

# OWNING A CAT

By - Sally Bratt  
Photography by - Sally Bratt  
Genre: Report

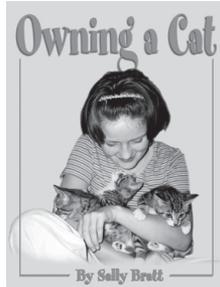
Set 20 - 521 Words

## Building Anticipation - Setting the Context

Discuss responsibilities that the students have at home and at school. Ask if anyone has ever looked after a pet for someone else. Talk about these experiences. Ask them what they think the term, *responsible pet ownership* means?

## Introduction

Divide the students in pairs and give each pair a rolled up strip of paper to list what they think should be in a book about how to take care of cats. Look at the Table of Contents, Glossary and Index to see what they will find in the book and compare it with their strips. Then they can read to see what they can learn about caring for cats.



## Discussion - Book Talk

*Right there questions:*

- What do some cats do when you get them breakfast?
- Where will cats sleep?
- List things you will need to have if you get a cat.
- Why is dry food the best for cats?

*Think and search questions:*

- What are some ways you can keep your cat healthy?
- What advice did the author give about playing with your cat?
- What are some words the author used to describe her cats?

*On your own questions:*

- What do you think the author should have added to the book?
- In your opinion, what kind of person would be a good cat owner? What can happen to cats that don't have a name tag if they get lost?
- If you could have a pet, would you choose a cat? Why or why not?

## Creative Response – Independent Practice

*Writing Workshop*

Imagine you are a kitten. Write a letter to someone who might buy you and tell them the kind of owner and home you are looking for.

*Poetry and Music*

Read poems from T. S. Elliot's, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Explore his language as he describes the different cat characters. Play some of the songs and watch clips from the musical, *Cats*. Discuss how the dancers made you know they are portraying cats.

*Art*

Use magazines, old greeting cards and old photos that students can cut out to make a collage. This can be an ongoing activity and can be

added to on a daily basis.

*Choral Reading*

An excellent poem for choral reading is *The Duel* by Eugene Field. Reviews techniques for effective choral reading. The poem can be located on: <http://glenavalon.com/theduel.html>

*Guest Speaker*

Ask a veterinarian to visit the class or visit an animal hospital. Develop questions ahead of time. Show the students how to take quick notes beside their question and use their notes to write complete sentences later.

*Movement*

Find music that illustrates the movement of cats. Play this and have children move like cats.

*Fictional Cats*

Make a list of fictional cats. Beside the names write two or three words that describe that character.

*Research*

Research facts about cats. Present your facts to the class.

[http://paw-rescue.org/CATS/kitten\\_care.html](http://paw-rescue.org/CATS/kitten_care.html)

Using your research and the reproducible master write why you think a cat is a good pet and list 3 things you need to remember when owning a cat.

## Read Aloud and Poetry Connections

*Amazing Cats* by Alexandra Parsons, Dorling Kindersley Ltd., 1990.

*Little Cats* by Bobby Kalman, Crabtree, 1994.

*Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag, Penguin, 1996.

*Mr. McGratt and the Ornerly Cat* by Marilyn Helmer, Kids Can Press, 1999.

*Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by T.S. Elliot, Harvest Books, 1982.

*Put that Fat Cat on a Diet!* by Nancy Scott Ansley and Heather Cooper, Penguin, 1990.

*The Cat Who Loved Mozart* by Patricia Austin, Holiday House, 2001.

## Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words - own, owning, against, leave, instead

Interest Words - litter, scoop, clipper, scratching, vet, vaccination, vaccinate, post

Word Families and Letter Clusters - s blends and clusters - sc: scared, scoop, sl: sleep, sp: special, sb: sharp, shot, scr: scratch,

Structural Features of Words - Bold headings with *ing* words in them

Text Features - Glossary - Index

## Why do you think a cat is a good pet?

A cat is a good pet because \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

List 3 things you need to remember to do when owning a cat.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_