

The Class Pet Gazette

By Mrs. Chilson's Class 2010

“When do hamsters run away from rain?”

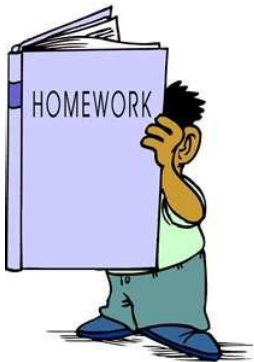
-When it's raining cats and dogs!

5B FINALLY EARNS A PET

BY Leora

Pet Smart stores sent fifth grade classrooms in the United States a learning package. Inside was a habitat, coupons for a small animal, and observation sheets for students to fill in as they learned about a class pet.

The only problem was that Mr. McQuaide had to give us permission, and he doesn't like rodents. Our class thought that if we wrote him letters we could get him to change his mind. Our letters told how much we could learn from watching the pets. It worked. The only problem was we could have our pet only when everyone in the class did their homework correctly every day for a week.



Our class didn't do it for a very long time. It took us all the way to February 1, 2011. That is very bad news since homework helps you learn and everyone is supposed to do it anyway! We would be close so many times. Then someone would ruin it by forgetting their homework or not doing it. We would get so mad.

When we finally reached our goal, we were so excited! You should have seen us when we came in the class one morning and saw our pets! Mrs. Chilson had to buy them though because our coupon had already expired. (Thanks Mrs. Chilson!)



BRUNO AND BOOTS by Abby

Yeah! Our class finally reached our goal, so that we could get a class pet. Boy, were we surprised when we looked in the habitat and saw two hamsters! Two sounded twice as much fun!

They are Chinese Dwarf Hamsters. We named them after one of Mrs. Chilson's favorite books, This Can't Be Happening at MacDonald Hall. It is by Gordon Korman, and he wrote it when he was in the 6th grade as a class project. The main characters are Bruno and Boots. Bruno is a boy who has ideas that get him into a lot of trouble. Boots is his best friend that goes along with his plans.



Mrs. Chilson is reading the book to us. She suggested these names for the Hamsters because Bruno is pretty active and acts wild. Boots, follows after him or puts up with it.

For example, Boots will be sleeping and Bruno will jump on him. When we try to hold Bruno, he jumps in the wheel and runs and runs. Boots will let us hold him, and he never does anything mean to Bruno. Our class loves them so much! We don't want the school year to ever be done! They are so cute!



"Don't you think your taking this exercise wheel a bit too seriously?"

HOW TO CARE FOR CHINESE DWARF HAMSTERS

CHINESE DWARF HAMSTER FACTS

BY Andy

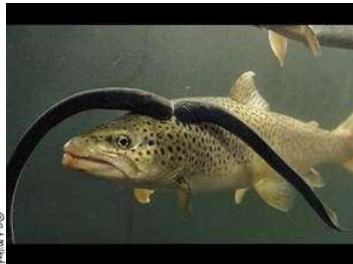
Chinese Dwarf Hamsters are also known as Chinese Striped Hamsters because they have a dark stripe down their back. They are new to the U.S. pet trade since they arrived in America as captured “lab rats” and were usually just experimented on.

They are different from other hamsters because their heads and tails are longer like a rat’s. They are the largest type of dwarf hamster and can grow to 4 inches in length and weigh 1-2 ounces.

They breed in total darkness then the female tries to attack and kill the male. That is why males and females cannot be housed together. Males can be housed together only if they are from the same litter and raised together. Even then they may fight and hurt each other.

Chinese Dwarf Hamsters are illegal in some states. This is because they are considered an invasive species. Our class learned about the lampreys in science class. They are a type of fish parasite that hook to fish with sharp teeth and suck their insides out. They are an invasive species that have spread to our country’s lakes and rivers. They are invasive because they should only be in the country they were born in. Some states are afraid that if people let their Chinese Dwarf Hamsters go, then they will spread and become a problem just like the lampreys. They don’t have to worry about us though because we will not let Bruno and Boots go!

Chinese Dwarf Hamsters can live an average of two years.



