Web-based Learning Project – Animals/Pets

I. Previous knowledge/skills needed:
1. An understanding of the basic functions and usage of the Internet;
2. The ability to connect to the Internet to search information;
3. The ability to download and print information;
4. An understanding of the concept of weights and heights.

II. Learning objectives:
1. To consolidate the use of the Internet in enhancing learning;
2. To practise skills such as skimming and scanning, analyzing, communicating and presentation;
3. To learn more about pets and develop an interest and love in animals.

III. Points to note:
1. The suggested task may be integrated into the activities related to the topic 'Animals' or 'Pets'.
2. Teachers should browse through the suggested web-sites and select the one suits the learners' ability.
   The steps and answers suggested in Appendix 1 are based on the web-site http://petsource.com/ . Language used in the other two web-sites are more advanced. If students are competent enough, teachers may let them try on these web-sites and worksheets should then be amended accordingly.
3. Learners may have difficulties when facing the large amount of information and/or vocabulary found on the web. Teachers, therefore, should teach learners how to select information and guess the meaning of difficult words from the context.
4. For less able learners, they may be given the same worksheet (Worksheets A - D).   Teachers may have to do one or two activities together with them.   Then they do the remaining ones in pairs or small groups.
   For more able learners, they may do worksheets of different situations (Worksheets A - D) individually, in pairs or small groups under teachers' supervision.
5. Teachers may modify and edit the worksheets to suit learners' abilities and interests.
6. Teachers may ask learners to present their work orally instead of handing in the worksheets.

IV. Suggested procedures:

1. Ask learners if they have a dog at home.   Ask those who have one to describe their dogs.   (Teachers may ask learners to bring photos of their dogs beforehand and show them to the class.)

   If no one has a dog, ask learners to describe the kind of dogs that they would like to keep as pets.   Teachers may show photos of Hong Kong common dogs to assist students in describng the dogs (Appendix 2).

   The following questions may be used to guide the learners:

   - How do you call your dog?
   - What kind of breed is it?

     If learners cannot name the breed in English, show them pictures of various breeds of dogs and ask them to identify the breeds their dogs belong to. Teachers then help learners to say the breeds in English.

     Please note:
     - Webpages with pictures of dogs of different breeds can be bookmarked for easy reference.
     - Different names of breeds are for exposure only, learners need not learn them actively.

   - What is its size – big, medium or small?
   - What is its height?
   - What is its weight?
   - Does it have long or short hair?
   - What is the colour of its coat?

2. Elicit and explain the words 'breed', 'size', 'height', 'weight', 'coat', and put them on the blackboard.   This is to prepare learners for the activity that follows.

3. Distribute worksheets to learners.   (See 'Points to note: 4'.)

4. Guide learners to connect to one of the following web pages, complete the questionnaire and browse through the information provided:

   http://petsource.com
   Steps:
   a.   click Looking for the perfect dog? Try SelectAdog
   b.   click SelectAdog
   c.   complete the questionnaire (6 questions)
   d.   click Suggest Breeds
   e.   click on different names in the suggested list
   f.   browse photos and description of the chosen dogs

http://www.waltham.com/

Steps:

a. click SELECT-A-DOG
b. complete the questionnaire (17 questions)**:** click Question No. before clicking the response
c. click on any name in the suggested list
d. browse photo and description of the chosen dog (click "⇦上一頁" to go back to the suggested list to get information of another breed)

http://www.petnet.com.au

Steps:

a. click Click Here Selectapet
b. click Click Here To Choose Suitable Dog Breeds
c. complete the questionnaire (17 questions)
d. click Select Suitable Breeds
e. click on any name in the suggested list
f. browse photo and description of the chosen dog (click "⇦上一頁" to go back to the suggested list to get information of another breed)

5. Explain the difficult vocabularies such as 'medium', 'giant', 'wiry' and 'anticipate grooming' to help learners make correct choices. Measurement unit such as pounds and inches can be introduced if necessary.

6. After browsing through the photos and description of the suggested breeds, learners have to decide which breed they would recommend in their worksheets. This can be done through class or group discussion.

7. If time and facilities allow, learners may print and stick the picture of the dog they have chosen onto their worksheets.

8. Worksheets may be posted on the bulletin board for display.

V. Suggestions for extension:

1. Ask learners to find out individually information of the dog that they like most.

2. Ask learners to explore the web pages to find information on other topics, for example:

http://petsource.com/

a. 'cats' (click CatCorner)
b. 'How to be a responsible pet owner' (click For Kids Only)
c. 'Fun things to do with your pet' (click For Kids Only)

http://www.waltham.com/

a. 'cats' (click cats)
b. 'fish' (click fish)
c. 'birds' (click birds)

d. 'quizzes and games' (click petzone)

    http://www.petnet.com.au/

a.   'cats' (click Selectapet, and then click To Choose Suitable Cat Breeds)

b. 'Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership And Dog Bite Prevention' (click DOGS'N'KIDS)