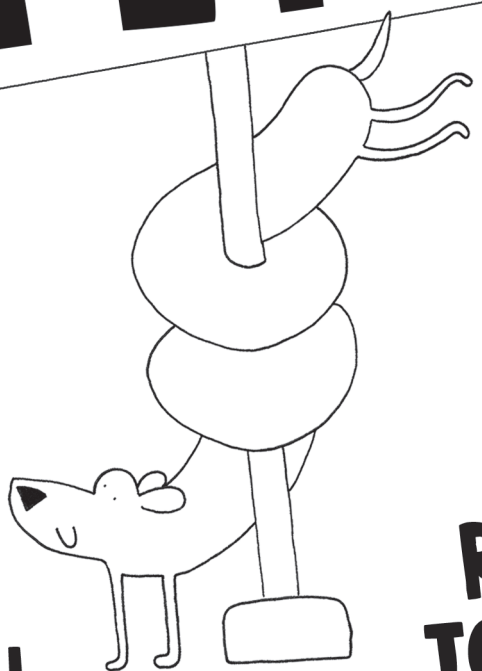
THE FUNNY LIFE OF PETS



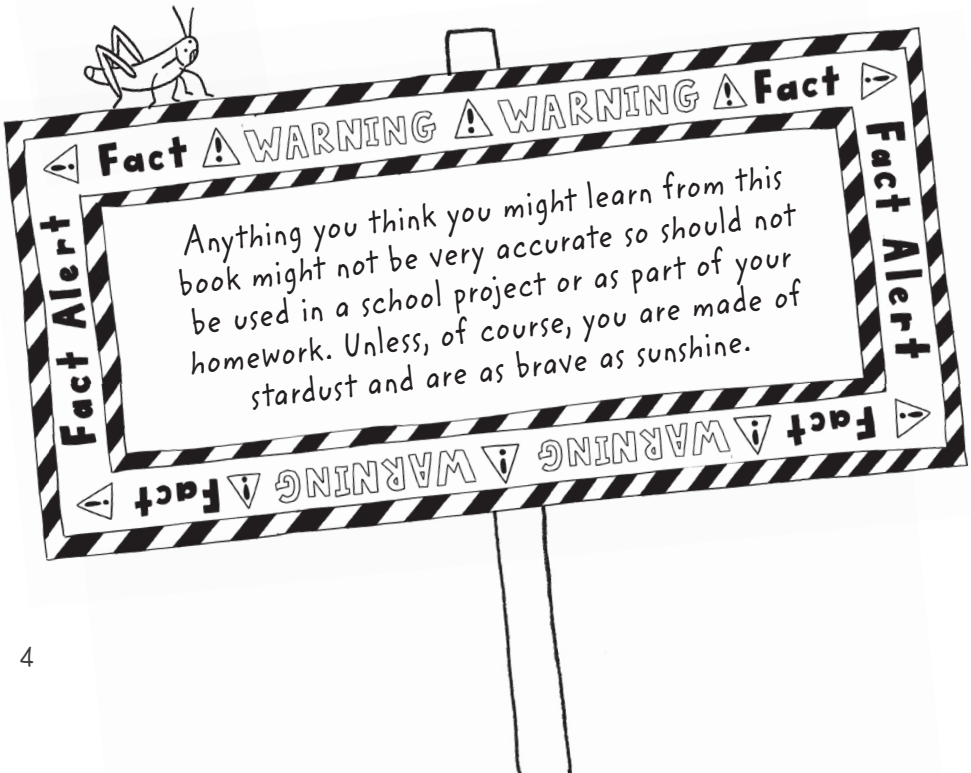
JAMES CAMPBELL

ROB JONES

BLOOMSBURY
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY



Read this before you dare go any further . . .



WHAT SORT OF BOOK IS THIS?

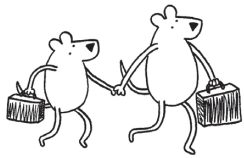


This is NOT a normal book.
Not normal at all.



