

The Difference between Wild Animals & Pets

Suggested Grade Level: Second- Fourth
Character: Respect, Responsibility, Kindness
Relative Subject(s): Language Arts, Art

Objective

To learn the difference between wild animals and pets and what they need from humans.

Materials

- Magazines and/or calendars containing pictures of wild animals and pets
- Two large poster boards
- Scissors, glue, markers, crayons, pencils

Activity

Preliminary Discussion

- What is a pet? Give examples.
- For what do pets depend on people?
- How do you care for a pet?
- Where should a pet live? Discuss that a pet should live inside your home because it is part of your family.
- If pets are part of our families, how should we treat them?
- What is it like having a pet in your family?
- How do you make each other happy?
- What is a wild animal? Give examples.
- Where do wild animals live?
- What are some wild animals in your neighborhood or near the school?
- What do wild animals need from us?
- How can we keep our neighborhoods clean and safe for animals and people?
- Should we handle or go near wild animals?
- Discuss the three "L's" of wildlife: Look at them, Learn about them, and Leave them alone. Discuss that any animal can bite, whether it's a wild animal or a pet.

Procedure

Using two large poster boards, label one "Wild Animals" and one "Pets." Have the students cut pictures out of magazines and calendars and categorize them. Leave room at the bottom for the students to draw pictures of what each group of animals needs from us.

Post-Discussion

- Discuss what types of wild animals and pets the students found. How did they decide if they were wild or if they were pets? What were their criteria?
- Discuss the pictures they drew of what each group of animals needs from us.

Extension Activity

Invite someone from the Nebraska Humane Society to speak to your class about what pets need. Ask them to bring a pet with them. Also, invite a speaker from the Henry Doorly Zoo to speak to your class about wild animals and what they need. Ask them to bring a wild animal to your classroom.

Nebraska Humane Society
8929 Fort Street Omaha, NE 68134 402.444.7800 www.nehumanesociety.org