

ANIMALS ARE LIKE US

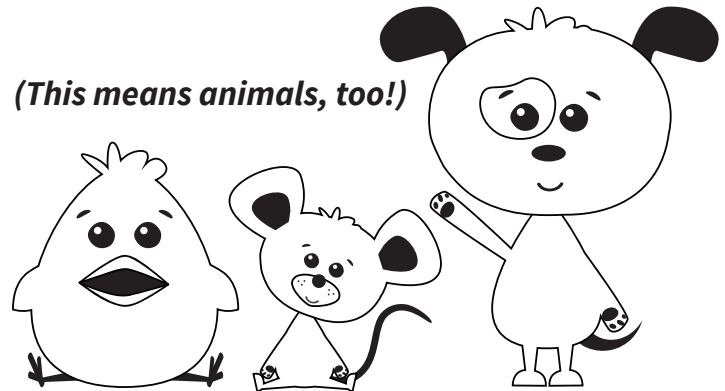


Part 1: The Golden Rule and You

We can each make choices to ensure that we treat animals with compassion and respect at all times—and we can encourage others to do the same. The “Golden Rule” that we try to follow in our relationships with other people should also apply to our relationships with animals.

Take a look at these examples of situations in which the Golden Rule is *not* being applied to animals. For each one, explain (a) how the situation fails to live up to the Golden Rule and (b) how you would change it to make it follow the Golden Rule.

**“DO UNTO OTHERS
AS YOU WOULD
HAVE THEM DO
UNTO YOU.”**



#1 You see someone hitting a cat for going to the bathroom on the carpet.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

#2 You see many people hurry past a bird with a broken wing who has fallen onto a busy sidewalk.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

#3 On your way both to and from school one day, you notice a dog on a short chain with no food or water in sight.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

#4 While walking in the woods, your best friend finds and takes home a turtle.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

#5 There is a petting zoo at your friend's birthday party, and animals are being touched and surrounded by lots of strangers.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

Part 2: Practicing Empathy

Some people think of animals as their best friends. Others think of them as scary. And some hardly think of them at all! But *all* animals—from the biggest elephant roaming the plains of Africa to the tiniest little fish in the deep blue sea—are living, feeling beings, just like us. We can learn more about animals' lives by having **empathy** toward them—in other words, by putting ourselves in their place to understand how they feel.

For an example of writing that conveys empathy toward an animal, read this passage from Anna Sewell's classic novel ***Black Beauty: The Autobiography of a Horse***. In it, a horse named Ginger tells Black Beauty about her experience with humans:

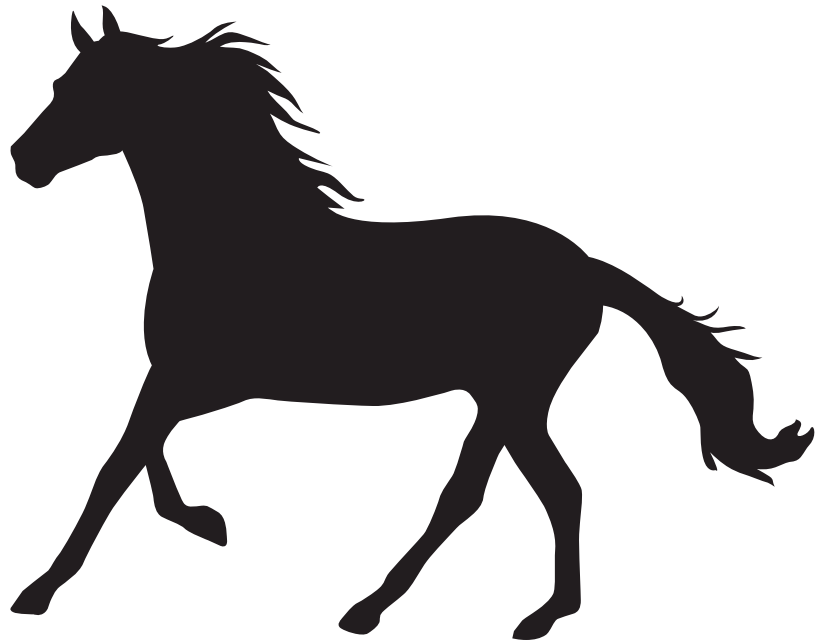
The man that had the care of us never gave me a kind word in my life. I do not mean that he ill-used me, but he did not care for us one bit further than to see that we had plenty to eat and shelter from storms and cold in the winter.

