



PETS ON THE GREEN



KS1 Animal Discovery Workbook

A full year of animal adventures

Name: _____

Class: _____

Year: _____



Warlingham, Surrey • petsOnTheGreen.co.uk



What's Inside

TERM 1 — Getting to Know POTG Animals



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End of Year Certificate

TERM 1

Getting to Know POTG Animals



Rosie the Galah



Corn Snake



Betty the Bearded Dragon



Hedgehog



Rosie the Galah

POTG's very own animal ambassador!

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Bird — Cockatoo family
Wild home	Australia
Size	About 35cm — roughly the length of your ruler!
Food	Seeds, fruit, flowers and sometimes insects
Sound	Very loud screeches and chatty calls
Special skill	Can mimic human words and sounds
Colour	Pink chest and face, grey wings
Lifespan	Up to 40 years in captivity



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Parrots only repeat words — they don't understand anything.

✅ THE TRUTH

Galahs and other parrots show real problem-solving ability. They learn that certain sounds get certain responses, which is a form of communication. Rosie knows who she likes!

POTG Connection: Rosie is Pets on the Green's brand ambassador. She travels to sessions and schools to help children learn about animals and feel calm.



Rosie the Galah — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Rosie the Galah here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Write three words you think Rosie might learn to say.

3. Circle the foods Rosie eats: seeds / pizza / fruit / burgers / flowers.

4. If you could teach Rosie one phrase, what would it be? Write it below.



Rosie the Galah — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why do you think Rosie is pink? How might that help her in the wild?

2. Rosie lives much longer than a pet dog or cat. What does that mean for the people who care for her?

3. How do you think Rosie feels when she meets new people? Why?



What I Think About Rosie the Galah

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Corn Snake

The patterned beauty of the reptile world

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — snake
Wild home	South-eastern USA
Size	Up to 150cm long — about as tall as an adult!
Food	Small mice and rats (they swallow them whole)
Special skill	They squeeze prey before eating — called constriction
Pattern	Checkered orange and red markings on their belly
Scales	Their belly scales look like corn kernels — that's where the name comes from!
Lifespan	15–20 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Corn snakes live in corn fields because they eat corn.

✅ THE TRUTH

The name comes from the corn-kernel-like pattern on their belly scales — not their diet. They're found near grain stores because rodents live there. The snake follows the food chain, not the crop.

POTG Connection: Pets on the Green has corn snakes that children can handle gently during sessions. Many children who feel nervous at first find it very calming to feel the smooth, cool scales.



Corn Snake — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Corn Snake here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. How many centimetres long can a corn snake grow? Write the number: ____cm

3. True or False: Corn snakes eat corn. Circle your answer: TRUE / FALSE

4. Write two ways a corn snake is different from a garden worm.



Corn Snake — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why is it helpful for a corn snake to squeeze its food before eating?

2. Corn snakes have no legs. How do they move from place to place?

3. Would you be scared to hold a corn snake? Why or why not?



What I Think About Corn Snake

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Betty the Bearded Dragon

The friendliest lizard you'll ever meet

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — lizard
Wild home	Dry, rocky areas of Australia
Size	Up to 60cm including the tail
Food	Insects, vegetables and leafy greens
Special skill	Can wave one arm — scientists think it's a social signal
Beard	The spiky throat puffs up and turns dark when they feel threatened
Body temperature	They need warmth from outside — they can't make their own heat
Lifespan	10–15 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Bearded dragons breathe fire like story dragons.

✅ THE TRUTH

They're named for their spiky beard, not fire! They're completely harmless. When they puff up their dark beard it's a warning signal, not a superpower.

POTG Connection: Betty is one of POTG's most-visited animals. Children who find it hard to engage with people often find it easier to start with Betty — she's calm, slow-moving, and doesn't make sudden noises.



Betty the Bearded Dragon — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Betty the Bearded Dragon here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Bearded dragons need warmth from outside their body. What does Betty need in her home to stay warm? Write your idea below.

3. Put these foods in the correct column: crickets / lettuce / flies / kale / mealworms / cucumber

4. Betty sometimes waves her arm. Draw Betty waving!



Betty the Bearded Dragon — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Bearded dragons can't make their own body heat. How is that different from you?

2. Why might an animal puff up or change colour when it's scared?

3. Betty eats both plants and insects. What do we call animals that eat both? (Clue: omni___)



What I Think About Betty the Bearded Dragon

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Hedgehog

Britain's own spiky garden visitor

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Mammal — insectivore
Wild home	Gardens, hedgerows and woodlands across the UK
Size	About 25cm — similar to a large apple
Food	Beetles, worms, caterpillars and slugs
Spines	A hedgehog has around 5,000 spines — each one is a hollow hair
Defence	Rolls into a tight ball when frightened
Sleep	Hibernates in winter — sleeps from November to March
Lifespan	3–7 years in the wild



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Hedgehogs carry their babies on their spines.

