

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?]* I think the main advantage is companionship. I, yeah, I just saw my, I came home about a couple of hours ago and there's nobody else at home at the moment. My wife is away. So, I... I think about 10 minutes after I arrived, my cat, Luca appeared and I instantly felt better.
- 00:33 I felt, you know, he was around, a good companion. So, I think it's the...*[Do you think he feels the same way?]* It's tough to know with Luca. He doesn't necessarily. Yeah, he's not a big purrer like other cats I've known. But yeah, I think he kind of comes up to me and the word actually is he bunts. He bunts. This is what cats do when they press their face against you.
- 01:02 *[Is that what it's called? Bunting?]* Bunting is the word. Yeah. And that he did that. And I think therefore that does indicate that he... he was pleased to see me as well. *[Great. Okay. What about a disadvantage of having a pet?]* The disadvantage

is, I have to say with Luca in particular this year, he didn't use to do this, but he has been catching a lot of animals. So, birds and mice, mainly.

01:33

And I don't like that because I also like birds and mice. I have nothing against them, but he has been bringing them in quite a lot this year. [*You know why cats do that?*] No, not, not. No, I don't really know. [*It's a present to you. It's a gift. You should feel honored*]. Right. Well, he does. He brings them in. He puts them down. And sometimes they're alive, actually.

02:04

And that has caused me problems when I have been doing online teaching, for example. [*Yeah*]. And there's a bird flying around the living room. Yeah, that's happened. So yeah, that is a definite disadvantage. And I feel it's completely unnecessary because obviously I feed my cat and there's no need. He's not doing it for any particular reason. [*Yeah*]. And obviously, I don't need those gifts. [*So, you have to when he does this, you have to he has to be grounded*].

02:34

What can you do is the question. [*You know, you can get the collar, the special collar, which emits a sound. We can't hear it, but the birds can hear it. And this collar can basically scare the birds away before the cat gets near them.*] Okay. I'm going to look that up. Actually, very recently, literally only about a month ago, we put a bell on his collar for the first

time because he had started catching animals, which he didn't.

03:03

Like I said, he's three now. He didn't do it last year. But he's he's doing it this year and we put a bell on, but that hasn't really worked very well because he's still been catching animals. So, I'm going to look into that. *[Look into it. Yeah. Do you have any advice for prospective pet owners?]* My advice would be that cats like to be clean or they like their areas to be clean. And for example, if your cat uses a litter tray, then you need to clean it regularly.

03:39

Then another piece of advice would be that you should play with your cat. Especially if you notice, I can only talk about cats because I've only had cats as pets, I've never had dogs. But yeah, sometimes you will notice that they're in not such a good mood. They seem quite sad. They seem a little bit their energy levels are a bit low.

04:10

And when that's the case, what I do is I play with my cat more. Or if, for example, if, if your animal can't go outside, they don't go outside. And so, they're not getting a lot of exercise or they have to stay inside for a particular reason. Yeah, you must, you must play with them in order to keep their mood, sort of, yeah, keep their mood...*[Up]*

04:40

Up. Exactly. *[If you couldn't, for any reason, have a cat as a pet, is there any other animal which you would consider having instead of a cat?]* Yes, there

is actually. Yeah, like I said, I've only had cats, but I have nothing against dogs. I like dogs as well. And if I had a bigger house, I think I would like to have a dog, maybe a Labrador, a golden retriever.

05:17

[What is it about dogs that appeal to you if you've never had a dog as a pet?] I have known dogs. So, the reason I say a golden retriever is because when I was at school, the headmaster had a golden retriever called Perkins. Yeah. And, and he was lovely. And the headmaster used to let us take Perkins out for walks. *[Wow!]*

05:42

Yeah, he was just such a kind, good natured dog, excellent for walking with.