Appreciation, Entertainment, or Exploitation

Goal: Students learn how to determine whether recreational observation of animals is considered appreciation, entertainment, or exploitation.

Grade Levels: 4th – 8th grade

Time: 30 minutes

Audience Size: Any

Objectives:
1. Students will practice using objective criteria to evaluate human enjoyment of animals.
2. Students will express their own reactions to different forms of human-animal interaction.

Materials:
- Laptop computer
- Projector with screen
- 3-5 short video clips of people interacting with animals for recreation
- Flow chart (included)
- Table 1.5 “Types of Recreational Observation of Animals by Humans”

Introduction:
Explain to students that they are going to watch some videos of animals. Examples of videos could be: a cat interacting with a bird or rabbit, bird watchers watching birds on the shore, park visitors feeding deer, a rodeo, running of the bulls, a person playing frisbee with a dog.

Procedure:
1. Show the first video without speaking. Afterward, ask students the following questions:
   - Was the video fun to watch?
   - Did the animal(s) seem like he/she was having fun? How could you tell?
   - Did the humans in the video account for the best interest of the animal?
2. Pass out the Humane vs. Inhumane flow chart and watch another video. Suggest that students use the flow chart and their own feelings to determine whether the video they just viewed was humane or inhumane. Why or why not?
3. Repeat Step #2 with the remaining videos.
4. Distribute Table 1.5 “Types of Recreational Observation of Animals by Humans.”

Summary:
Ask students how they will decide if an animal-related activity is humane.
Humane vs. Inhumane Flow Chart

Wild animal

Is the animal in its natural habitat?

- Yes
  - Is the animal reacting to humans?
    - Yes
      - This can be a humane way to manage non-releasable wildlife.
    - No
      - Stop! Humans should not interfere with the behavior of wild animals.

- No
  - Is this an education program with non-releasable wildlife?
    - Yes
      - Stop! It is inhumane to hold wildlife captive for financial gain.
    - No
      - This is a good start to enjoying wildlife. Remember to respect habitat areas as well.

Domestic animal

Does the animal have adequate food, water, shelter, and space?

- Yes
  - Can the animal stop if he (she) gets tired?
    - Yes
      - Stop! Humane interaction is not coercive.
    - No
      - Is the animal at risk of injury or afraid?
        - Yes
          - Stop! Humane interaction never causes fear or harm.
        - No
          - This is a humane start to enjoying domestic animals.

- No
  - Stop! Humane interaction provides for basic needs.