

Cats or Dogs?

Prompt: Two very popular pets in America are cats and dogs. Some people prefer an enthusiastic, loyal dog, while others prefer a playful, cuddly cat. The war between which pet is better, a cat or a dog, is fierce and will probably never end. Which animal do you think is a better pet, a cat or a dog? Write an essay giving your opinion. Your essay must use information from both passages.

Passage 1: Cats are Best

By: Leah Lott

1 You've probably already noticed this, but cats are very popular animals in America. Whether you're on Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, or just browsing the internet, chances are you will come across a picture or video of a cat. Instagram even has a page called "Cats of Instagram" with over 11 million followers. Why do so many people follow this page? Because cats are so entertaining! Just watching your cat do something funny will give you more energy. Cats will chase the silliest of things including strings, lights, and even your fingers running across the carpet. They also get scared easily. When they do get scared, their reaction is hilarious! Cats will hiss, meow, jump high, or even attack things when they are scared. It is fun to watch.

2 Another reason why so many people love cats is because they make a loveable companion and are good for your health. Those that own cats usually suffer less from **cardiac disease**, depression, and loneliness. Cats can sense human emotions. They can find you in the next room when you're crying. If you have lost a loved one, a great way to cope with the pain is to own a cat. Cats won't **criticize** you, so you can tell them all that you are feeling without worrying about what they will say.

3 Some people think that cats can't be trained. Well, believe it or not, they can be! Even though cats are more independent and aren't as social as other pets, they can still be trained. If you are patient, creative, and offer them a reward they can't resist, you can train a cat to do many things. People have successfully trained their cat to high-five, fetch, and even flush the toilet after going to the bathroom.

4 Another great thing about cats is that they are easy to take care of. Have you ever seen a cat licking itself? It's not doing that because it has gone crazy, it's doing that because it likes to stay clean, and it's doing the job for you. Cats need exercise, but you don't have to take them on a walk. They are happy just chasing things in your house. If you go on vacation for a week, your pet-sitter doesn't have to do very much. All they need to do is make sure your cat gets enough food and water.

5 One more reason that cats make a great pet is that they are quiet. Yes, they meow and hiss, but those sounds are barely **audible** in the next room. Barking, however, can be heard across the street, which often annoys people. With a pet cat, you don't have to worry about keeping your neighbors awake at night. Cats are an easy pet when it comes to visitors. They don't get loud just because someone is at the door. If someone knocks on your door, you won't need to tell your cat to be quiet.

Glossary

cardiac disease: a heart disorder (something wrong with the heart)
criticize: to judge in a negative way
audible: can be heard

