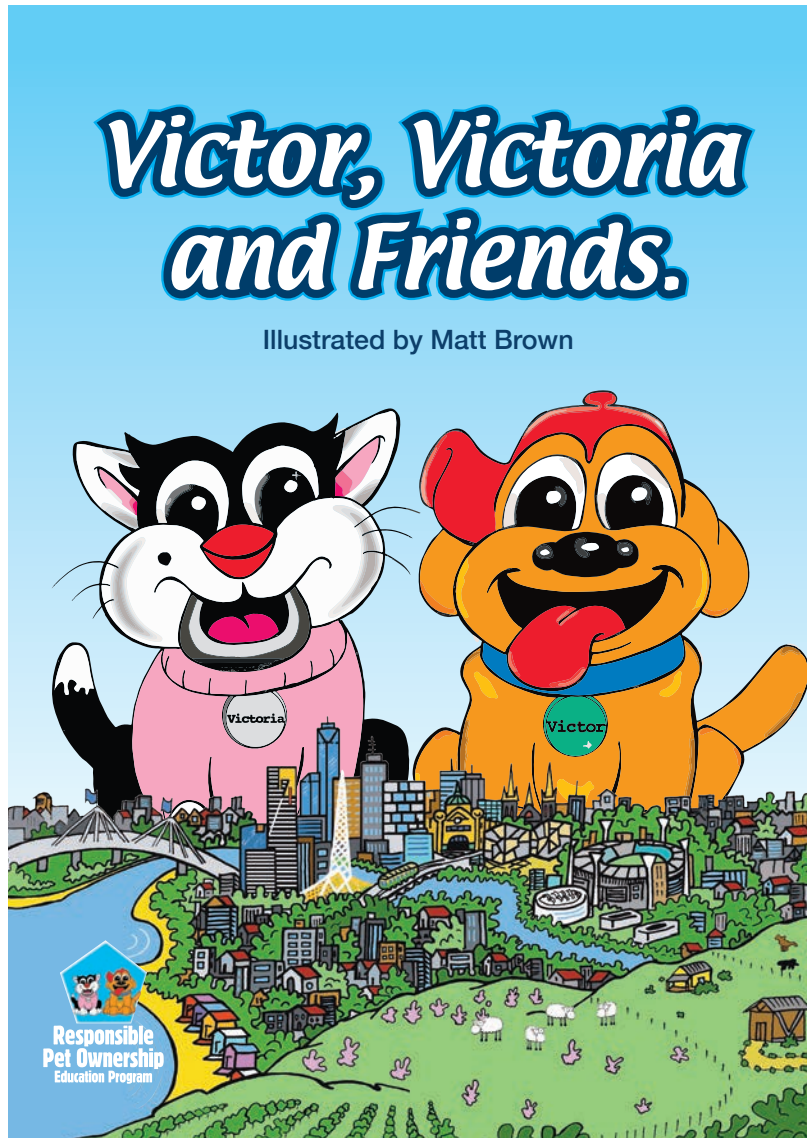




## Victor, Victoria and Friends Picture Chat

Discussion notes for Victor, Victoria and Friends for teachers to use to enhance children's learnings and understandings about Living Safely with Pets.



## PETS IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY

### Background

Pets play a major role in the Australian community. Over 60 per cent of all Australian households have a pet, which makes it vitally important that we educate our students about responsible pet ownership. This includes choosing a suitable pet, basic husbandry and animal welfare in order to reduce the number of unwanted and unowned pets.

Students also need to gain a basic understanding of community rules that help them live safely and harmoniously in the wider community. This unit will provide students with the knowledge, skills and understandings for responsible pet ownership.

### Key concepts

Families must choose pets that suit their environment and lifestyle.




- Pets need to be looked after for the whole of their lives.
- Pets are happy when they are healthy: a pet needs regular vet check-ups, a balanced diet and a clean and warm environment in which to live.
- We have rules to make sure that pets and people live safely and happily together.
- We need to approach and greet dogs in a safe manner.
- We need to know what to do if an aggressive dog comes up to us.



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Picture	Picture Summary	Questions
 <p>Looking after our pets in the home.</p>	<p>It is important that our pets are part of the family. Owning pets is a big responsibility. They rely on us to look after them. We need to make sure they have a safe area to live, somewhere comfortable to sleep, lots of fresh water, food and things for them to play with and keep them occupied.</p>	<p>Why are there bowls for food and fresh water?</p> <p>What can you tell me about what Victoria is sleeping in?</p> <p>What is the tag that Victor is wearing on his collar?</p> <p>Why do you think the pets are inside with the family?</p> <p>What sort of toys do Victor and Victoria have to play with?</p> <p>Why do you think Victoria's bed is inside and not outside?</p>
 <p>Looking after our pets in the backyard.</p>	<p>Our pets love to play outside. It is important that our yards are safe with good fences and gates that can be closed. It is a good idea for an adult to supervise all games between children and their pets just in case they get a bit too excited or play too roughly. Our pets need to be able to access fresh water.</p>	<p>What game is Sam playing with Victor?</p> <p>Why is there is a water bowl outside?</p> <p>Do you think this is a good fence to keep Victor safe in the backyard?</p> <p>Why is Grandma watching Victor and Sam playing?</p> <p>What do you think Victoria is in?</p> <p>What types of animals do you think you would find in the trees outside the backyard?</p>
 <p>Victoria's outdoor enclosure.</p>	<p>A cat enclosure in the backyard is a great way to keep your cat confined to the backyard. It has a door which allows it to move from inside to outside and lots of things to keep the cat entertained.</p> <p>Cats are natural hunters. The 'cat house' allows other animals to enjoy the backyard while making sure the cat cannot escape into the native forest next to the house.</p>	<p>Why do you think that Victoria is in this special outdoor home?</p> <p>Do you think the native animals in the backyard would be safe if Victoria did not have her special outdoor home?</p> <p>Does Victoria have plenty of room to move and play?</p> <p>Why are there toys in her outdoor home?</p> <p>Can you find a special door which allows her to go inside and outside on her own? Why is this a good idea?</p>



