



# P.A.W.S.

Pet And Wildlife Stewardship

Animals of all kinds are special and fascinating, but it is important to understand that wild animals, including exotic animals (animals not native to our country, like lions and tigers), should not be kept as pets. Trying to keep a wild or exotic animal as a pet can be dangerous to humans and unfair to the animal. Being kept from their natural habitat impedes an animal's ability to experience the Five Freedoms. Wild animals need to socialize, hunt or gather their own food and engage in behaviors that contribute to their overall emotional health and wellbeing.

### Objective

Students will be able to identify the dangers of trying to keep wild animals as pets; this includes dangers that exist for both humans and animals.

### Required Materials

- *Captive Wildlife: A Bad Idea* YouTube video: [https://youtu.be/-9zACUvm\\_Vk](https://youtu.be/-9zACUvm_Vk)
- Computer
- Internet access

### Overview

- 1. Watch the video *Captive Wildlife: A Bad Idea*.** As a class, watch the video on why keeping wildlife as pets is dangerous.
- 2. Student research.** Ask students to write an essay on why keeping wild animals as pets is a bad idea. The essay should be 3 – 5 pages in length, include a minimum of five credible resources and offer an overview of the following:
  - A. Introduction
  - B. Overview of the Five Freedoms for animals
  - C. An overview of how removing a wild animal from the wild takes away their Five Freedoms
  - D. An overview of a documented case that illustrates the dangers for humans of owning wild animals as pets
  - E. Conclusion

## STUDENT CONTEST

Students can mail their essay to

**Newspapers in Education | 100 W Main St. Ste 100 | Oklahoma City, OK 73102** with an official entry form or submit them digitally by visiting <https://nie.newsok.com/educators/curriculum/cause-for-paws/>.

The winner in each age group will receive a recognition award and one project will be chosen as the Grand Prize Winner! The Grand Prize winner will be highlighted through The Oklahoman and NewsOK.com and will receive a \$500 cash prize to be shared by all group participants.



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