

**Figure 5.1: Animal Maintenance Scale**

The maintenance of a classroom pet can range from minimal to a whole lot! This should play a large factor in deciding which animal will work best for your classroom. The following is a list of suggested classroom animals. Using the 1–5 scale, rate the animals' maintenance requirements.					
1	2		3	4	5
Food and water no more than every two weeks; no habitat cleaning	Food and water weekly; biweekly habitat cleaning		Food and water daily; weekly habitat cleaning	Food and water more than once a day; weekly habitat cleaning	Food and water more than once a day; daily exercise or daily walks
Animal		Rating	Reasons		
Goldfish		2	Easy to feed; habitat requires minimal cleaning		
Ant Farm		1	Very little food; no requirement for habitat cleaning		
Hermit Crabs		2	Easy to feed; habitat requires minimal cleaning		
Mice or Gerbils		3	Easy to feed; habitat requires weekly cleaning		
Corn Snake		2	Easy to feed; habitat requires minimal cleaning		
Snails		1	Very little food; no requirement for habitat cleaning		
Frogs or Toads		3	Easy to feed; habitat requires weekly cleaning		
Salamanders		3	Easy to feed; habitat requires weekly cleaning		
Lizards		2	Easy to feed; habitat requires minimal cleaning		
Tortoises or Turtles		2	Easy to feed; habitat requires minimal cleaning		
Guinea Pigs		4	Enjoys fresh food and treats; habitat requires weekly cleaning		
<b>Note:</b> There is no animal listed with a rating of 5; however, students might choose an animal that could require a lot of maintenance (for example, a dog or cat).					