- **Andy:** If you are loud and fast, they will defend themselves by biting you. They aren’t mean, but they are scared. You must be quiet and careful to gain their trust. They like treats like cut apples, but if you give it to them more than once a week, it will make them sick.
- **Leora:** They will die without clean water. They will get sick if you don’t clean out their pens regularly. They must stay dry and warm. They need fresh food every day. They need cuddled a little every day so that they become friendly.
- **Kaileigh:** You must not handle them roughly. They are tiny and fragile. If you drop them then they will get hurt or die. If you make them afraid of you then they will not be friendly pets, they will be wild animals. Don’t poke at them through the cage. You will scare them or they will think you are food. Either way, they will bite. If you touch your own cat or dog then try to touch them, they can bite too because they smell the enemy. Always wash your hands before you handle them.
- **Timmy:** You care for Bruno and Boots by changing their water and food each day. You change their bedding each week. You give them things to chew on like sticks or wooden blocks so that their teeth don’t grow too big for their mouths. As treats, they like corn and sunflower seeds. They are nocturnal. This means that they like to sleep in the day and be active at night. This means we should be quiet during the day and not rudely wake them up. If you take good care of them, then they won’t be mean or stink.
- **Amber:** The first thing you need to know is to put their cage in a place that is not too hot or cold. The second thing you need to know is that aspen bedding is best for them. Then you must feed, water, give them chew sticks, and cuddle with them. Make sure they have a wheel and a ball so that they get enough exercise.
- **Cameron:** Don’t be like I was the first day and torture them. Chasing them with your hands or dropping things down the tunnels to make them come out is not a kind or safe activity. I made them afraid of the class. Don’t push the wheel faster when they are in it or try to stop it because they can get hurt. Treat them like you should and they will be fun pets.

STUDENT & PET SAFETY TIPS

BY Jordan, Kaileigh, & Sarah

Bruno and Boots are our new class pets. Before anyone can touch them, parent permission slips must be signed. This is because Bruno and Boots are gentle pets, but they can still bite if they get scared. After that, the student of the day will check their water, feed them, and cuddle them. Other students should not try to do this.

To keep us and them safe, students must wash their hands before and after they touch them. Mrs. Chilson bought a big container of hand sanitizer to use and put it right next to the cage. This stops germs from passing back and fourth.

If you do get bit, it will feel like a paper cut and be about 1 mm long. That is very tiny and it will heal quickly. That is why it is super important to clean it so that the germs don't heal inside. Make sure you tell the teacher if you get bit, so she can check your tiny boo boo!

Bruno and Boots have tiny parts on their feet that feel like Velcro. This feels a little rough against your hands and can be confused with a bite. If there isn't a cut or blood, you didn't get bit, but you can still wash your hands carefully!

Don't crowd around the cage in a big group. This will scare them and make them more likely to protect themselves. Be careful not to drop them. If you do, we will never catch them again! They are tiny and quick.

Before anyone new comes in the room and tries to touch the hamsters, the class should make and post rules by their cage.



Bruno(brown) & Boots (white)

FROM JACOB'S NOTEBOOK

Chinese Dwarf Hamsters are very tiny. They are only 3-4 inches long when they grow up. Some are white and some are brown. They have long tails compared to other hamsters that have no hair on them. Sometimes people think they are mice.

They are very active and need a lot of room to exercise so they don't get bored. In the wild they live in burrow systems of tunnels. In homes they should be put in glass or metal because they like to chew.

They are mainly herbivores. We learned in science class that herbivores eat producers (plants), carnivores eat other animals, and omnivores eat plants and animals. Chinese Dwarf hamsters like seeds, roots, and grains. They also like to store food in their cheek pouches and drink a lot of water.

Chinese Dwarf Hamsters like to be clean. They spend a lot of time grooming themselves.



Movie



Review

By Jake

Watch *Bolt the Super Dog* to see this fat hamster in action! He wants to be a super hero too! It was a great movie! The dog and cat were interesting characters too!

