

National Geographic Kids Reader: Cats vs. Dogs

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and discuss which animal your child prefers, and how cats and dogs are similar and different to each other. Check that they know how to read the title: *Cats vs. Dogs*, and discuss that the abbreviation *vs.* is short for 'versus' meaning 'against'.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Look through the table of contents together before reading.
 - As you read about each new area, pause to relate the content to cats and dogs that your child has experience of.
 - To build understanding about how cats and dogs have become domesticated, talk about your own family tree, explaining how we have all descended from earlier humans.
 - Encourage your child to explain some differences between cats and dogs, answering the questions raised, before reading to find each answer, e.g. *who has the best sense of smell?*
 - Read the *Pet Words* that are featured in the glossary together, and find the boxes in the book: *canine, predator, domesticated, evolve, feline, cell, hertz, instinct, carnivore, protein, pack.*
 - Help your child to read the creature names: *Coyote, Eucyon davisii, Felis attica, Persian, Sphynx, Maine Coon, Siamese.*
 - Help your child with longer, less familiar words, e.g. *aggressive*. Talk about what they mean as you read to develop understanding.
- Discuss whether your child thinks that a cat or dog would be the best pet for your family, and why.

Pronunciation guide: Coyote (*coy-oh-tee*), Eucyon (*you-see-on*) davisii (*dav-ee-see*), Felis (*fee-lis*)

Collins