✅ THE TRUTH

Hedgehog mums carry their babies in their mouth or nudge them along. The spines would hurt the babies! Baby hedgehogs are called hoglets and are born with soft spines covered in skin.

POTG Connection: POTG's hedgehogs Lola, Maggie and Gary visit schools and therapy sessions. Their slow, gentle movement and quiet nature makes them brilliant for helping children regulate their emotions.



Hedgehog — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Hedgehog here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Hedgehogs hibernate. What does hibernate mean? Write your best explanation.

3. Circle the foods a hedgehog would eat: beetles / cheese / worms / chips / caterpillars / slugs.

4. Design a safe hedgehog home (a hibernation box) for a garden. Draw and label it.



Hedgehog — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why is hibernation a clever way to survive winter?

2. Hedgehogs are nocturnal — they come out at night. Why might that be useful?

3. Pets on the Green has hedgehogs called Lola, Maggie and Gary. What names would you give a hedgehog?



What I Think About Hedgehog

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:

TERM 2

Wild Wonders



Royal Python



Ronnie the Iguana



Chameleon



Sugar Glider



Royal Python

Named for a queen — not a venom!

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — snake
Wild home	West and Central Africa
Size	Up to 150cm — non-venomous constrictors
Food	Small mammals and birds
Special skill	Curls into a perfect ball when stressed — this is why they're also called ball pythons
Royal name	Legend says Cleopatra wore them as jewellery — royalty, not venom!
Colour	Brown and black patterned scales that are very smooth
Lifespan	20–30 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Royal pythons are called 'royal' because they're the most venomous snakes.

✅ THE TRUTH

Royal pythons are completely non-venomous. The name comes from the legend that Cleopatra — Queen of Egypt — wore them as jewellery. They're also called ball pythons because they curl into a tight ball when scared.

POTG Connection: Royal pythons at POTG are incredibly calm and gentle. Handling them is often used in sessions to build confidence and challenge anxiety — the smooth, warm weight of the snake can feel surprisingly comforting.



Royal Python — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Royal Python here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Who was Cleopatra? Ask your grown-up and write one fact about her.

3. Royal pythons kill their food by squeezing, not biting with venom. Draw how this works.

4. Fill in the missing words: Royal pythons are also called ____ pythons because they ____ into a ball.



Royal Python — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why is the ball shape a clever defence for a python?

2. Cleopatra was said to wear snakes as jewellery. How does that make you feel? Surprised? Confused? Why?

3. Royal pythons can live for 30 years. Who would you trust to look after one for that long?



What I Think About Royal Python

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Ronnie the Iguana

A real-life dinosaur lookalike

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — lizard
Wild home	Central and South America and Caribbean
Size	Up to 2 metres including the tail — bigger than most children!
Food	Almost entirely plants — leaves, flowers, fruit
Special skill	Can drop their tail to escape a predator. It grows back!
Communication	Head-bobbing and dewlap (throat flap) movements send signals
Colour	Usually bright green when young, greyer as they age
Lifespan	10–15 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Iguanas are dangerous and aggressive pets.

✅ THE TRUTH

Iguanas that are handled regularly from a young age become very calm and friendly. Ronnie is proof — he enjoys attention and is very gentle with visitors. Wild iguanas can be defensive but tame ones like Ronnie are not.

POTG Connection: Ronnie is one of POTG's largest and most impressive animals. His size surprises children — and that surprise is a great starting point for curiosity and conversation.



Ronnie the Iguana — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Ronnie the Iguana here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Ronnie can drop his tail and it grows back. Write three questions you have about this.

3. Iguanas are herbivores. What does herbivore mean? Write a definition.

4. Design a perfect outdoor iguana enclosure for a warm country. Draw and label it.



Ronnie the Iguana — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Iguanas can grow to 2 metres. Find something in your classroom that is 2 metres long.

2. Ronnie uses head-bobbing to communicate. Can you communicate without speaking? Try it!

3. Why do you think iguanas are greener when they're young?



What I Think About Ronnie the Iguana

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Chameleon

The colour-changing master of disguise

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — lizard
Wild home	Madagascar, Africa and southern Europe
Size	6cm to 68cm depending on species
Food	Insects — caught with a lightning-fast sticky tongue
Eyes	Each eye can move independently — they can look in two directions at once!
Colour change	Changes colour to communicate mood and temperature — not mainly camouflage
Tongue	Their tongue can be 1.5 times their body length and shoots out in 0.07 seconds
Lifespan	5–10 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Chameleons change colour to hide from predators.

