

Responsibility of Horse Ownership

NM Math and Science Grades K - 1

Objective: To understand owning a horse involves a lot of time, money and responsibility.

Skill: The students will calculate how old they will be during their animal's lifespan. The students will find and describe geometric shapes in nature (the horse).

Materials: *Love is a warm shoulder in a cold world* and a *Pet is a friend for life* posters. *Horse Sense* and *Friends for Life* Worksheets from www.bestfriends.org *Pair Up the Pintos*, *Making Faces*, *Putting on Socks* worksheets from [Horse Games and Puzzles](#) for Kids by Cindy Littlefield and crayons/color pencils.

Procedure:

1. Hang up posters.
2. Pass out *Friends for Life* Worksheet. Explain to the students that pets are for life. Ask the class if they have ever thought about getting a pet. Explain to them that pets need someone to feed and play with them every day. They need lots of love and attention, year after year. Pets can live a long time. They need someone who will take care of them for as long as they live. How many years can different pets live? Allow students time to color the animal and match that lifespan to each animal. Write the following questions on the board and ask the students to write their answers on the back of the handout.

How old are you now? _____

Choose a pet on the page. Write it's name _____

Will you be able to care for the animal throughout its lifespan? How old will you be when that animal is very old?

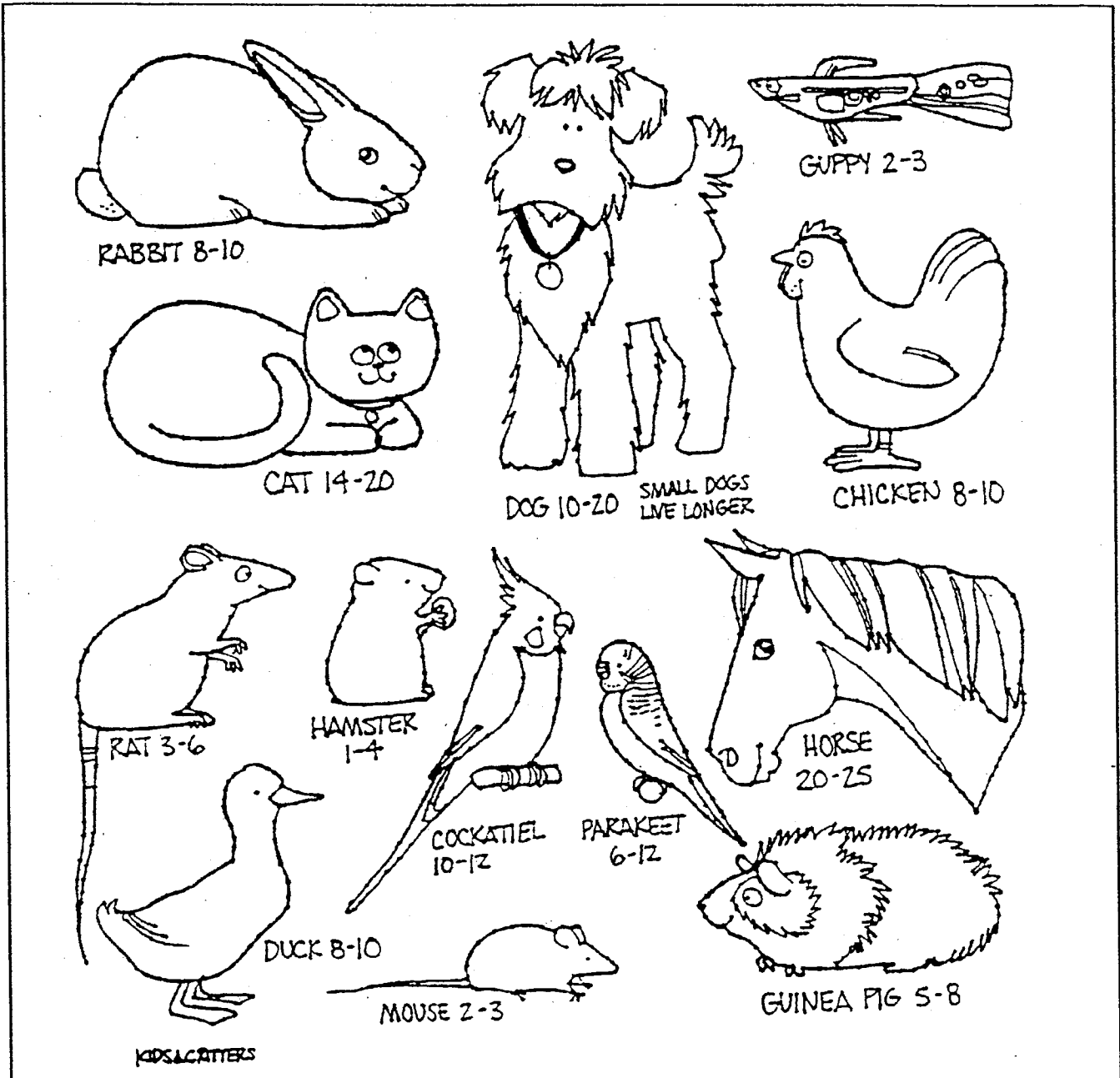
My age _____

Plus Highest age of animal _____

3. Pass out the worksheet *Horse Sense*. Allow the students to color the worksheet as you read it out loud. Based on the handout, ask the students what is one pet-care job they would have every day. Solicit answers based upon the worksheet (comb tail, feeding, filling water buckets, cleaning up after them).
4. Pass out the worksheet with pictures of the different markings found on horses' heads and legs. Explain the different markings i.e. blaze, star, stocking and that different horse markings can be used to differentiate between horses. Pass out the *Making Faces*, *Putting on Socks*, and *Pair up the Pintos* worksheets. Give the students enough time to draw the markings just discussed and to identify the Pinto colts with identical coat markings and then share their drawings with the class.

