

Wild or Tame?

Science/Health

Grades 3 and 4

Objective

To understand that pets, unlike wild animals, have lost much of their natural ability to take care of themselves.

Skill

Students will be able to differentiate between wild and domestic animals and illustrate the different ways their needs are met.

Materials

- photos or drawings of domestic and wild animals

Activity

Students will choose a companion animal and identify its wild counterpart.

Helpful Background Information

- www.hsus.org

Procedure

1. Write the words *wild* and *domestic* on the board. Ask students for a definition of each and have them record the definitions in their science journals. Explain that domestic animals have come to rely on humans to provide for most of their needs and have lost much of their ability to fend for themselves.
2. Show students pictures of various animals from magazines, calendars, books, etc. Ask which animals are wild and which are domestic.
3. Help students name various pets and identify the animals that are their wild counterparts (e.g., dog/wolf, cat/lion, canary/wild bird, horse/zebra, pig/peccary, cow/buffalo).
4. Ask students to draw pictures showing how a wild animal meets one of its basic needs and how that need is met by humans for domestic animals. (Basic needs include shelter, warmth, food, water, and companionship.)