

Easy English Navigator

Episode 012

National Pet Day! How We Talk about Pets in English (A2/B1)

In this episode we talk about National Pet Day in the USA, and how we talk about taking care of our pets in English.

Are you a dog person, or a cat person? How about a rabbit person? A parrot person? Well dear learners, today we are talking about a very special part of the family, pets! (music)

Welcome learners, to the 12th episode of Easy English Navigator, a podcast made for English language learners. Today, for this short episode, we are going to talk about pets. We will learn about National Pet Day in the USA, and how we talk about looking after, or taking care of our pets, and a very short story about Jack and him taking care of his dog Buddy.

Please remember to go and visit easyenglishnavigator.com, to find free resources related to this episode's topic, including the transcript, vocabulary flashcards, a quiz, and speaking practice.

Before we begin, let's consider three questions, which you can find with today's speaking practice. 1) Do you have a pet? If not, did you ever have a pet? 2) Do you think pets are important for families? 3) Are you a dog person, or a cat person? Ok learners, let's begin!

On April 11th people celebrate National Pet Day in the USA. Now, this is a new holiday, but it is still very popular. It began in 2006. A woman, Colleen Paige, wanted to help shelters. A shelter is a place for animals with no homes. Colleen wanted to help the shelters. So, she started National Pet Day. This helps to bring attention to the pet shelters. So in USA, if you want a pet, especially a dog or a cat, it is common to go to a **shelter** to adopt a pet that has been abandoned. It really is a great thing, and if you want a pet, I hope you consider going to a shelter. I hope your country supports these shelters.

Ok, so if you have a pet, how do talk about taking care of it in English? Well, the most important thing that you have to, is to give your pet food. When we talk about this, we say that we feed our pet. We can **feed** our pet pet food from store, or we can feed our pet human food, usually meat, or some other thing. Next, if we have a dog, it is important for our dog to exercise. Before our dog goes outside, he needs some special equipment. First, the dog will need a **collar**. This goes around the neck of the dog. Next, we need to attach, or connect, a **leash** to the collar. We connect the leash to the collar, and then we put the leash in our hand, and hold the leash. Finally, we can go outside our house and **take** our dog **for a walk**. Yes, so now, we can **walk** our **dog**. Usually we only walk dogs. I have never seen someone walk their cat, or walk their turtle, or walk their rabbit. I have only seen people walk their dogs. And usually, these dogs have a collar, connected to the leash, and the leash will be in the hand of the **owner**. Yes, you are the owner of the pet, if the pet is yours. So, if

you buy a car, or if you buy a house, you are the owner of the car, or the owner of the house. In the same way, if you buy a pet, you are the owner of the pet.

Now, if you are the owner of a pet, not only to give the animal shelter, (a place to live), and food and exercise, you also should give your pet some love. In English, how do we give love to our pets. Well, let's talk about two ways. If your pet does something good, or if you just want to be nice, be a good person, to your pet, you can give your pet a **treat**. A treat is just nice small piece of food for the dog. The most frequent thing that people do for their pets is touch them in a nice and gentle way. Here we just say **pet** the dog, or pet the cat. Yes, here, pet is used as a verb. So often, we might pet a dog's head to be nice to the dog. Dogs usually like to be petted.

Ok, let's talk about Jack and his dog Buddy. Everyday, Jack and Buddy walk up early. Jack makes coffee, and feeds his dog some delicious food. Next, Jack gets the leash. When Buddy sees this, he is very excited! He jumps up and down and makes a lot of noise! Jack takes the leash and connects to Buddy's collar. Buddy loves it when Jack takes him for a walk. Jack loves to walk Buddy and smell the fresh air. When they return home, Jack gives Buddy a treat and pets him. Jack and Buddy love each other a lot.

(...music)

Well learners, thank you again for joining me for today's episode! I hope you learned a little about how to talk about pets in English today. As always, please visit easyenglishnavigator.com for more resources connected to today's episode. Until next time, take care!