

## Couple must lose pets or home

4th November, 2015



A couple in England could lose their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I do. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

Sources: *Metro.co.uk* / *Mirror.co.uk* / *NorthDevonJournal*

## Writing

Animals should live in the wild, not as pets in people's houses. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*couple / lose / home / pets / rented / guinea pigs / animals / unacceptable / contract / fight / cancer / mind / happy / reporters / mystic / special powers / personal problems*

## True / False

- A couple in England have to choose between their pets or their house. T / F
- The couple have 21 pet pigs. T / F
- The house owners say the number of pets is not acceptable. T / F
- The owners of the house want the couple to sign a "no-pet" contract. T / F
- The husband said his pets helped him to fight cancer. T / F
- The husband said his guinea pigs have special powers. T / F
- The local community does not like couple's pets. T / F
- The husband refuses to let anyone see, touch or talk to his pets. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. couple       | a. unsatisfactory   |
| 2. get rid of   | b. journalists      |
| 3. unacceptable | c. shortly          |
| 4. allowed      | d. nearby           |
| 5. warned       | e. husband and wife |
| 6. fight        | f. manage           |
| 7. soon         | g. notified         |
| 8. reporters    | h. remove           |
| 9. cope         | i. battle           |
| 10. local       | j. permitted        |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important are pets?
- What should Mr and Mrs Restall do?
- What do you think of the property company?
- What kind of pets do you think guinea pigs make?
- Should there be a limit to the number of pets you can have?
- Why does the property company think 21 pets is too many?
- What pet would you really like?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. A couple in England could           | a. out of the house   |
| 2. they want to live                   | b. as much as I do    |
| 3. not allowed in                      | c. of the guinea pigs |
| 4. they must move                      | d. cancer             |
| 5. if they do not get rid              | e. lose their home    |
| 6. they have helped him fight          | f. off his cancer     |
| 7. help take his mind                  | g. are mystic         |
| 8. his guinea pigs                     | h. with their pets    |
| 9. helped his neighbours with personal | i. the contract       |
| 10. love them just                     | j. problems           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What's the strangest pet you can think of?
- How unfair would it be for Mr Restall to lose his pets?
- How can pets help people who are ill?
- What do you think of the guinea pigs being mystic?
- How do you cope with personal problems?
- Why do people keep pets?
- What advice do you have for Mr and Mrs Restall?
- What questions would you like to ask the property company?

## Spelling

- live in their neetrd home
- eshowsttu England
- The esonwr of the house
- the couple's house is neaccaetulbp
- not wodlael in the contract
- The PCH ndarwe Mr and Mrs Restall
- helped him ihgtf cancer
- he bought valeser guinea pigs
- his guinea pigs are smitcy
- his sbgrehouni (UK) / gnhsiboer (USA)
- pnosaler problems
- The local tunmicomy

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. g
6. i	7. c	8. b	9. f	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Dog

You think a dog is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a cow or a goldfish.

### Role B – Hamster

You think a hamster is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a dog, a cow or a goldfish.

### Role C – Cow

You think a cow is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a dog or a goldfish.

### Role D – Goldfish

You think a goldfish is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a cow or a dog.

## Speaking – Best pet

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| • dog     | • koala    |
| • cat     | • parrot   |
| • hamster | • cow      |
| • snake   | • goldfish |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.