

Lesson 03: Animals & Pets

Hi! Welcome to the Article Discussion lesson!

Today's topic is about "***Animals & Pets.***"

Have fun learning English!

Activity 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

Vocabulary

- **species** – a group of animals that are able to breed with each other
- **domesticate** – to tame or keep; to take care of
- **leap** – to pass abruptly from one state or topic to another
- **heap** – a collection of articles or mass of material gathered together in one place
- **phenomenon** – a fact, occurrence, or circumstance observed or observable
- **plethora** – a large or excessive amount of something
- **therapeutic** – causing someone to feel happier and more relaxed or to be more healthy
- **buoyancy** – a cheerful and optimistic attitude or disposition
- **impinge** – have an effect on someone

Activity 2 | Article

Directions: Read the article aloud with your teacher.

Animals & Pets

At a certain point in time, amongst all living life forms on our planet, humankind **leaped** to the very top of the evolutionary **heap**. Ever since then, human beings have transformed and molded the world around them in a variety of ways. One of these ways is **domesticating** animals, taming them, and making them fit for our environment.

Gradually, some **species** of domesticated animals started providing physical and emotional support to human beings. Nowadays, owning a pet is a widespread **phenomenon**. People share their lives with their pets, making them an integral part of their households. There is a **plethora** of valid points that would corroborate the fact that benefits, which arise from keeping a pet, are enormous.

For the most part, pets are kept for company, enjoyment, amusement, and protection. In accordance with copious studies, the companionship, exercise, and responsibility they provide has substantial effects on the mental and physical aspects of our welfare.

Various pet animals belong to a medically approved class of animals that are referred to as "therapy animals." Therapy animals are employed to achieve specific physical, social, cognitive, and emotional goals with patients. Specialists argue that pets are very **therapeutic** and can even **impinge** on our longevity, that is, prolong our lifespan.

Bizarre and rare animals, particularly feral ones, fall within a group called "exotic pets." However, the definition of "exotic pets" keeps being altered, on account of the fact that some species are so firmly established in the world of animal fancy that they are no longer considered "exotic."

Be that as it may, animal lovers definitely see eye to eye as regards one thing: pets enrich our lives. Their presence and **buoyancy** encourage their owners to cultivate a more positive outlook on life.

Activity 3 | Question and Answer

Directions: Answer these questions about the article.

1. What was the turning point that led to domestication of animals?
2. What are the good aspects of owning a pet?
3. What kind of effects does a pet have on our health?
4. What are some of the reasons why people choose to keep a pet?
5. Why does the definition of “exotic pet” keep changing? Explain in your own words.

Activity 4 | Summary

Directions: Make a summary of this article, focusing on the main topic. After that, your teacher will give you an example of the summary.

Activity 5 | Thoughts

Directions: Read the following quote and discuss it with your teacher:

"All animals, except man, know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it."

1. Do you agree with this statement? Why?
2. What are the differences between animals and human beings?
3. Do you think the ability to self-reflect and express abstract concepts make the lives of human beings more difficult in comparison to animals'?

Activity 6 | Free Conversation

Directions: Answer these questions related to the topic of the article. Have a free conversation about it with your teacher.

1. Do you have any pets?
2. Do you enjoy or would you enjoy having pets?
3. What is your favorite kind of pet? Why?
4. Are there any domesticated animals that you wouldn't want to have as pets?
5. What are the advantages of having pets?
6. Do you agree with the opinion that human beings are superior to animals?
7. Zoos have an educational purpose for human beings, and they are also entertaining and fun. On the other hand, it is considered inhumane to keep animals in captivity. What is your opinion regarding this delicate matter?
8. What do you think about circuses that use animals for entertainment?
9. Some domestic animals, such as some pedigree dogs, have been bred to over-emphasize particular characteristics to the extent that they suffer pain or discomfort. Do you think there should be laws that prohibit such torture?
10. Which one do you think is better: buying or adopting an animal? Why?