

Keeping Wildlife Wild

Read to answer the questions below.

Wild animals are animals that do not need humans for food, water, shelter, or anything else.

Domesticated animals are animals that have been bred over time to rely on humans for all of their needs. They often will not survive if released into the wild. Domestic animals like dogs and cats have been bred for thousands of years to make good pets for humans.

Wild animals should never be kept as pets. Many wild animals seem cute to humans, especially as babies. Unfortunately, keeping them as pets does more harm than good. There are many reasons wildlife should not be kept as pets. Animals that are born in the wild can pass on diseases to humans. Wild animals need a lot more space than humans can offer. For example, wild brush rabbits need 20 acres to call home, more than 15 football fields! Wild animals often need members of their own species around them so they don't feel alone. Wild animals need special types and amounts of food. It takes an expert to make sure wild animals are getting enough of the right kinds of food. Wild animals can't live their fullest lives in captivity. In addition, it is against the law to keep most wildlife as pets.

WildCare keeps some ambassador animals to help us teach the public about wildlife. These animals originally came to WildCare because they were injured or sick. They would not survive if we released them into the wild. WildCare has special permits to be allowed to keep these animals. We have to follow very specific guidelines about how much space they need, what they eat, and how they're treated. We have staff members and volunteers to help us prepare food for them as close to what they would eat in the wild as possible. It takes a whole lot of work, space, and many people to care for our ambassador animals. Much more than just one family can do in their home! Keeping wildlife in the wild where they belong is essential to living well with wildlife.

1. True or False: Wild animals can become domesticated.

2. What is a domestic animal?

3. Why can't ambassador animals be released into the wild?

4. List 3 reasons why wild animals should not be kept as pets.



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Wild animals should never be kept as pets. Many wild animals seem cute to humans, especially as babies. Unfortunately, keeping them as pets does more harm than good. There are many reasons wildlife should not be kept as pets. Animals that are born in the wild can pass on diseases to humans. Wild animals need a lot more space than humans can offer. For example, wild brush rabbits need 20 acres to call home, more than 15 football fields! Wild animals often need members of their own species around them so they don't feel alone. Wild animals need special types and amounts of food. It takes an expert to make sure wild animals are getting enough of the right kinds of food. Wild animals can't live their fullest lives in captivity. In addition, it is against the law to keep most wildlife as pets.

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1. True or False: Wild animals can become domesticated.

False, it took thousands of years to domesticate the animals we see today.

2. What is a domestic animal?

An animal that has been bred to rely on humans for all of its needs.

3. Why can't ambassador animals be released into the wild?

Ambassador animals would not survive in the wild.

4. List 3 reasons why wild animals should not be kept as pets.

Answers include: They can pass on diseases to humans; they need more space than pets; they need to be around their own kind; they need specific diets and amounts of food; it is against the law to keep them as pets.

