



DOGS ARE BETTER THAN CATS

1 **A WARNING TO ALL CAT LOVERS:** a crazy dog lover wrote this exposition. You may find some of these arguments biased and offensive!

Some people have a hard time trying to find a pet that's right for them. Often the hardest part is deciding whether to get a dog or a cat. This is not a hard choice for

me at all. I think dogs make far better pets than cats. Here are some of the reasons why.

2 First of all, dogs are smarter than cats. They can be taught to sit, stay and shake hands. They can fetch the paper or Dad's slippers, which makes them a really useful pet. I've never seen a cat carrying slippers,

and the only time I've seen newspaper near a cat is when it's used to line the kitty litter tray.

3 Because dogs are so smart, they can be trained to do important jobs. There are dogs on the police force, dogs that herd sheep and do other farm work, and dogs that help people with disabilities. Blind people trust their dogs so much they wait for their dogs to let them know when it's safe to cross the road. Some dogs are even smart enough to get help for their owners when they are in danger.

4 Dogs also provide better protection than cats. I've never seen a sign that says 'Beware of the Cat.' Why? Because cats aren't scary at all. Having a dog in your yard can help keep your home safe from burglars and other intruders. Most dogs will bark when they see a stranger near their house, and if a stranger does come close enough to see the 'Beware' sign or the dog, chances are they will be frightened away. I think this is a great reason to choose a dog for a pet.

5 They say that 'a dog is man's best friend'. That's because dogs are loyal pets. They are just like part of the family and love being close to their owners. But if you have a pet cat and move into a new house, the cat may try and find its way back to the old house. Some people even try putting butter on their cat's paws before taking it to a new place. This is supposed to confuse

the cat so it won't remember the way back to its old home. I don't think trying to run away is a sign of a loyal pet. I'm glad I don't have to worry about that with my dog.

6 Also, lots of people are allergic to cat hair. Very allergic. They sneeze and wheeze and get itchy eyes whenever they are near a cat. Not as many people are allergic to dogs. You shouldn't have to stay away from your own pet, so it's better not to risk an allergy. Just get a dog instead.

7 If you ask me, most cats look pretty much the same. Short hair or long hair and slightly different colours are really the only differences between them. But there are many different dog breeds, so you have a much bigger variety to choose from. There are really small dogs and really large dogs, dogs with long tails and short tails, dogs with pointy ears and dogs with floppy ears. So when you get a dog, you are sure to find something that really suits you and your yard. Unless you get a lion or tiger (and that brings a whole other set of problems altogether), you're not likely to find a truly unique looking cat anywhere.

8 Having a pet dog is a lot more fun and helps to keep you healthy. Dogs love being outside and active, which helps to keep you fit. A cat can't play catch with a ball or a frisbee like a dog can, and you can't take a cat for a walk on a lead. Cats just walk around, purr and meow and I think this would get boring very quickly.

So you can see, there really is no need to go to the pet shop to check out all the different pets when you are looking for a new companion. I say, just head to your local pound and check out its perfect pooches instead.



Questions

- The author of this exposition is
 - unbiased.
 - a crazy dog lover.
 - a pet hater.
- Blind people
 - trust their dogs.
 - don't use dogs.
 - have pet cats.
- What do most dogs do when a stranger comes near their house?
 - They fetch some slippers.
 - They run away.
 - They bark.
- Why aren't cats loyal?
 - They run away.
 - They purr.
 - They are not scary.
- According to the author, what isn't a difference between cat breeds?
 - hair length
 - hair colour
 - body size
- According to this exposition, what kind of person would probably prefer a cat as a pet?
 - someone who loved being outdoors
 - someone who enjoyed peaceful relaxation
 - someone who wanted to train his or her pet

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

beware biased allergic
companion newspaper

- To have a one-sided opinion (1)
- Used for reporting news (2)
- Be careful and cautious (4)
- To have a bad reaction to something (6)
- Something or someone to keep you company (9)

Grammar

Find a **verb** (an action word) in these sentences.

- The dog fetched Dad's slippers.
- I walk my pet dog every day.
- My dog is training for the police force.
- Fido growls at all the cats.

Back To The Text...

- The illustration on page 3 is described in section
 - three.
 - eight.
- The purpose of this text is
 - to persuade.
 - to inform.

- Look carefully at the illustration on the front of the card. What is watching over the animals?

a a dog b a cat

Cloze

Purrfect Pets

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

cats thief from
sharp provide

Dogs may 19 better protection than family cats but there are some 20 no thief will take on. Perhaps a lion or a leopard in the backyard would discourage a stranger. The strong, 21 teeth of a tiger could easily tear the pants off a 22. Even the smaller puma or caracal would scare an unwanted visitor 23 your yard. They would give even the biggest dog a fright.

Challenge Option

Writing: Make a list of all the good points about having a cat as a pet.

