

**In some countries, people spend a lot of money on their pets. They buy special food for their cats or dogs, buy them toys and often pay high fees for medical treatment. Some people think this is a waste of money.**

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a pet?**

These days having pets and spending money on them occasionally results ~~in te~~ extra expenses ~~s~~ which ~~it~~ impels some to complain about its drawbacks. However, there ~~is-are~~ some benefits that may compensate for wasting a fortune on pets.

Some who choose pets as a family member usually say that these animals bring them joy and fulfillment. These people who ~~are~~ sometimes ~~are~~ lonely like the elderly or ~~might be dealing maybe deal~~ with mental problems ~~and by having pets, they~~ avoid unpleasant feelings and substitute them with pets' unconditional love. Further, some of these companions, usually dogs assist their disabled or weak owners. For instance, some trained dogs can support the elderly in daily routines like crossing streets or shopping or even detecting when their handler's blood sugar becomes too high or low in the case of diabetic persons. In addition, children may gain some benefits from them as well. Some researches ~~has have~~ been done into the relation between having a strong immune system in children and keeping pets and in fact, they have shown that children who grow up with pets are less likely to get sick than others owing to ~~(production of)~~ producing antibodies against pets' viruses. Furthermore, bereavement over an animal helps children come to terms with death and ~~it~~ educates them about reality and natural facts.

On the other hand, it may be said that spending money on pets is unnecessary, ~~and~~ we should dedicate it to more essential cases. Some critics argue that when there ~~is-are~~ many ~~in poverty the poor~~ around the world, who are in need of foods and medicines, squandering money on pets is not moral, ~~and~~ indeed the main priority should be given to humankind. Moreover, it seems that some diseases are transmitted by pets to their owners which not only can ~~it~~ be serious, but also too costly. For example, some studies show that people who avoid keeping pets at home get ~~fewer less~~ parasites than pet lovers ~~and this means meaning~~ that ~~the~~ less money will be lost.

In conclusion, while sometimes a great deal of money and time has been expended on dogs and cats, these domestic animals always have been helpful and companionable for humans and likely, living with them is the last chance for our children to be in touch ~~with by~~ nature.