This is **not** a fact book as such. You won't find much practical information in here. If you're looking for **proper,** school-like stuff about pets then put this book down immediately and **run away screaming.** If it's practical information you really want, I can recommend the following books:

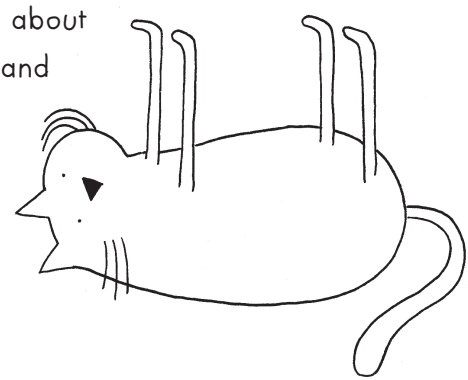






This book is for four types of people:

1. People who have a pet and like reading about how **funny** they are.
2. People who don't have any pets but would really like one, two, three or **more.**
3. People who used to have a pet which has now **'gone somewhere else'.** This book may stop you from feeling sad about it. Or make it worse.
4. People who don't have any pets, never had any, don't want any, don't care a rotten banana about them BUT like **laughing** and **giggling** until their head falls off and they turn into a donkey. Which is also a pet!



You don't read this book like a **normal book,** by starting on page 1 and then reading all the other pages in the **right order.**

BORING!

You can read this book forwards, backwards, sidewards and in approximately **861,000** different ways. On most pages you will find choices on **signposts.** To choose a path just turn to the page it says.

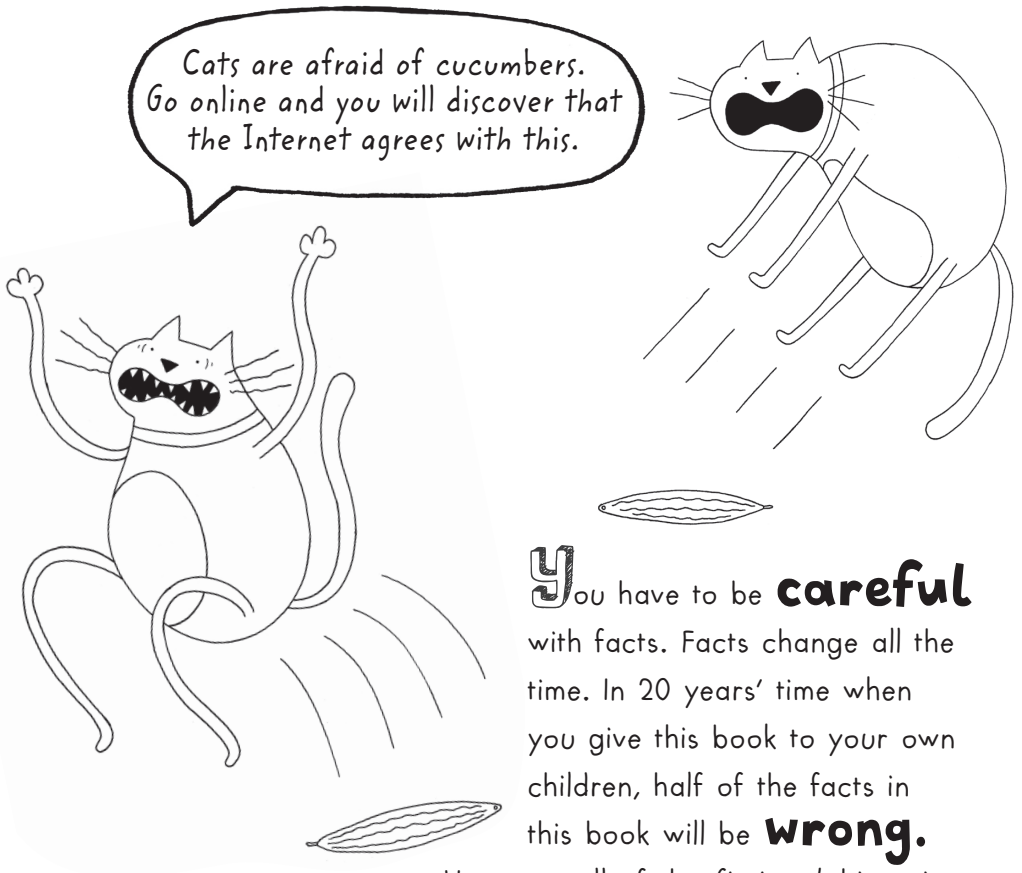


Some **choices** have signposts to tell you where to go next. Some pages have 'back' signposts, which tell you how to get back to where you came from. Sometimes there is **more than one** 'back' signpost because there is more than one way to get to the page that you're on. When this happens you can either **choose** to go back to where you actually came from or go back to somewhere you've never been before.

