



## #SpikeDinosAdventures

Welcome to Spike Dino's daily post for children learning from home.

### PETS; Wildcat

Spike has always wanted a pet but the wildcat in the Natural History gallery scares him a bit.

Wildcats are small wild members of the cat family native to Europe and Africa and lives in forested areas. It is similar to the domestic cat but larger. It has longer legs, a larger, flatter head, and a full, relatively short tail ending in a rounded (not pointed) tip. The coat is yellowish grey with dark stripes, the tail has black rings.

The adult wildcat is 50 to 80 cm long, with a 25 - 35-cm tail and it is 35–40 cm high at the shoulder. It is a solitary, nocturnal animal that hunts birds and small mammals. It is called a wildcat because it is almost impossible to tame. The wildcat creates its den in the hollows of old or fallen trees, rock holes and the abandoned nests or dens of other animals, such as of fox or badger.

Wildcats are wild creatures and not pets. However, Spike knows pets are great at keeping you company, and some pets help monitor medical conditions in their owner. Spike has recently got his own pet – a tiny little sheep dog. But he doesn't know what to call him. ***So he'd like you to come up with a name for his dog. Share your ideas with us (via below methods) and Spike will choose his favourite next week.***



**Activity;** Spend some time with your pets. Then show us your pets - either by sharing a photograph or creating a piece of artwork. If you don't have a pet, draw your favourite animal.

Share your pictures tagging @MaidstoneMuseum and #SpikeDinosAdventures or by emailing [museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk) and we'll post to Instagram