POETRY PLACE

Bruno & Boots

By Jacob

Boots was busy chewing,
and wondering what Bruno was doing.
Bruno was running around like a wild beast,
So Boots alone was enjoying the feast.
He put food in his cheek pouch,
Hoping that Bruno would eat soon and not be a
grouch.
Finally he said to Bruno, You know that fresh water
and seed,
Is exactly what happy hamsters need.
We like to sleep in the day and run around at night.
Making our muscles exercise with all their might.
We have sharp teeth but rarely bite,
Some of us are brown and some are white,
And remember, it's no lie,
us hamsters are never allowed to eat pie!

(Note: This poem uses personification since Hamsters don't really talk!)

Bruno & Boots

By Amber

Bruno likes to make the wheel go round.
Boots likes to stay safely on the ground.
Bruno will find the food in tunnels up high.
Boots is afraid to try.
When Mrs. Chilson brought them both to school,
Her whole class thought she was cool!

BRUNO & BOOTS

by Cameron

Bruno is brown and black
& Boots is white.
Watching them excites me,
Both day and night!



BOOTS AND BRUNO

BY Jacquelyn

Boots and Bruno are such a lively pair,
Curious & covered with fuzzy hair.
They sleep a lot,
On their little cage loft,
Dreaming about fruit like apricots.
Facts from 5th grade classes filling their thoughts.
They are so small,
they could almost squeeze through the cage wall,
I wonder if they'd like to go to the mall,
Or just play in their ball in the school hall?
Would they play all day and night in their wheel,
Without a mom to come and give them a speel?

Bruno & Boots

By Jordan

Busy
Rambunctious
Unusual
Nocturnal
Observant

Amazing
Nice
Delightful

Bullied
Outstanding
Odiferous
Tiny
Snuggly

Bruno and Boots

By Andrew

Class hamsters, so cute & small,
Tiny dwarves, 2 inches tall.
They're interesting and cool,
And fun to watch while I'm at school.
Lazy during the day & active at night,
Be kind, so they don't bite!
They run in the wheel and make it turn,
All while the class is trying to learn!

IMAGINATION STATION

INTERVIEWS WITH BRUNO AND BOOTS

Abby: We are here with the famous dwarf hamsters, Bruno and Boots. So, Bruno, what do you think of our class?

Bruno: Well, you guys are great kids. Sometimes you're a little loud, but you're a good group, and I like all the cool stuff you do with Mrs. Chilson.

Abby: Thank you! Boots, what did you think of the fire alarm?

Boots: Is that what that was? It scared me.

Abby: Sometimes it scares me too. Do you guys like being brothers?

Both: Yes we do. We love each other even when we are bugging each other.

Abby: Well that's all for today. Thank you Bruno and Boots.

Both: Anytime. Thanks for having us. Now we are going to take a nap!



Later:

Sarah: Bruno and Boots, do you like it when we hold you?

Both: Only when you are quiet and careful and use both hands softly. We don't like to feel like we are falling or being squeezed.

Sarah: Where do you like to be petted?

Both: It is heaven when you rub softly behind our ears.

Sarah: Why do you sleep all the time?

Both: We are nocturnal animals. In the wild, we sleep during the hot day and hunt during the cooler night. It is an instinct. This is something we are born with and not something we have learned.

Jacquelyn: Is it hard to share a cage?

Bruno: Yes it is. Boots always sleeps in the tunnel and I have to squeeze past him to get upstairs to the wheel.

Boots: I don't know why you are complaining. I'm the one that gets stepped on!

Jacquelyn: Are you both related?

Both: Yes, we are brothers. We have a bunch of other brothers and sisters, but we're not sure where they all are. We haven't been able to keep in touch. We're too small to use the mouse and e-mail!

Jacquelyn: Do you enjoy living in a classroom?

Bruno: I do. I learn a lot of interesting stuff, and I get to observe humans. I don't like it when the students are loud by us though. That sound system is good for your ears, but to mine, it is torture!

Boots: I like you kids. Especially when you hold me carefully and talk to me quietly.

Jacquelyn: Do you like the wheel?

Bruno: I love it!

Boots: I'm not sure. Bruno won't share! Plus, I'm afraid of heights and am scared to climb up there!

Jacquelyn: What's the most interesting thing you've learned since you've moved in to our classroom?