How often do you get to do that?

A warning about facts

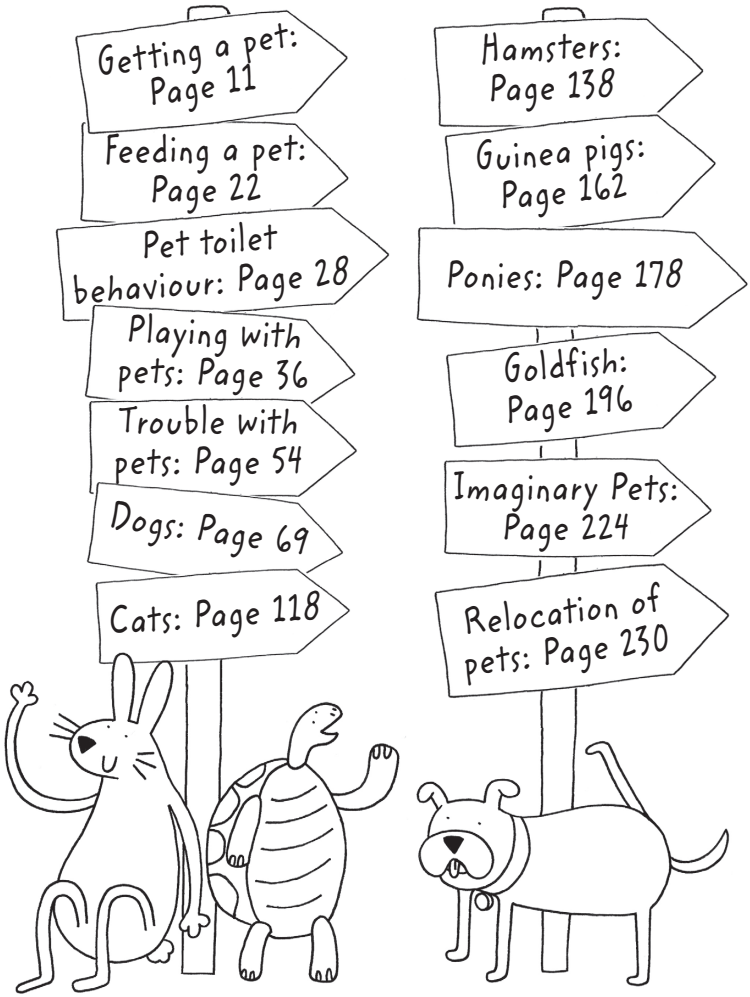
Occasionally, this book will give you some actual facts.



You have to be **careful** with facts. Facts change all the time. In 20 years' time when you give this book to your own children, half of the facts in this book will be **wrong.** However, all of the *fictional* things in this book will still be true until the Moon gets **bored** and goes somewhere else.

Beginning page

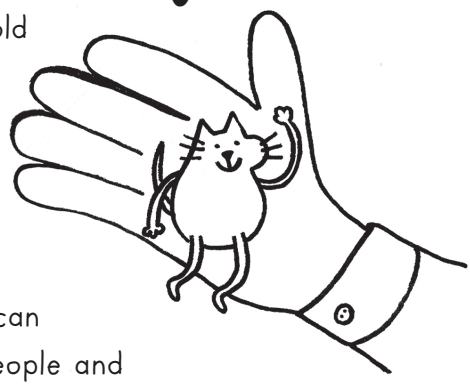
Congratulations! You have arrived at the beginning of the book. **Decide** which chapter you would like to start with. Remember: there is no right or wrong **order** to read this book!