Friends For Life

Here are the life expectancies (in years) of some popular pets:



My Name is _____ . I am _____ years old. If I got a _____

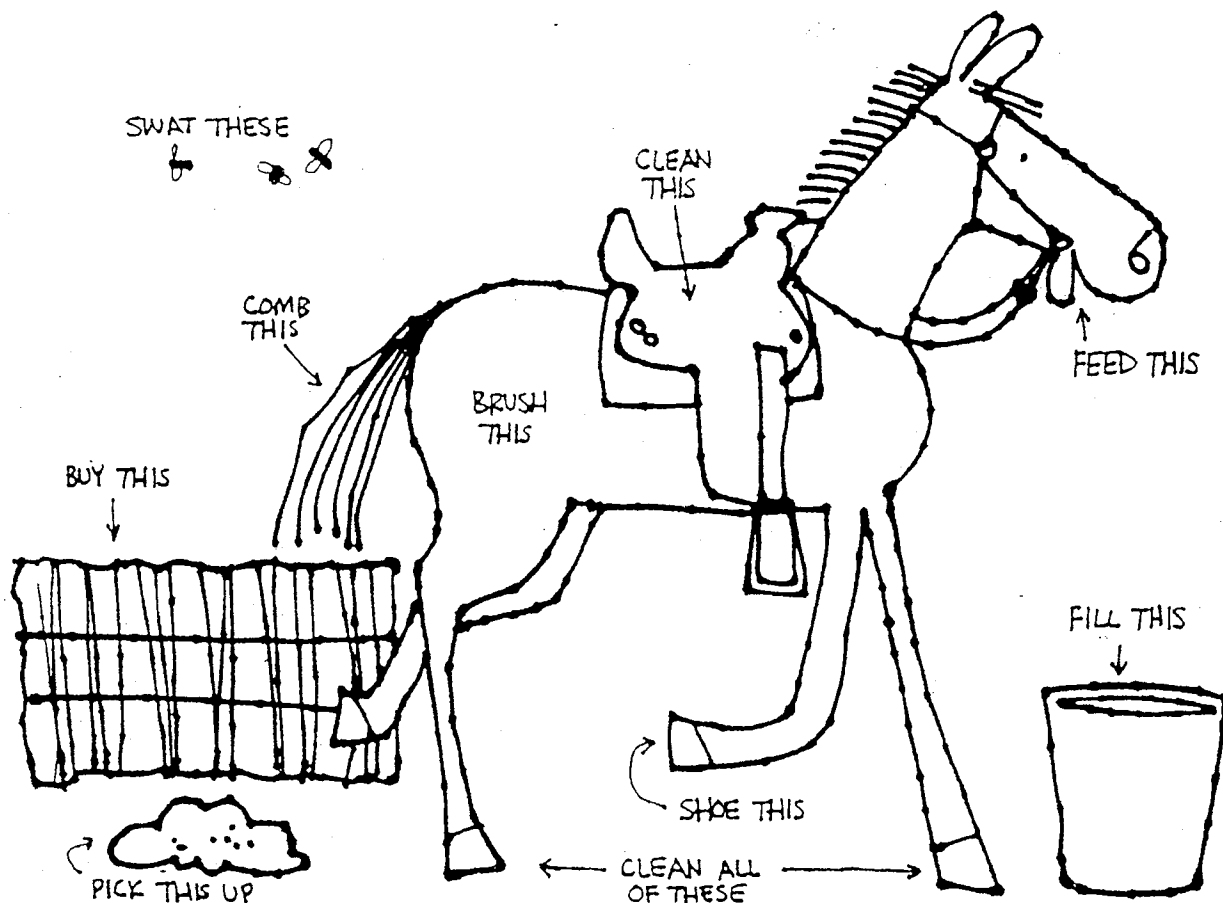
for a pet, I would be _____ years old when it died.

Signed _____ Date _____



HORSE SENSE

OWNING A HORSE INVOLVES A LOT OF MONEY, TIME, AND RESPONSIBILITY. MANY CASES OF HORSE NEGLECT AND ABUSE ARE THE RESULT OF PEOPLE BUYING HORSES WITHOUT REALIZING WHAT THEY ARE GETTING INTO.



FOR EVERY HOUR YOU SPEND ON THE HORSE, YOU WILL NEED TO SPEND TWO OR THREE HOURS ON THE GROUND - CLEANING, GROOMING, AND FEEDING.

A HORSE CAN EAT THREE TONS OF HAY A YEAR. VET CARE INCLUDES SHOTS AND WORMING. HOOVES SHOULD BE TRIMMED OR SHOD EVERY SIX WEEKS.

NECESSARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDES A SADDLE, BRIDLE, HALTER, BLANKETS, ROPES, SHOVEL, PITCHFORK, AND GROOMING TOOLS.

KEEPING A HORSE USUALLY COSTS OVER \$1500 A YEAR.

BEFORE BUYING A HORSE, LEARN ABOUT THEIR CARE AND CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM COMMITMENT OF TIME AND MONEY.

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