

# Kyle Crissey

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1st Place – 4th Grade

**St. Maria School**  
**Mrs. Jacquie Leferink**

Pets need food, water, and shelter to survive but that is not all. They need constant care, protection, exercise, and love.

When you have adopted a new pet you will need to take it to the vet for care. Just like kids go to the doctor for well visits, pets also go for checkups. The vet will weigh them, and give them their vaccinations to keep them well. This will prevent diseases such as rabies. Some pets also need heart worm medicine each month. Sometimes pets get sick and need go to doctor to get well. Many animals require grooming. This might include a bath, teeth cleaning, and a haircut.

Not only do pets need care they also need protection. An outdoor pet needs a safe, fenced-in yard. When the weather is hot, they need a cool, shaded area to rest. When it is cold, they need a warm place to stay. If an animal lives inside, it may need a cage or a crate to keep it safe during the day. If you take your pet for a walk, you need a leash to keep it from running away.

In addition to care and protection, pets need plenty of exercise to keep them healthy. For example, a dog would like a jog around the park or to play fetch with a stick or Frisbee. If you have a cat you will need to buy it toys to play with and keep it busy. A hamster would need a running wheel in its' cage. If you don't give your pet enough exercise it may get lonely or tear up your furniture.

Lastly, and most importantly pets need love and attention. Pets get lonely if they are not played with and do not have care. Each day you need to spend time with your pet so they feel loved. You can show your pet love by petting or brushing them. Pet enjoy being read to or talked to each day. It is important to feed your pet each day and give it fresh water so it feels loved and cared for. If you go on vacation, you have to arrange for someone to take care of your pet and give them food, water and attention.

Having a pet is very fun but it is also a serious responsibility. It is a living creature just like a human and needs to have constant care, protection, exercise, and love to survive. If you take good care of your pet it will obey you and show you respect. Having a pet can make life more fun and interesting. If you treat your pet right they can become your new best friend.