Weekend Blues

Caring for a classroom pet is a 24-hour responsibility every day. It is a yearlong responsibility too, year after year. Are you thinking about asking for a classroom pet? Before you do, use this checklist. First, write down what kind of pet you are thinking of getting. Then answer the questions yes or no.

What kind of pet do you have in mind?

If the pet will stay at school at night, answer these questions yes or no.

1. Electricity sometimes goes off. Does this pet need electricity to stay warm or cool or to get air?
2. Will this animal be trapped if there is a fire while school is out?
3. A bad storm can keep everyone away from school. Might this animal run out of food or water?
4. Will someone care for this animal when school is out for the summer?
5. Will this animal get lonely at night or on weekends?
6. If this animal gets sick or hurt at night or on a weekend, will someone be there to help?
7. If the heat is turned down on the weekends, might that hurt this animal?

If the pet will be taken home at night, answer these questions yes or no.

1. Will this animal go home with different people to different homes?
2. Might some of the people in these homes not know how this animal acts (or what the animal needs)?
3. Will it be hard to find someone to give good care to this animal during the summer?
4. Can this animal get carsick while traveling?
5. Might this animal get scared or injured while traveling?

For every yes answer, write what problem(s) can occur. Use the back of this paper.