

# The Difference Between Wild Animals & Pets

## OBJECTIVE

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

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will make a collage of pictures of wild animals and pets and will draw what each group needs from us.

## 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's part of your family. If pets are part of our families, how should we treat them? What's 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, 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 Dumb Friends League to speak to your class about what pets need. Ask them to bring a pet with them. Also invite a speaker from the Denver Zoo to speak to your class about wild animals and what they need. Ask them to bring a wild animal to your classroom.