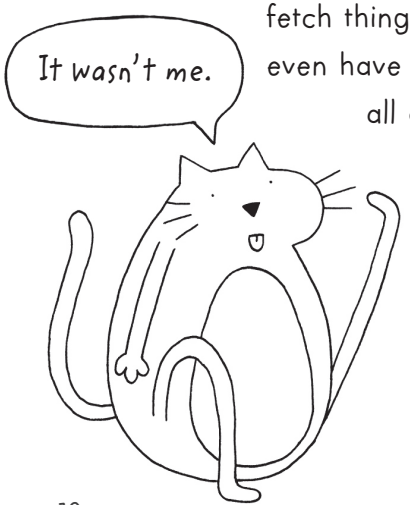
What are pets?

Let's start with the **basics.** What are pets? Well, I'm glad you asked.

Pets are **brilliant.** They come in different shapes and sizes. Some are **furry.** Some are **scaly.** Some are **so small** you can hold them in one hand. Others are twice the size of you and if they sit on you there is a danger you will **burst.**



Some pets are **useful** and can fetch things, help people and even have jobs! Other pets just sit around all day doing nothing or, worse still, go behind your wardrobe and do a secret **poo.**





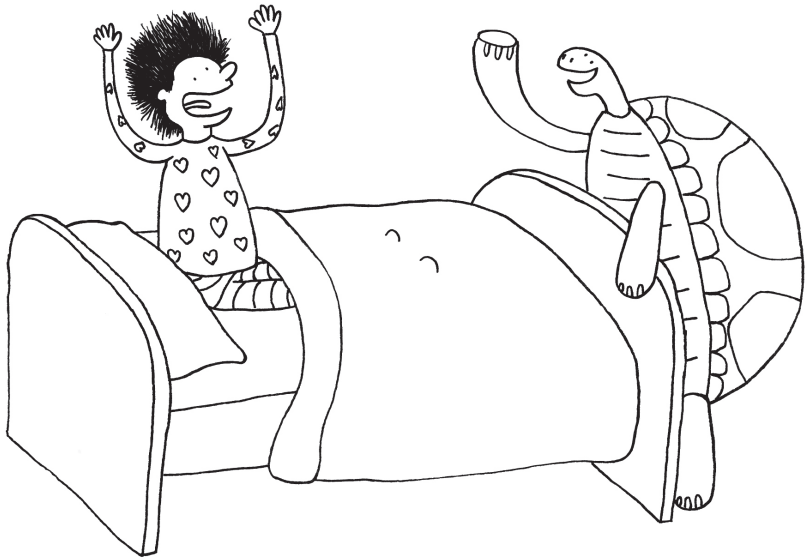
Getting a pet

We have now learned that pets exist. There's no denying it. We've all seen them. They are **real.**

So how do you go about getting one? Do you just **hope for the best** and maybe one day some sort of animal will turn up at the bottom of your bed?

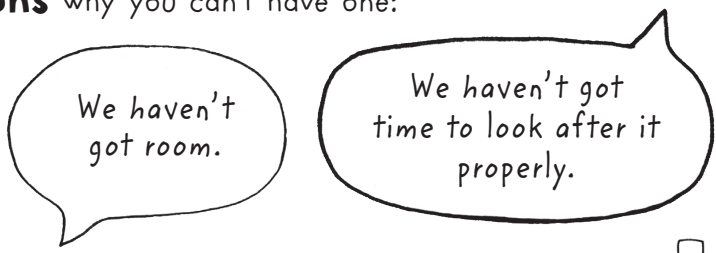
What to do if you find a pet at the bottom of your bed: Page 61

This might work but it is quite **unlikely.** So how do you get one? How do you **convince** your grown-ups that you can have a pet? How do you decide which is the best pet for you to look after?



Emotional blackmail

Are you struggling to **persuade** your parents to get you the pet you want? Maybe they've come up with all sorts of **reasons** why you can't have one:



These are all just **excuses** (unless they are actually **real** reasons in which case you might have to settle for an imaginary pet).



Emotional blackmail is when you use your **imagination** to make them **feel bad** about not getting a pet. The sorts of things you might want to try are:

1. Draw a really **cute** picture of you and your family and include a picture of the pet you want. Then show the picture to your **grown-ups.**

Dad: What have you got there?
Child: I've drawn a picture. It's our family. That's me. That's you. That's mummy. That's Toby. That's Serena.
Dad: And who is this?
Child: That's Mr Fluffy-Wuff.
Dad: And who is Mr Fluffy-Wuff?
Child: He's the rabbit you are going to get me.

