

Wild or Domestic?

All animals have basic needs, but different categories of animals need different types of care. Domestic animals need people to care for them; wild animals need people to leave them alone.

Curriculum Connection

Alberta Education Program of Studies: Science (1996)

1–4 Demonstrate positive attitudes for the study of science and for the application of science in responsible ways.

SLE: Students will show growth in acquiring and applying...respect for living things and environments, and commitment for their care.

1–11 Describe some common living things, and identify needs of those living things.

SLE 5. Identify examples of plants and animals that are normally under human care (domesticated) and those that are normally independent of human care (wild).

Objectives

Students will:

- classify animals as being domestic or wild
- classify domestic animals as farm animals or companion animals (pets).

Materials

- Copy of the Activity Sheet **Where Do I Belong?** for each student
- Introductory materials e.g. books, pictures or stuffed animal
- magazines with pictures of animals to cut out
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Activities

1 Some Animals Need People

Use pictures of animals taken from magazines to discuss which ones depend on human care. Explain that care includes providing food, water, shelter, medical care and exercise. In the case of companion animals (pets), we also provide grooming, training, play and love.

2 What the Words Mean

Define *domestic* (needing human care) and *wild* (living without human care). Write each as a heading on the blackboard, or make signs to put on the wall. Show pictures cut from magazines (or have students find and cut out pictures) and ask the class to state whether each is domestic or wild. Put the picture or write the name under the appropriate heading.

3 Pet or Farm Animal

Ask the class why we keep animals. The answers will generally involve what we get from animals – i.e., some give us companionship and fun, others are kept to provide food. Use the students' answers as a basis for further categorizing domestic animals as either companion animals (pets) or farm animals.

4 Bulletin Boards

Make up three bulletin boards with the headings **Companion Animals**, **Farm Animals** and **Wild Animals**. Have the students go through the old magazines and cut out pictures of animals to put on the appropriate board.



Wild or Domestic? (continued)

5 Where Do I Belong?

Assign three areas of the classroom to represent a house, a farm and the forest (allow some overlapping areas as some animals fit into more than one category; see diagram. However, note that wild animals are never appropriate as pets). Ask all the students to stand at the front of the class, then have each of them pretend they are a certain animal (each student can hold a picture of their animal). Have them go to the appropriate area of the classroom. At the end of the class, have each student make the appropriate animal sound.

6 What Do I Need?

Ask each student to name one thing that his or her animal needs from people. They could be general answers (such as food, care, water, shelter, exercise, grooming, love, etc.) or specific to their species (dog food, grass, other small animals, habitat protection, etc.). Note that wild animals' needs include an unpolluted environment, forests, clean streams to drink from, and to be left undisturbed.

7 Where's Home?

Use the Activity Sheet *Where Do I Belong?* Students colour and cut out the pictures and paste them into the appropriate column.

8 Caring for Plants

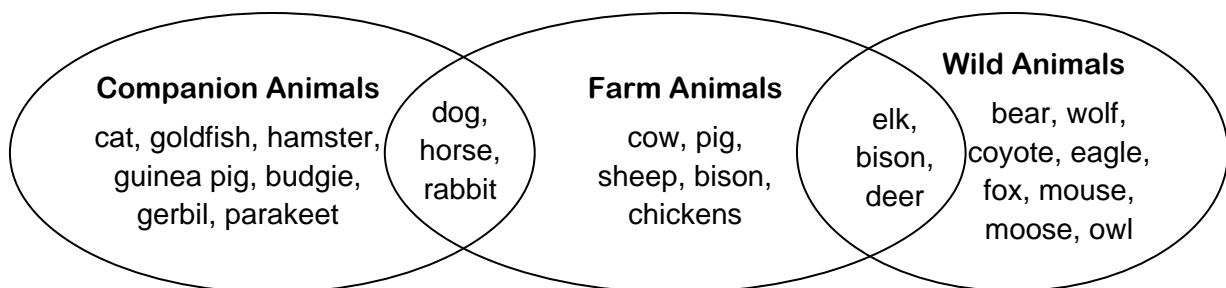
Compare a tropical house plant with a plant that grows outside in the forest. Which one needs people to water it? Can you leave a tropical plant outside and expect it to live and grow? Similarly, animals who have come to depend on people need us to continue to care for them.

9 The Little Prince

Read *The Little Prince* or excerpts from it that describe the prince's relationship with his sheep and his rose bush. You may want to read the entire book, one chapter at a time, or just read the pertinent sections. How does the little prince care for his sheep? What does he mean when he says his rose has tamed him? Emphasize the point that once you have tamed something, you are responsible for it.

