



TOPICAL TIDBITS

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Philatelic Pets

Bright Eyes, a stamp set of five pets with eyes wide open, was issued on August 30, 1998. The contemporary designed stamps depicted the heads of a hound dog, goldfish, cat, parakeet, and hamster against a colorful solid-colored background. These self-adhesive stamps had a face value of 32¢. Each of the stamps contains one or more hidden images that can only be seen through a special decoder lens that the Postal Service sold at the time. Can you guess what the hidden images might be? If you guessed a hidden dog bone and doghouse for the hound, a paw and mouse for the cat design, a bird cage for the parakeet, an exercise wheel for the hamster, and a series of bubbles for the goldfish, you would be correct! Enjoy this issue of pets.



Stamp images- www.hiddenimagestamps.info

Did You Know?



More than half of the homes in the United States have pets.

Ancient Egyptians mummified their pet dogs, cats, and monkeys.

The dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans.

Cats, not dogs, are the most common pets in America.

Studies have shown that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.



Dog versus Cat

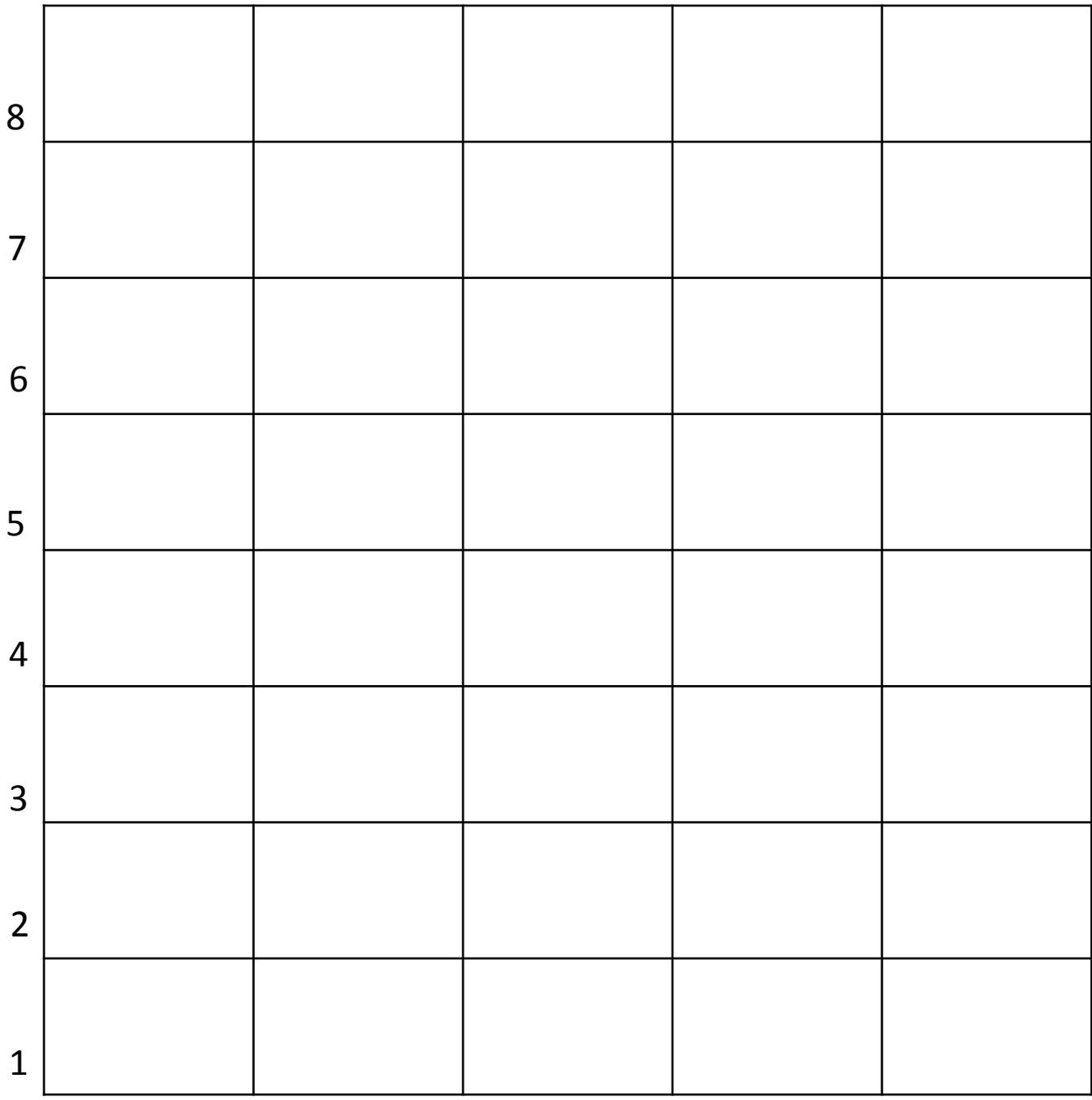


According to a national pet owners survey, 68% of households in the United States own a pet. Read the statements below and decide if they describe dogs or cats. Circle the one you think is correct. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. I sweat from the bottom of my feet.....  
2. I have more bones than a human, but no collarbone.....  
3. I pant up to 300 times a minute.....  
4. I was the first animal to travel in space.....  
5. I have three eyelids.....  
6. My tongue has hooked taste buds that work like Velcro to help hold prey in my mouth.....  
7. I often yawn when I am nervous or excited.....  
8. Poland has more of me than children.....  
9. My heart beats twice as fast as a human's.....  
10. 34% of households take me on vacation with them.....  

All Kinds of Pets

Did you know that over 50% of all pet owners would rather be stranded on a deserted island with their pet, and not another person? Make a graph of the pets your friends and family own using the chart below. Be sure to include your own pets.



Dog



Cat



Bird



Fish



Other

Presidential Pets

Many of our presidents owned pets. George Washington owned more than thirty foxhounds. When President Theodore Roosevelt's son was sick in bed with the measles, his sibling brought the family pony into the White House to visit him. See if you can match the president to each clue.



1. ____ Rutherford B. Hayes

A. ____ I fed the white mice I found in my bedroom.



2. ____ Andrew Jackson

B. ____ One of my family's pets was a goat named Whiskers.



3. ____ Abraham Lincoln

C. ____ One of my many pets was a small bear named Jonathon Edwards.



4. ____ Theodore Roosevelt

D. ____ I had a turkey named Jack.



5. ____ Warren Harding

E. ____ My pet was a parrot named Polly.



6. ____ Calvin Coolidge

F. ____ I had the first Siamese cat in the United States.



7. ____ Benjamin Harrison

G. ____ My family had two raccoons named Rebecca and Horace.



8. ____ Andrew Johnson

H. ____ I had a squirrel named Pete. 4

Pets