Bruno: I can't pick just one thing. I love listening to the books you read out loud. It looks like you can learn everything by reading!

Boots: I agree. I also like it when you sing learning songs and watch Brainpop videos. I could never do that at Pet Smart!

Kaileigh: Do you like it when we talk to you?

Bruno: Yes, I love it! Unless you all talk at once and get too loud!

Boots: It is a great place to sleep! Zzzzzzzz

Bruno: BOOTS! WAKE UP! We are in an interview! Please excuse him. He was up all night and he has a cold.

Kaileigh: It's ok. He's cute when he sleeps. What's your favorite part of the classroom?

Bruno: I love our back counter. I can see and hear everything that is going on. There aren't any predators here, so it is a safe place to hang out.

Boots: Yeah....zzzzzz, what? Zzzzz, oh yeah, whatever Bruno said. I hope I'm not sick. Hamster's don't live that long if they get colds you know.

Bruno: Boots, seriously, just sit up and pay attention. Maybe that will clear your sinuses. Please kids, just ignore his bad manners. Any more questions?

Kaileigh: Oh, ummmm, yes, one more. What's it like being brothers who live so closely together?

Bruno: Well, I like to stay busy and Boots likes to sleep. I'm the neat freak, and he is messy. I'm smarter and cuter ...

Boots: Bruno, for goodness sake's don't talk in hyperboles! (See I learned that word in your class. It means exaggerating or stretching the truth!) I think they get how conceited you are!

Mrs. Chilson: Well I guess that's enough questions for now. The class needs to take out their Science notebooks while you two get some sleep!



A HAMSTER CHEER!

By Abby



Bruno & Boots have so much in common.
5B has loved them since the minute they saw them.
Bruno & Boots, Bruno & Boots!
Give me a 'B' for Bruno and Boots,
A clap and a flip, a holler and hoot!
Bruno & Boots, Bruno & Boots!
They are brothers who share the same mother,
Do they look like her or the father?
Bruno is brown, Boots is white,
Our class hamsters are out of sight!
Bruno & Boots, Bruno & Boots!

THE TABLES ARE TURNED

By Sarah and Jacquelyn

Bruno & Boots: Girls, how come you keep us in this cage?

Girls: So you don't get hurt or lost of course!

Bruno & Boots: Where do you go every day at 3:15 p.m.?

Girls: We ride the bus to our homes. We see our brothers and sisters and families.

Bruno & Boots: Why do you stay awake all day?

Girls: We aren't nocturnal like you. We sleep at night.

Bruno & Boots: How come different people hold us each day?

Girls: We don't want to scare you, so we take turns. Only the Special Helper gets to touch you each day.

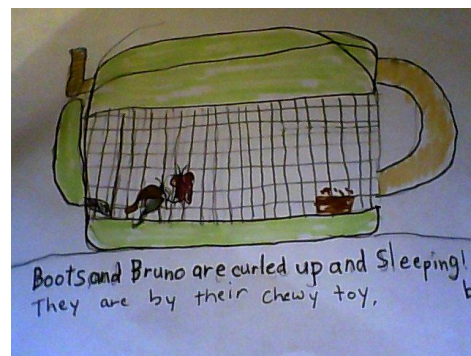
Bruno & Boots: Do you think we make a lot of noise?

Girls: We hear you run in the wheel, and chirp. We think you are quieter than us! Plus, you do sleep a lot. We watch you carefully to see if you are still breathing!

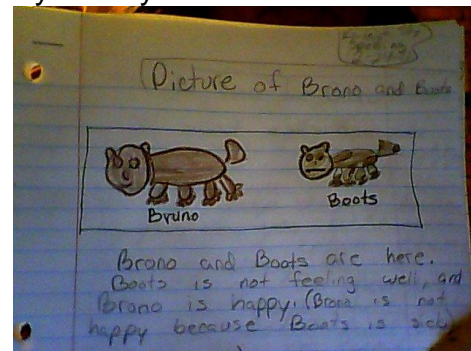
Bruno & Boots: Why doesn't your room have any tunnels?

Girls: We have a slide on the playground, but we use stairs at school!

