

## Did the Romans have pets?



KS 1/2

Ancient Egyptians had pets, they particularly loved cats. Let's see now what relationship the Romans had with animals!



Look closely at this Roman roof tile. It was found here in Greenwich Park! Can you see the dog paw print? It tells us that Romans had dogs and that they were probably domesticated and were living close to them.

The Romans kept ferrets, monkeys, blackbirds, nightingales and parrots as pets. Large dogs would have been kept mainly as guard dogs, but they were also regarded as pets by their owners.



*Cave canem* (Beware of the dog)  
Roman mosaic found in Pompeii, Italy,  
2nd century BC.

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Further proof that Romans really loved their dogs is that they wrote a lot about them and buried them when they died. For example, the owner of a dog called Helena had this very nice monument made for her pet, in Italy around 150-200 AD:



The inscription says: "To Helena, foster child, soul without comparison and deserving of praise."

Below you can write something nice about your pet, draw it or stick a picture of it. If you don't own a pet, do the same about your favourite animal: