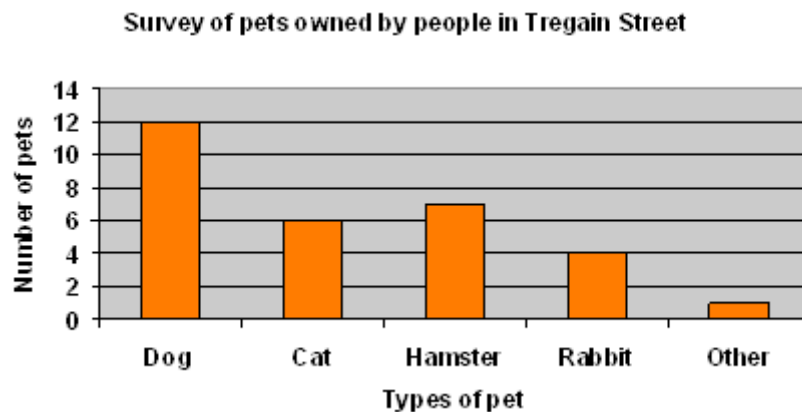


Reading bar charts

To read the bar chart below you need to look at the scale on the vertical axis and then read across to the top of each bar.



In this bar chart each bar is labelled and you can read that:

- 12 people owned dogs
- 6 people owned cats
- 7 people owned hamsters
- 4 people owned rabbits
- 1 person owned other type of pets

If your bar chart does not have lines like those in the above example, then you may need to use a ruler to help you read across to the scale.

Did you notice the marks on the scale? The difference between each mark on the scale is 2, so we say the scale goes up in divisions of 2. Can you see that the 'hamster' bar is half way between divisions? So, the number of people who own hamsters is halfway between 6 and 8, which is 7. Sometimes bar charts can be shown with horizontal bars. In this case, you will need to check the length and not the height of the bars in order to read the scale. For example:

