

Very Unusual Pets

培生
英语阅读

极不寻常的宠物

• 霍华德·古特纳 著

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VERY Unusual PETS



by Howard Gutner

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**To all those who make room in their
hearts and homes for a pet**

CHAPTER 1

You Have a What?

You may know a lot of people who have a dog or a cat. You might have a friend who has a bird or a fish. These are **pets** that many people have.

A boy plays with his cat.





A girl holds her pet snake.

An **unusual** pet is an animal that most people would not think of as a pet. Some people keep snakes as pets. Other people keep skunks or pigs. Many people like to keep big green lizards called green iguanas.

Where do people find pets like skunks and pigs? You can't find them at most pet **stores**. Many people buy these pets from people who **already** own them. When the pets have babies, their **owners** may sell the babies. The owners may also give them away to good homes.

stores

A. stories

B. shops

C. farms

Key: B

Joel with Munchkin and her litter of piglets



Sometimes people find animals in the woods. They take them home and turn them into pets. This is not a good idea. Wild animals should not be kept as pets. They **are** not **used to** people. It would be better for the animals if they were **left alone**.

A little boy meets a slider turtle.



Pet Fact

More people own cats
than any other kind
of pet.

CHAPTER 2

A Skunk in the House

The people who have skunks for pets would not give them away. They don't want a dog or cat. Just ask Mary Kaye Ashley.

Ashley has had pet skunks for nearly 20 years. She helps people learn how to **take care of** pet skunks.

Mary Kaye Ashley
with her skunk,
Max



Many people think that skunks smell bad. That's not true. Skunks have **glands** in their bodies that make a liquid. It is the liquid that smells bad.

A skunk may think another animal is going to hurt or **chase** it. That is when the skunk sprays the liquid. The other animal usually **runs away** fast!

A wolf is sprayed by a skunk.





Skunk inside a suitcase

Before people buy a skunk as a pet, they have the glands **taken out**. Still, it's not always easy living with a skunk. Skunks are very **curious** animals. They will open drawers. They will look in backpacks. They might even crawl into a washing machine or a suitcase!



Skunk crawling out of a sneaker

Skunks also like to **hide** things! They will take shirts. They will steal socks left on the floor. They might even take a blanket off a bed and **drag** it across a room. Sometimes they hide little things in shoes.

What do people **feed** their pet skunks? Skunks like fruit such as oranges and vegetables such as lettuce. They also like chicken, fish, yogurt, and rice. We can all learn about eating good food from what a skunk has for dinner.

Pet Fact

Skunks can come in many colors! They are not always black and white. Some are all white. Some are very light purple.

A white skunk



Pets From the Farm

Some people turn farm animals into pets. A sheep, a goat, or a chicken can be a family pet.

Some people have unusual farm animals as pets. They may have **tiny** horses no bigger than some dogs. They may keep pot-bellied pigs, too.

Samantha makes friends with Twinkie.



tiny
A. small
B. tidy
C. old

Pot-bellied pigs grow to about three feet long. They **weigh** about 100 pounds. This is much smaller than other pigs.

Pot-bellied pigs come from a country called Vietnam. They were brought to the United States in the 1980s.

A boy feeds his pot-bellied pig.



At first you could only see pot-bellied pigs in zoos. Then some people found out that these pigs make good pets.

What's so great about pot-bellied pigs? They are very clean. They are also very **friendly**. They do not bark or **chew up** shoes like some dogs. Because they are very **smart**, pot-bellied pigs are very easy to train. They like to learn **tricks**!

- smart
A. small
B. silly
C. clever

A pot-bellied pig picks up a telephone.

Key: C

