

## Audio script

Words in *italics* and within [.....] are those spoken by the interviewer.

Please note that filler words such as 'err' have been removed from the script but you will hear them on the recording.

- 00:00                    *[What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a pet?]* Okay, well, I mean, I can talk from experience of being a dog owner. So, I think the advantages. I think something to take care of and something to love. I think a lot of people do have attachment to their pets. They don't just see them as animals. They often see them as family members, particularly dogs and cats.
- 00:24                    I'm not saying you can't with other animals, but I'm quite fond of tarantulas, but I can't imagine having an emotional attachment to one, you know, even if I had it as a pet, you know, but yeah, I think that that kind of and their presence, I mean, I guess it depends on the type of dog or cat you have, but there's something very, for me, very reassuring about having the dog around, something very comforting, and they're incredibly affectionate.
- 00:51                    They can also be a lot of fun because obviously you can play with the pets and they all have a character. Disadvantages? I mean, obviously, if you have a dog or a cat, you can't just decide, oh, we're going to go away for the weekend. The cat, you've got a little bit more flexibility because they could probably be okay on their own for a day or so. But, you know,

you can't, obviously, you can't leave your dog really, you know, so you have to take that into consideration. So, you have to make those kinds of arrangements.

01:21

And obviously, it's cost. You know, I mean, you'll be paying for the food will cost a certain amount per month if they do get.. *[And health, health bills]*. And, you know, our previous dog did get cancer. And, you know, we ended up spending quite a bit of money on vet bills for the scans and all that kind of stuff. And, you know, I mean, you don't resent doing that because you care about something, you know, you do what you can for, you know, for the animal.

01:47

But, but, of course, it was a big expense, you know, and also the disadvantage is that generally speaking, they're not going to live anywhere near as long as you are. So, for most, most people who own dogs or cats, there comes a point where they have to make that difficult decision and euthanize the animal when they become too sick or too old, you know. Most of them don't die in their sleep peacefully. Most dogs and cats kind of get old and then they get sick and then they become, it gets to a point where their quality of life it's better to, you know, to have them, you know, euthanized.

02:17

So obviously that's really, really hard because if you see them as a family member, it's very actually quite emotionally... *[Sure. You mentioned the tarantula there. So, I'm going to jump to question three. So, do you have an ideal pet? It could well be a dog, but do you have an ideal pet? And if you could have any pet or pets in the world, what would you go for?] |*

think I kind of have the ideal pet already because I'm biased. I love greyhounds.

02:47

My partner, she loves greyhounds too, because they are very, very calm, very, very quiet. And I like that. I don't like big, aggressive or loud dogs. [*What rules do you have for your pet? And do you have any kind of advice?*] Well, I think whether you know your cat or dog is allowed on the bed, that's going to come down to personal preference.

03:14

Our dog is allowed on our bed, you know, because we live in a small flat. And I think if you live in a small space, you should allow the pet to have some freedom, you know, not restricting too much as to where they can and can't go. It's a little bit unfair. I think one thing that you do need is you have to have consistency, especially with dogs. I mean, I've been told it's the same thing with children, but I don't have a child.

03:43

So, I can't really, you know, but you have to be consistent. If you sometimes are very, very lenient with giving the dog treats and this behaviour, then other times not, you know, it sends mixed messages and you'll never get the animal to kind of behave how you want in that situation.