ads paper.
- You have a licence to sell pets and think this is fine as long as you don't sell wild-caught animals.
- You think it is the customer's responsibility to know the law about buying pets and to find out how to look after them.
- You are worried that a local campaign would damage your business and give you a bad name.



Chairperson

- Welcomes everyone to the meeting and introduces them.
- Makes sure that everyone has a chance to contribute.
- Keeps order in the meeting.
- Makes sure that the agenda is followed.
- Summarises the action points at the end and thanks everyone for attending.