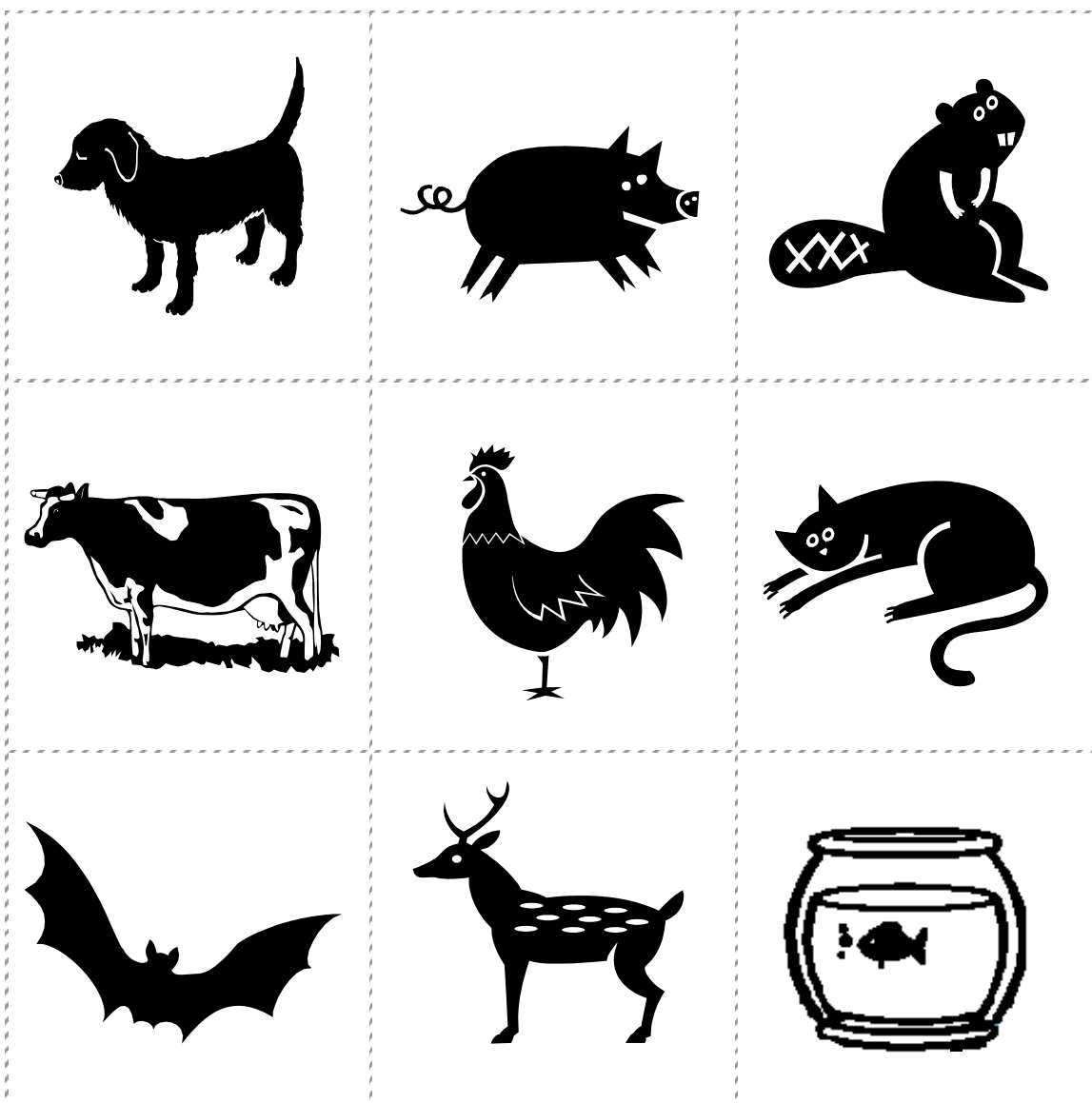
10 Caring for Life

Discuss the problems that might be encountered by domestic animals left out in the wild (since they have come to depend on human care, they may be unable to find food and shelter; they would also be at risk from predator animals). Emphasize that we should never abandon an unwanted pet; we should only get a pet if we are prepared to look after it for its entire life.



Where Do I Belong?

Cut out the pictures of the animals. Then paste them where they belong on the next sheet. Put pets under the house, farm animals under the barn, and wild animals under the forest.



Where Do I Belong?

Name: _____

Date: _____