[V]ery often the great boys passing through [our field] would fling stones to make us gallop. I was never hit, but one fine young colt was badly cut in the face ... we settled it in our minds that boys were our enemies.

We had very good fun in the free meadows, galloping up and down and chasing each other round and round But when it came to breaking in, that was a bad time for me.

Some men came to catch me, and ... caught me by the nose and held it so tight I could hardly draw my breath ... and so by force they got on the halter and the bar into my mouth.

Then one man dragged me along by the halter, another flogging behind, and this was the first experience I had of men's kindness I ... had a great deal of spirit ... it was dreadful to be shut up in a stall day after day instead of having my liberty, and I fretted and pined and wanted to get loose.



Based on the passage you’ve just read, how do you think Ginger feels about humans? Cite examples from the text to defend your answer.

The passage about Ginger shows that empathy is the key to understanding what animals are feeling. Now, read each situation below. In the spaces provided, list the feelings that each animal might be experiencing.

- #1 A dog who’s let into a warm home on a cold night feels ...

- #2 An orca who is forced to do tricks and swim in circles over and over again in a tank at a marine park feels ...

- #3 A baby calf on a dairy farm who’s taken away from his mother feels ...

Part 3: I Am an Animal

Now, stretch your imagination further. Imagine that you’re any nonhuman animal. Write a brief story from that animal’s point of view based on the topic “If I had three wishes.” Consider how you would feel if you were this animal as well as what you would be afraid of, enjoy, and want in life, and choose three things that you might wish for. Give your story a title, and draw a picture to go with it on the back of this page.

ANIMALS ARE AMAZING



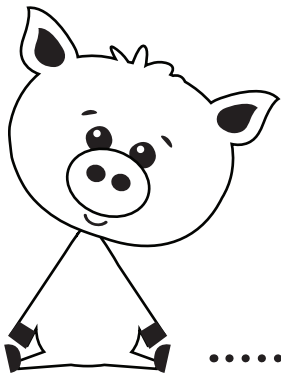
Part 1: Amazing Animal Facts

The more you know about animals, their abilities, and their behavior, the more you'll see how complex and interesting they are. Here are some fascinating facts about animals that may surprise you:

- ✓ **Dolphins** have protected shipwreck survivors from drowning and from sharks, sometimes keeping people afloat for many miles.
- ✓ **Beavers** live in complex societies with homes, lodges, and food storage.
- ✓ **Cows** form a protective circle around their calves when danger or rough weather threatens them.
- ✓ **Elephants** sometimes doodle in the dirt using twigs.
- ✓ **Orangutans** build overhead platforms in their "nests" to keep out the rain and use large leaves as umbrellas.
- ✓ **Birds called "warblers"** fly all the way from Canada to South America and back, returning to the same place to nest.
- ✓ **Male emperor penguins** guard and incubate the females' eggs for two months, without food, in subzero Antarctic temperatures.
- ✓ **"Electric" fish and eels** communicate by transmitting electrical signals to one another.

Choose the fact that surprised you the most. How does this information change the way you think or feel about that animal? In a few sentences, explain your reaction:





Part 2: Test Your Animal Knowledge

How well do you know these animals? Let's put your knowledge to the test! Read each statement below. Check "TRUE" if the statement is true or "FALSE" if the statement is false.

