"The advantages and disadvantages of owning a pet."

Many types of animals have gradually become domesticated and have been taken into our homes as pets. Pets are enjoyed by old and young alike, but are they really worth having or are there many drawbacks?

One of the main advantages of owning a pet is that, pets can be great companions for those who live alone, such as the elderly. What is more, having a dog around the house can give you a greater sense of security. In addition, young children usually love animals and giving them the opportunity to look after a pet teaches them to care for living things and be responsible.

On the other hand, bringing a pet into your home is not a decision to be taken lightly. There are some expenses involved as animals need food, special cages, equipment and occasional veterinary treatment which can be costly. Moreover, they need care and attention on a daily basis, which can be time consuming. Furthermore, a pet ties you down to a further extent. You cannot just get up and go away for the weekend or for a holiday without first taking your pet’s needs into consideration. This is not always easy and can be expensive if you have to pay for professional care.

All in all, buying a pet should be a carefully planned decision. If you are fully aware of your pet’s needs and all the responsibilities involved in owning one, then having a pet can be a very rewarding experience.

**Writing task**

Your teacher has asked you to write an essay discussing the points for and against: