



# Pets should be allowed to enter nursing homes

Many assisted living facilities and nursing homes are allowing residents to bring their pets to live in their housing communities. Nursing homes are starting to bring in therapy dogs from outside their community to visit with residents suffering from Alzheimer's, Dementia and those in Hospice. Pets bring comfort and joy to residents and bring comfort to those who are dying.

Points For	Points Against
<p>The use of pets in nursing homes was not as wide spread before because some felt they might get in the way of patient care. Now there's a real trend toward pet-therapy programs for the elderly because it works. People need to be needed and animals need people.</p>	<p>Pets may get in the way of patient care.</p>
<p>In facilities where pets are kept, there seems to be a homier and livelier atmosphere. Health care officials say that residents are happier and more productive, staff members are more relaxed and although pets place an additional burden on them, their jobs are actually easier because of the uplifted spirits of their patients. And the pets benefit from the constant attention. Some pets are brought in from shelters and it saves lives.</p>	<p>Pets can only cause more work for the employees and caretakers.</p> <p>Pets may be ignored by the residents.</p>

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If pets are properly taken care of, and if the nursing home staff has a plan on how the animals will interact with the patients, it works out very well. There is no law that addresses the use of pets in health care facilities, but the Public Health Code states that pets cannot be in food preparation or service areas.

Pets may bring with them dirty feet and carry fleas and ticks and other parasites they could harm patients' health.

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Hospice patients often turn inward and withdraw from loved ones and the world around them as a way to ease the transition towards death. Talking to loved ones might become difficult and painful but interacting with a friendly animal is easy and offers a temporary reprieve. Pet therapy has been shown to increase pain tolerance, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and bring smiles to patient's faces.

Patients in hospice are facing imminent death and that time should be used for talking with family and friends and spending time with loved ones.



# Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

## **Building your Argument**

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

## **Opinions, Preferences:**

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

## **Disagreeing:**

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

## **Partially agreeing:**

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

## **Delaying Strategies**

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

## **Asking someone to repeat**

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

## **Holding the floor**

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet, I haven't made my point yet ...

## **Expressing solutions and alternatives**

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ..., To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices....,

# Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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