✅ THE TRUTH

Colour change is mainly about communication and temperature regulation. A chameleon turns dark to absorb warmth, brighter to show off or signal mood. Camouflage is a bonus, not the main purpose.

POTG Connection: Storm, Reggie and Elvis are POTG's three chameleons. Watching them carefully — spotting tiny colour shifts and slow deliberate movements — is brilliant for practising calm observation and focus.



Chameleon — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Chameleon here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. A chameleon's tongue shoots out in 0.07 seconds. How fast is that? Try clapping — that takes about 0.3 seconds. So the tongue is ____ times faster than a clap!

3. Draw what you think a 'happy' chameleon and a 'cross' chameleon look like.

4. POTG has chameleons called Storm, Reggie and Elvis. Write a short story about one of them.



Chameleon — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Chameleons have eyes that look in different directions at once. What would the world look like through chameleon eyes?

2. If you could change colour with your mood, what colours would mean happy, sad, excited and tired?

3. Why do you think scientists originally thought colour change was for camouflage?



What I Think About Chameleon

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Sugar Glider

The tiny gliding marsupial

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Mammal — marsupial (like a kangaroo!)
Wild home	Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
Size	Only 12–17cm body — tiny!
Food	Sap, nectar, pollen and insects
Special skill	Membrane between front and back legs lets them glide up to 50 metres
Social	Live in groups of 10–15 in the wild — very sociable
Nocturnal	Active at night, sleep curled together in the day
Lifespan	10–15 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Sugar gliders are related to flying squirrels.

✅ THE TRUTH

They look similar but sugar gliders are marsupials — their babies develop in a pouch, like kangaroos. Flying squirrels are rodents. This is called convergent evolution — two different animals developing the same solution to the same problem.

POTG Connection: POTG's sugar gliders are visited by children who often feel very calmed by their tiny, soft presence. Watching them nestle together is a natural lesson in the importance of connection.



Sugar Glider — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Sugar Glider here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Sugar gliders are marsupials. Name three other marsupials you know.

3. They can glide 50 metres. Measure 50 metres outside if you can — or estimate it from a window!

4. Draw the sugar glider's gliding membrane and label it.



Sugar Glider — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why is living in a group useful for a small animal?

2. Two different animals evolved the same gliding trick. Can you think of other animals that solved the same problem in the same way?

3. Sugar gliders need company to be happy. What does that tell us about how we should keep them?



What I Think About Sugar Glider

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:

TERM 3

Deep Dives



Malcolm the Giant Snail



Meerkat



Rabbit



Tortoise



Malcolm the Giant Snail

Slow, slimy — and surprisingly brilliant

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Mollusc — land snail
Wild home	East Africa — but now found worldwide
Size	Up to 20cm long — the largest land snail in the world
Food	Fruit, vegetables, leaves and even chalk (for their shells)
Movement	Moves on a muscular foot using waves of contraction and slime
Shell	Grows throughout their life — the spiral gets bigger as they grow
Senses	No eyes in the usual sense — they sense light through the tips of their tentacles
Lifespan	5–10 years



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Snails are boring because they just eat and sleep.

✅ THE TRUTH

Giant African land snails like Malcolm are highly sensitive animals. They respond to touch, light, smell and vibration. Some research shows they can learn to associate certain smells with food. And their slime is extraordinary — it's both a lubricant and an adhesive at the same time.

POTG Connection: Malcolm is one of POTG's most popular animals for sensory sessions. The cool, gentle movement of a giant snail across a child's hand is a powerful regulating experience — slow, safe, and completely surprising.



Malcolm the Giant Snail — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Malcolm the Giant Snail here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Malcolm eats chalk to build his shell. Why does a shell need calcium? Write your best guess.

3. The shell grows as Malcolm grows. Draw what Malcolm's shell might look like at 1 year, 3 years and 7 years.

4. Write three words that describe how you think Malcolm's slime feels.



Malcolm the Giant Snail — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Malcolm's full name is Malcolm Cruella da Shell (POTG also has Cruella!). What silly names would you give snails?

2. Snails move very slowly. What are the advantages of moving slowly?

3. Malcolm is a mollusc — the same group as octopuses. What do a snail and an octopus have in common?



What I Think About Malcolm the Giant Snail

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Meerkat

The desert mob's lookout champion

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Mammal — mongoose family
Wild home	Kalahari Desert, Southern Africa
Size	About 29cm tall — they fit in your arms
Food	Insects, lizards, snakes, scorpions and plant roots
Special skill	Immune to many venoms including scorpion sting!
Social	Live in groups called mobs or gangs of 20–30
Sentinel	One member stands guard at all times — calling out alarm signals
Eyes	Dark patches around eyes reduce glare, like built-in sunglasses



Myth vs Truth



THE MYTH

Meerkats are always happy — they stand up because they're cheerful.



