

Presenter: Do you have a pet dog?

Presenter: Or a pet cat?

Presenter: Or a pet...magical flying lion?!!!

Kids: I do!

Presenter: Well, no matter what kind of pet you may have, raising a pet is very rewarding, and meaningful, and it's also a lot of hard work!

Presenter: Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids - where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. Join us as we learn about responsibility and what it takes to take care of a pet dog!

Presenter: Do you hear all that barking? Where do you think we are today? If you guessed the dog shelter, you are right! We're here today because Cowy wants to pick out her very own pet dog!

Cowy: I can't wait! My dog and I are going to have so much fun together!

Presenter: I bet you are Cowy! You're going to pet him?

Cowy: Yes!

Presenter: And you're going to play fetch with him?

Cowy: Yes!

Presenter: And you're going to snuggle with him?

Cowy: All the time!

Presenter: And you're going to clean up his poop?

Cowy: What? Clean up his... poop?!!

Lisa: Yuck!

Billy: chirp chirp

Presenter: That's right Billy, when you adopt a dog you are responsible for taking care of them, and that includes doing things you might not want to do, like cleaning up their poop.

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Cow: Hmm...what else?

Presenter: It's very important that you train your new dog.

Eliot: Why do dogs need to be trained?

Presenter: Dogs aren't born knowing how we would like them to behave. We have to teach them. In fact it looks like that dog is really enjoying chewing on your backpack, Cow!

Cow: Hey! Be a good dog. Give it back (pause)...please!

Cow: Thank you!

Lisa: Why else should we train dogs?

Presenter: Training dogs builds up their confidence! It's very important for dogs to be mentally stimulated, or else they can get bored and act naughty. Plus, dogs might feel accomplished because they learned something new!

Eliot: I like learning new things!

Presenter: Exactly, Elliot! Learning new things makes life interesting for everybody! And training also builds up the bond between people and dogs. We all feel more connected.

Lisa: Bond! I have heard this before!

Cow: What else do dogs need?

Presenter: Good question Cow. Lingokids Listeners, can you think of other things we're responsible for when we have a dog?

Presenter: Did you think of walking dogs?

Lisa: Don't dogs already know how to walk?

Presenter: Dogs are born knowing how to walk, but they need people to take them on walks at least once per day. Dogs need exercise and dogs also need to go outdoors and experience all sorts of new sights and smells.

Cow: New smells????!! Why?

Presenter: People use vision, our eyes, as their main sense to understand the world, whereas dogs use their incredible sense of smell!  
Did you know that dogs' sense of smell is up to 100,000x more powerful than humans!

Lisa: Did you say 100... THOUSAND times?!!!

Presenter: Yes! Dog sense of smell is so powerful, they can smell just 1/2 teaspoon of sugar in an olympic size swimming pool!

Lisa: Wow!

Presenter: In fact, some dogs are used to sniff out diseases, like cancer, in people!

Elliot: Whoa! That's incredible!

Presenter: So when you're out on a walk with your dog, and they are sniffing in the air, or their head is down trying really hard to smell a spot on the ground, they are learning all sorts of things.

Lisa: Like what?

Presenter: Like what other animals have been outside, if those animals are sick, how long ago they were there, if the animal was a male or a female, even what they had to eat for dinner!

Elliot: Wow!

Presenter: Now that you know some of the responsibilities that come along with adopting a dog, what do you think, Cowy?

Cowy: It does sound like a lot of responsibility. But I *like* to be responsible.

Presenter: That's really interesting, Cowy. Being responsible makes me feel good too!

Elliot: Me too! It makes me feel big.

Presenter: Plus having a dog is so much fun! You get to play games with them, like hide and seek, they make you feel better when you're sad, and you get so many big wet kisses from them!

Billy: Chirp chirp chirp

Presenter: You could do without the big wet kisses, huh Billy? So, Cowy, which dog are you going to adopt? Cowy? Where'd you go?

Cowy: You're a good dog, even if you chew on my backpack! I'll take good care of you!

Presenter: There you are, Cowy! It looks like you found a really special dog who needs a good home.

Cowy: I love him already!

Presenter: Awww, you've got a new best friend for life!

Thank you Lingokids Listeners for joining us with your amazing listening ears! We hope you enjoyed learning all about dogs and the responsibilities, hard work and joys that come along with adopting a pet. Parents, giving kids responsibilities helps them feel confident and prepares them for the world. Just make sure to keep things positive, consistent and encouraging. Teaching responsibility is a long and difficult process, but well worth it!

If you are ready for interactive playlearning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages 2 and older learn and develop important skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of Playlearning™. See you in our next episode