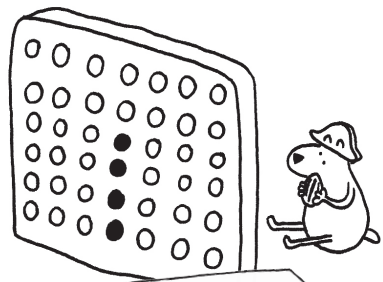


Getting a Pet: Page 11

2. You can also try dropping it into **conversation** every now and again.

Ooh. This is a nice walk in the countryside. It would be much better though, if we had a dog.

I would really like to play Connect 4. If I had a pet to play it with me, I would play it all day long.

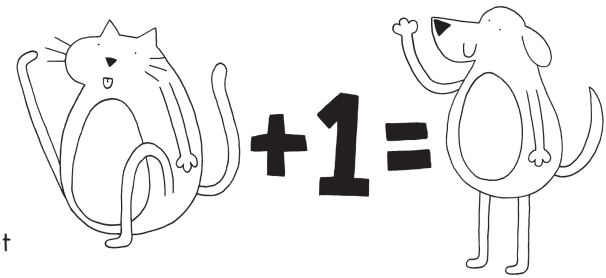


Playing Connect 4 with your pet: Page 50

One pet bigger

If you are very lucky, your parents will be happy to get you a pet. One way to get the pet you want is not to ask for it at all but to ask for a pet which is bigger and more difficult to have in the house.

If you want a pet, you see,
Think of it as a **figure.**
Once that's done, just add
Plus one and ask for one pet
bigger.

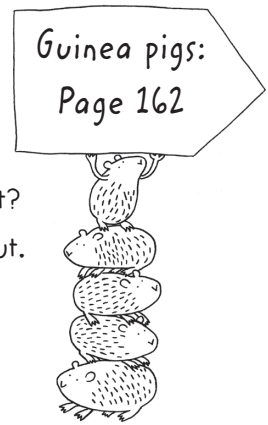




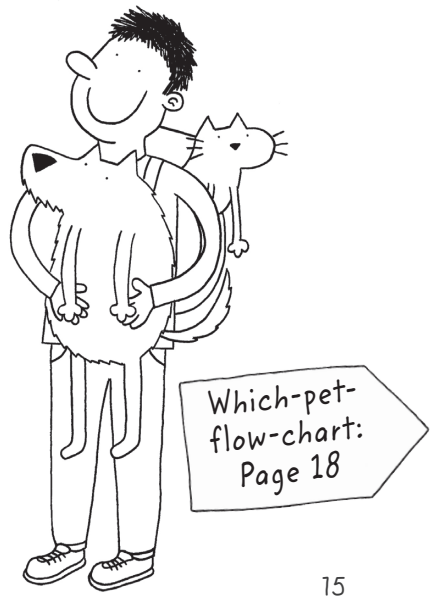
If you want a **hamster**
To keep inside a cage,
Say you want a guinea pig
Of **any shape** or age.
'Oh no, no, no, you silly thing.
A guinea pig's too big,' they'll sing.
But if you use your biggest eyes
When parents use their head,
They'll come upon a **compromise**
And a hamster you will get instead.



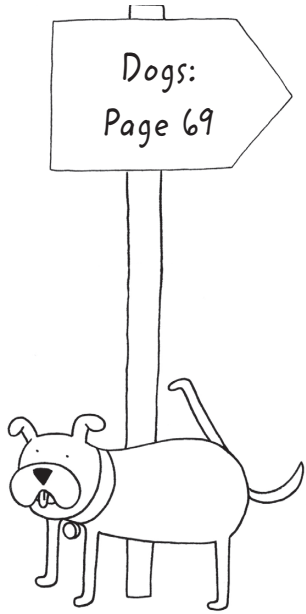
But if you want a guinea pig,
What will you do now?
Well, say you want a catty puss
That purrs and goes **meow.**
'Oh no, what are you on about?
A cat is far too **big,'** they'll shout.
But if you use your **biggest** eyes
When parents use their head,
They'll come upon a compromise
And a guinea pig you'll get instead.

