



Lockdown Pets

(An article to read & discuss with your child)

One of the few plus sides of lockdown is that we've all been able to spend plenty of time with our pets and give them much more attention compared to when we were at school or work.

This applies to people in all walks of life including those in the worlds of film, music and sport. And many have taken to social media to show just how they are getting on with their animal friends right now.



Arnie with his donkey Lulu and pony Whiskey.

One of the most unusual when it comes to this is Arnold 'Arnie' Schwarzenegger. The actor, who has starred in movies like Terminator and Kindergarten Cop, has a donkey named Lulu and a pony named Whiskey at his home in California.

And they really do keep him company as they are allowed inside the house and even take food from him at the dinner table.



Popstar Lady Gaga has been relaxing with her dogs and Taylor Swift says her cat Captain Olivia Benson is acting a bit funny and seems confused by what is going on in the world right now.

Capturing a photo of one of those animals seems quite straight forward and easy to do.



But doing so with a large show jumping horse is a bit more of a challenge, as five-time Paralympic gold medallist Natasha Baker explained after posting a shot of herself alongside the beautiful Lottie.

She wrote: 'What you see: A happy smiley pony standing beautifully. What we see: 4 behind-the-scenes team members waving carrots in all directions and shouting Lottttieeee! Lottttttieeee!'

It's well known that when animals are involved, not everything goes to plan. Perhaps that explains Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette's reaction to his dog's participation - or should that be interruption - in a workout session at home...



Lacazette doesn't look too impressed with his dog during a workout.

The benefits of being in the company of animals is well known, particularly dogs. Research has shown that canine owners tend to be healthier and a big reason for this is the regular walks they take with their hounds.

Clearly, that provides exercise. It also promotes social interaction as you meet people when out and about; boosting our moods and how we feel about ourselves.



When you have a dog going for a walk isn't a choice!

It's not just outdoors though where dogs play a big role in people's lives. They also become like a family member at home, with many of them sitting on the furniture or even lying in our beds.

This guards against loneliness and is extremely vital in this lockdown situation when many are self-isolating or can't go to see relatives or friends like they normally would.



Pets keep us company and become like part of the family.

Perhaps that is why animal shelters and pet shops in a number of countries have seen a surge in people adopting dogs, cats and even hamsters over recent months.

It's a win: win situation for all parties. The animals who previously had no homes are now in a new and loving environment, while the owners have been given both a physical and mental boost to their wellbeing.

This article could also inspire you to write your own article about your pets and what they have been up to recently. Do you think the pets have been enjoying lockdown?

Write your article on a Word document using a computer and email it to Mrs Arnold at sarnold379@c2kni.net. Don't forget to find a great picture to go with your article.

You can write it on your own or do it with an adult, brother or sister!