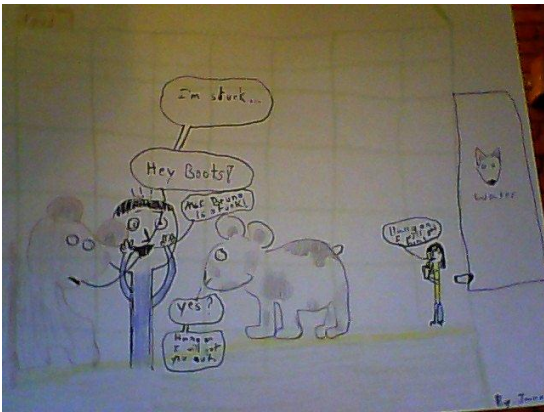
ART SHOW



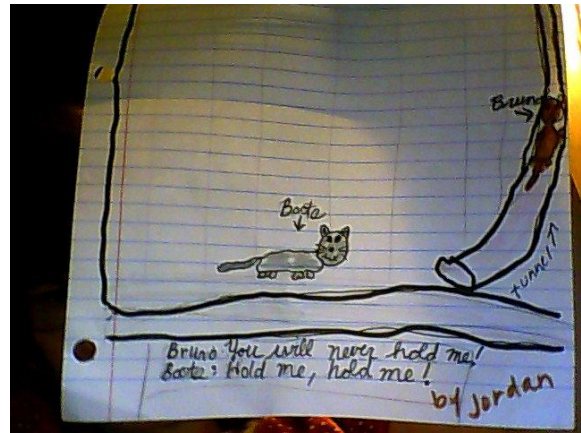
By Timmy



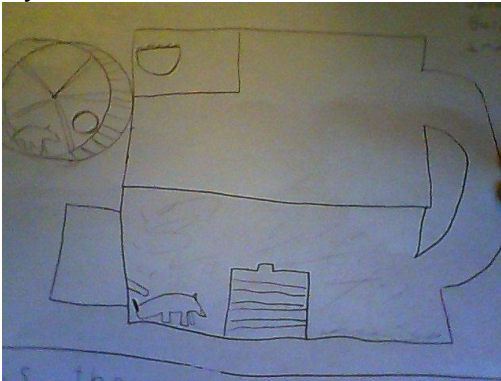
By Kaileigh



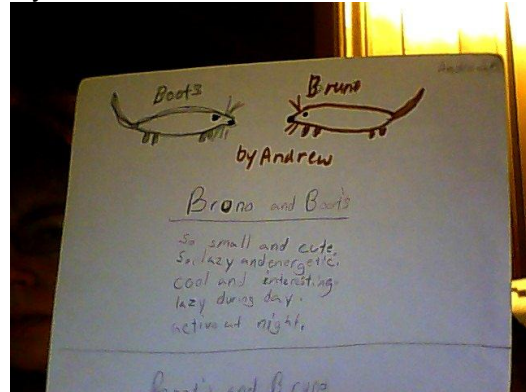
By Jacob



By Jordan



By Sarah



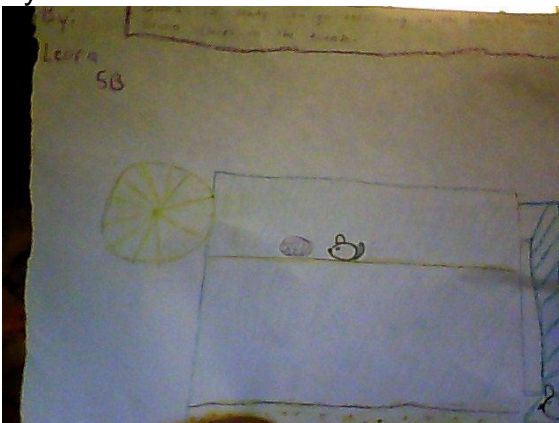
By Andrew



By Cameron



By Amber



By Leora

SAD NEWS: Obituary

Boots Longbottom died suddenly of a respiratory illness on Monday, February 21, 2011. He is survived by his brother Bruno. His burial was held at Pet Smart, Niles Ohio.