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Picture	Picture Summary	Questions
 <p data-bbox="120 584 342 608">A visit to the vet.</p>	<p data-bbox="573 395 1099 647">Vets look after all types of animals and they visit the vet for many reasons. These include illness, injury and general check-ups. The vet’s is also a good place to get information in relation to training and diet. The large dog has an injury. It needs to go to obedience classes to learn how to walk on a leash properly.</p>	<p data-bbox="1167 395 1872 639">Victor is in the waiting room. Does he look sick?  Why do animals need to go to the vet?  Why do you think the big dog is on a leash?  Do you think the big dog is well behaved? Why?  What else can you see happening in the waiting room?</p>
 <p data-bbox="120 941 409 965">Out in the community.</p>	<p data-bbox="573 754 1099 1007">Victor’s family is out for a walk. Victor is on leash and is wearing his identification tag. The young lady is asking the dog’s permission to say hello by offering him the back of her hand to smell. We should always ask the owner’s permission before saying hello. The golden rule is ‘No owner, No Leash, No Touch’.</p>	<p data-bbox="1167 754 2007 887">What does Victor have on when walking in the community?  Why is the little girl offering Victor the back of her hand to smell?  Why do you think that Sam’s mum is walking with them?</p>
 <p data-bbox="120 1361 450 1385">The unfriendly backyard.</p>	<p data-bbox="573 1174 1099 1485">This backyard demonstrates everything that a responsible owner’s yard should not have. The fences are broken so the dog could escape or someone could enter and try to pat the dog. There is rubbish lying around and no water for the dog to drink. The cat has been hunting and is not wearing an identification tag. It does not have a cat house like Victoria so it can come and go as it pleases.</p>	<p data-bbox="1167 1174 2096 1485">What things tell us that this is not a safe yard for a dog to live in?  Have the owners been responsible pet owners? Why not?  Why do you think this dog is unhappy?  Would it be safe to climb through the fence into this backyard?  What has the cat been doing?  What would we need to do to make this a safe and friendly backyard for pets to live in?</p>



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 <p>Training.</p>	<p>Obedience training is a great idea for dogs and owners of all breeds, shapes and sizes. The dogs learn basic manners such as sitting, lying down and walking on the leash. They learn to get on with other dogs. It is a great family activity. Classes are held in most suburbs and usually held on the weekends.</p>	<p>What things in this picture tell you these people are responsible dog owners?</p> <p>Why is it important to train your dog?</p> <p>What sort of things do you think your dog should learn at training?</p> <p>What can you tell me about all the dogs in this picture?</p> <p>Would it be safe to ask the owner's permission to say hello to these dogs?</p>
 <p>Going on holidays.</p>	<p>Sam's family is going on holiday. There will be no one at home who can look after them. Sam and his Mum have just left Victor and Victoria at a boarding kennel and cattery. They have their own spaces where they can rest, sleep, eat and play safely until the family returns.</p>	<p>Why is it important that we do not leave our pets on their own while we go on holidays?</p> <p>Who can look after our pets when we go on holidays?</p> <p>Do you think Victoria will be happy being looked after at the cattery? Why?</p> <p>If they did stay at home who could look after them?</p> <p>If someone was looking after your pets what would they need to do to make sure they were well looked after?</p>
 <p>Being responsible pet owners in the community.</p>	<p>Sam and his friend are taking Victor and Victoria for a walk. They are both on leash and wearing their identification tags. Cats can be trained to walk in a harness just like dogs. By walking on a leash they cannot run away or get lost or have an accident with a car.</p>	<p>What are all the pets in this picture wearing around their necks?</p> <p>Why is it safer for Victoria to be walking on a leash too?</p> <p>Would it be safe for Victor and Victoria to be off their leashes? Why not?</p>



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Picture	Picture Summary	Questions
 <p>The national park.</p>	<p>Victor and Victoria are out for a walk. They are on leash and wearing their identification tags to keep them safe. They live near a national park but they are not allowed in. These parks are like our pets backyards. They are places where the animals can live safely and not have to worry about other animals hurting them or the places in which they live.</p>	<p>What types of animals would you find in a national park?</p> <p>Sam is reading a sign which says dogs and cats are not allowed in this park. Why are they not allowed in?</p> <p>Why are Victor and Victoria on their leashes?</p> <p>What would happen if Victor or Victoria got lost in the national park?</p>



## Learning made fun!

Explore Pet Town, try the activities and earn rewards along the way.

Pet Town is a fun and engaging learning tool to assist kindergarten and primary school children in responsible pet ownership and dog safety.

[www.pettown.vic.gov.au](http://www.pettown.vic.gov.au)

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