Parent-Teen Activity Series
Pet Care and Training

Owning and caring for pets can be a wonderful learning and bonding experience shared by all. If you rent a house or apartment, check the regulations about pet ownership first.

♦ Choosing: research which pets are most suitable for your family’s lifestyle/habits. Consider allergies, time needed in care and feeding, the pet’s activity needs, and the pet’s ability to be trained.

♦ Sharing: together, divide and share responsibilities such as vet visits, food, water, walks, grooming, etc.

♦ Training: decide on formal or informal style of training, research training options/techniques together.

♦ Competing: pet competitions are not for everyone. They can be stressful, costly, and demanding. But, if you and your family find pet competitions enjoyable enter your pet in a contest or show. Take pride in knowing you contributed to a well-trained pet, no matter how well you do.

♦ Playing: involve the whole family in playing fetch, chasing yarn, etc.

♦ Outings: go to a park, attend dog/cat shows, etc.

How will this activity promote the parent-teen relationship?

This is a way for parents and teens to share in the learning process about different animals and pet care techniques.

This is also a way for parents and teens to share responsibility for another living creature.

Parents and teens can share in the learning process regarding loss and grief.

Both parent and teen can strengthen their coping skills, discipline, trust, sharing, nurturing, and compassion.

A point to consider . . .

There are lots of options for where to find loving pets:
- Animal shelters
- Relocating families who cannot take their pets along
- Elderly people who can no longer care for their pets
- Newspaper classifieds offering free pets to good homes