THE TRUTH

Standing upright is a thermoregulation behaviour — they turn their belly to the morning sun to warm up quickly. It's not happiness, it's clever temperature management. Though meerkats do seem to enjoy sunbathing!

POTG Connection: POTG is planning to add meerkats to the Redvers Road garden. Their social, watchful nature makes them a brilliant animal for teaching children about community, teamwork and looking out for each other.



Meerkat — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Meerkat here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. The dark patches around their eyes work like sunglasses. Draw a meerkat face and colour in these patches.

3. A group of meerkats is called a mob. Write five other group animal names (e.g. a flock of ____)

4. If you were a meerkat, what call would you make to warn your mob? Write or draw it.



Meerkat — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Why is having a permanent lookout a clever group strategy?

2. Meerkats are immune to scorpion venom. How do you think this happened over thousands of years?

3. POTG is planning a meerkat enclosure. What would you design to keep meerkats happy and healthy?



What I Think About Meerkat

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Rabbit

Much more complex than they look

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Mammal — lagomorph (not a rodent!)
Wild home	Originally Europe and North Africa — now worldwide
Size	Wild rabbits about 40cm; domestic breeds vary widely
Food	Hay, grass and leafy plants — they also eat their own droppings (cecotropes) to absorb nutrients!
Ears	Long ears detect predators from far away and help regulate body temperature
Eyes	Set on the side of their head — can see almost 360 degrees
Teeth	Front teeth never stop growing — constant chewing keeps them worn down
Lifespan	8–12 years for domestic rabbits



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Rabbits are easy starter pets that don't need much care.

✅ THE TRUTH

Rabbits are actually complex animals with significant social, dietary and space needs. They need companionship (ideally another rabbit), at least 3 metres of run space, unlimited hay and regular vet care. They're often among the most neglected pets in the UK.

POTG Connection: Understanding animal welfare — including how much care animals really need — is central to POTG's work. This lesson teaches children that caring well for animals requires knowledge, patience and commitment.



Rabbit — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Rabbit here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. Rabbits eat their own droppings. Disgusting or clever? Write your opinion and explain why.

3. Design the perfect rabbit enclosure. Remember: they need space, hiding places, and a friend!

4. Rabbit front teeth never stop growing. What would happen if they didn't chew enough?



Rabbit — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Rabbits can see almost 360 degrees. Draw what the world looks like through rabbit eyes.

2. Why do you think rabbits are often misunderstood as easy pets?

3. What responsibilities come with owning any animal? Make a list.



What I Think About Rabbit

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Tortoise

The oldest living land animals on Earth

★ Meet this animal at Pets on the Green! ★



Animal Fact File

Fact	Answer
Type	Reptile — chelonian (the group that includes turtles and tortoises)
Wild home	Warm regions across Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas
Size	From 10cm to 130cm depending on species
Food	Plants, grasses and fruit — strictly herbivores
Shell	Part of their skeleton — fused to their spine. They cannot leave it.
Lifespan	80–150+ years — some have outlived multiple generations of human owners!
Speed	About 0.3km/h walking — but Aesop was wrong: tortoises are smarter than they look
Breathing	Pull their legs in to force air out, push them out to breathe in



Myth vs Truth

❌ THE MYTH

Tortoises are slow because they are lazy or stupid.

✅ THE TRUTH

Tortoises conserve energy brilliantly — their metabolism is much slower than ours. They've been around for 200 million years, surviving things that killed the dinosaurs. If being slow and steady works for 200 million years, it's anything but stupid.

POTG Connection: Tortoises are used in POTG sessions to teach patience and observation. Watching a tortoise move and eat requires slowing down — which is itself a valuable skill for children who find stillness difficult.



Tortoise — Activities



Activity 1 — Draw it!

Draw your Tortoise here:



Activity 2 — Answer the questions

2. A tortoise might live 150 years. How many of your lifetimes would that be?
Work it out.

3. The shell is part of their skeleton. Draw a diagram showing how the shell connects to the tortoise's body.

4. Write the story of a day in the life of a tortoise in a warm garden.



Tortoise — Let's Talk!



Discussion Questions

Talk about these with your class or write your thoughts below.

1. Tortoises have survived for 200 million years. What do you think their secret is?

2. A tortoise bought as a pet today might outlive its owner's grandchildren. What does that mean for how we should look after them?

3. The Aesop fable says slow and steady wins the race. Do you agree? When is being slow actually a strength?



What I Think About Tortoise

Write or draw your favourite fact about this animal:



Certificate of Achievement



This certifies that

has completed the Pets on the Green
KS1 Animal Discovery Workbook

and is now an official Animal Explorer! 🐾

Signed: _____
Teacher / Practitioner

Date: _____