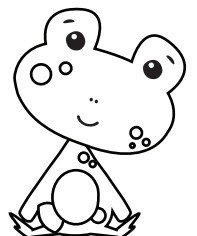
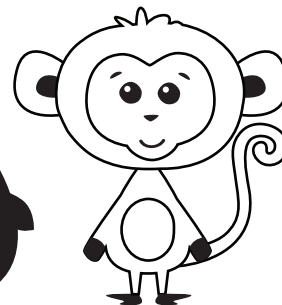
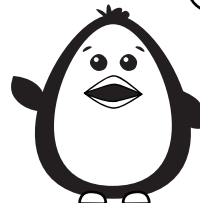
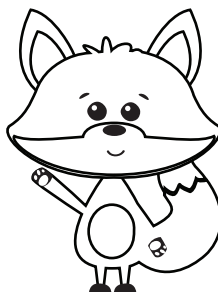
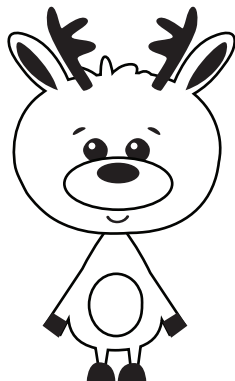
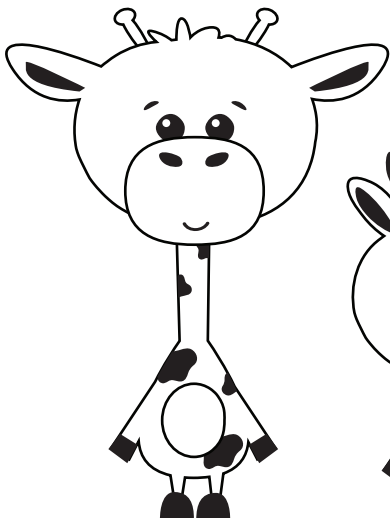
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1. Rats love to be tickled, and they make chirping noises similar to the sounds that we make when we giggle.
 2. Cows play games, and some choose their best friends when they're very young.
 3. Some animals can operate video games.
 4. Hens sing a cheerful song to their chicks while they're still inside their eggs.
 5. Elephants mourn their dead relatives by touching and holding their bones.
 6. Dogs' sense of smell is thousands of times better than humans', and they can smell smoke before smoke detectors can detect it.
 7. Cheetahs are twice as fast as the world's top human runners.
 8. Birds migrate hundreds of miles over oceans and even through storms without getting lost.
 9. Octopuses and squids change color to communicate with each other.
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TRUE

FALSE

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Part 3: How Do They Feel?



Although we still don't fully understand animal language, we know that animals communicate with each other in their own ways, and we can imagine what they might be thinking and feeling. Choose a wild animal and research that species' natural habitat. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a letter to humans from the animal's point of view in response to a threat posed by them. Put yourself in the animal's place, and express why you're concerned about your home and life.

HOW YOU CAN SAVE ANIMALS



Part 1: Be an Animal's Best Friend

Dogs, cats, and the other animal companions who share our homes aren't wild—they are domestic, meaning that they rely on their guardians (that's us!) to make sure they are taken care of and have everything they need for a safe and happy life. Caring for animals is a big responsibility, and it's important to learn about their needs and pay attention to what they like and dislike.

For this activity, choose a domestic animal. Think about the things that type of animal likes, things that you like, and things that you both like, and write them in the spaces below.



A _____ **LIKES:**
(Your Chosen Animal)

WE BOTH LIKE:

I LIKE:

Now, think about the things that animal doesn't like, things that you don't like, and things that neither of you likes, and list them in the spaces below:

A _____ **DOESN'T LIKE:**
(Your Chosen Animal)

NEITHER OF US LIKES:

I DON'T LIKE:

And remember: If you're bringing a new animal into your home, never buy from a pet store or a breeder. Cats, dogs, hamsters, fish, rats, mice, and birds suffer in the pet trade, where they're treated more like objects than living beings. There are millions of loving animals waiting for homes in shelters around the world. Save a life by adopting—never buying—an animal!

Part 2: Changing Times, Changing Minds

Throughout history, people have used animals for their own purposes. But thankfully, we're starting to learn and realize that they aren't ours to use or abuse. Think about the ways in which people use the animals listed below, then write down an animal-friendly alternative for each.



#1

Dissecting frogs in the classroom to teach biology



#2

Testing products like soap, shampoo, and makeup on animals in laboratories



#3

Forcing animals to perform tricks in the circus and at marine parks

A typical *unspayed* female dog will have two litters of six puppies each year. Assume that each litter has three males and three females. The answer to the math problem below will help us understand why there are so many homeless dogs and cats and why it's necessary for humans to take action to help.

[illegible]

What are the most important things that people can do to help stop the overpopulation crisis and reduce the number of homeless animals? *Write your ideas on the back of this page.*