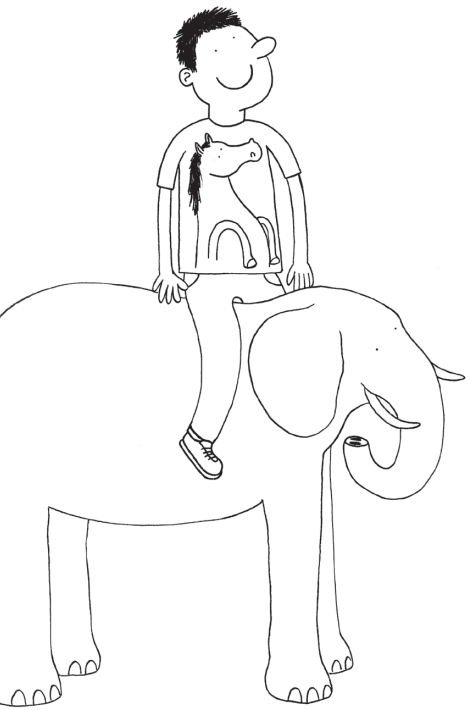


But if you really want a cat,
What will you do to **fix it?**
Well, say you want a floppy dog
To chew on bones and biscuits.
'Oh no, no, no, there is no room.
A dog is far **too big,'** they'll fume.
But if you use your biggest eyes
When parents use their head,
They'll come upon a **compromise**
And a cat you'll get instead.



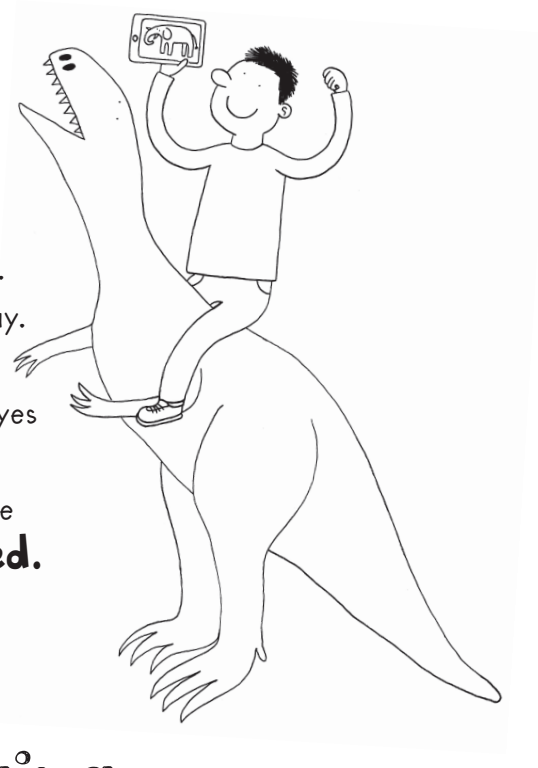
But if you **actually** want a dog
You need your common senses.
And say you want a pony horse
To ride and hurdle fences.
'A pony is **too big**, you brat.'
They'll say, 'We've only got a flat.'
But if you use your biggest eyes
When parents use their head,
They'll come upon a compromise
And a dog you'll get **instead.**





But if you really want a horse,
You need to think **gigantic.**
You must request an elephant
To learn some **circus antics.**
'Oh no, oh heck, by Jove, by gumbo.'
They'll say, 'We have no room
for Jumbo.'
But if you use your **biggest eyes**
When parents use their head,
They'll come upon a compromise
And a **pony** you will get instead.

But if you want an elephant
The figures come unstuck.
Ask for an **Allosaurus**
But you won't have too much luck.
'Oh yes, yes, yes,' they'll surely say.
'A dinosaur is on its way.'
And 'cos you used your biggest eyes
And parents use their heads,
You'll **GET** a pet of Jurassic size
And it will eat **you** and your **bed.**



Begging

If all else fails, **begging** can be a very effective way of getting your grown-ups to get you a pet. If you want a pet you might have to get down on your knees and say, 'please, please, please, please, please, please... please can I have a pet? Please, please, **please...'** etc.

Different types of horse: Page 20