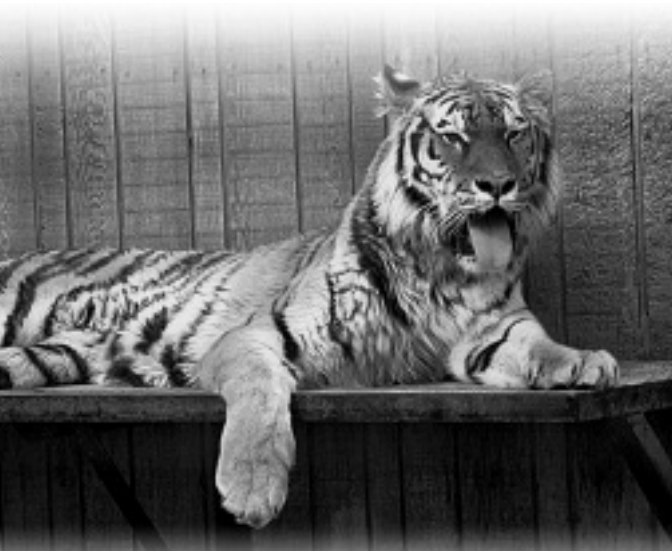


Presented by The National Humane Education Society



EXotic and Wild Animals Are Not Pets

Exotic animals are wild animals not native to North America. Wild animals are those not specifically bred over many generations to adapt to humans and their environment.



Although animals such as lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and cougars may seem playful and safe when young, they grow to become powerful and potentially dangerous animals as adults. We all have read about serious and deadly altercations involving many of these animals when kept in the home, or in captivity.

Often, the conditions under which exotic and wild animals live are substandard. State anti-cruelty laws are often violated by the keepers of these animals. Extreme suffering for the animal is the sad result, as well as an extreme safety hazard for the community. Documented attempts by members of the general public to keep wild or exotic animals as pets have led to tragedy in many instances for both humans and animals.

NHES opposes the keeping of wild and exotic animals as pets or service animals. NHES also opposes the capture and breeding of wild or exotic animals for the purpose of selling them as pets. Only experts with many years of experience studying and working with wild and exotic animals are capable of caring for and safely interacting with them. The general public lacks this expertise and should not attempt to keep wild or exotic animals as pets.



Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals

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