

**Some people believe that having a pet such as a cat or a dog helps old people to have a more enjoyable life and to stay healthier.**

**How do you think old people benefit from having a pet?  
Do you think there are any problems in old people having a pet?**

When people become old, they often become lonely as well. Some people believe that having a pet can bring joy and increase the health of older people. I believe that although a dog or a cat can improve old people's lives by giving them love and companionship, it can also bring some problems such as vet expenses or neighbours' complaints.

I think that having a pet benefits old people in many ways. Firstly, life can become very lonely after they retire and their children move out to start a family of their own. A dog or a cat would keep them company. Secondly, there would be a new sense of purpose in their lives. They would have to look after their pets, feeding them, taking them for a walk or to the vet. Finally, they would experience daily expressions of love. Pets are very good at showing their love for their owner and there is nothing better ~~them~~ than being loved.

However, I think there are also some disadvantages ~~in~~ of old people having a pet. Looking after a dog or a cat can be very expensive with food, flea control and vet bills. Old people, more often than not, ~~spent~~ spend most of their income ~~in~~ on medicines and doctor bills. In addition, cleaning after a pet can be very demanding. Also, most old people do not live in a spacious house with a huge backyard so chances are that there will be a neighbour nearby complaining about noise or dog faeces left somewhere.

In summary, having a pet can make old people's lives more enjoyable and healthier. However, it can also bring some problems. Therefore, I think an older person should weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of having a pet before buying one.

**Comment [z1]:** This just makes it clearer

**Comment [z2]:** it would be better here to explain the limited incomes of people rather than how they spend their money

**Comment [z3]:** it would be better to follow this sentence with another sentence explaining it rather than jumping to a new point

	Estimated Grade	
Task response	8	Both questions are covered well  For the problems it would have been better to just have two problems and develop them well rather than having three [the second idea was not developed]
Cohesion and coherence	8	<b>An excellent overall structure, except:</b> For the problems it would have been better to just have two problems and develop them well rather than having three [the second idea was not developed]

Vocabulary	8	A few errors with co-locations:  disadvantages <del>in</del> of old people  spend most of their income <del>in</del> on medicines
Grammar	8-9	Errors are rare and minor
overall	8	This is really well written, I can't see this getting any less than eight! Any errors are quite minor and you don't have many of them.



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