

ANIMALS ARE LIKE US

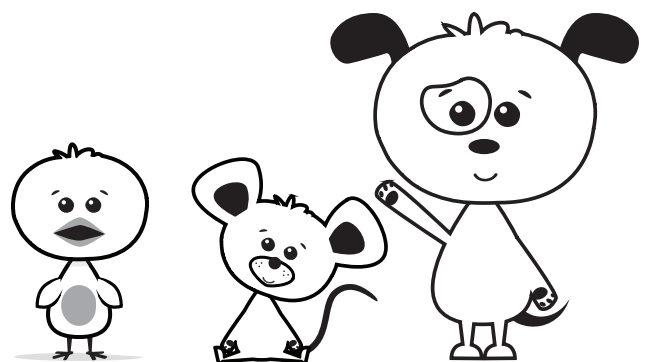
Part 1: The Golden Rule and You

All of us can make choices to ensure that we always treat animals with compassion and respect – and we can encourage others to do the same. The Golden Rule that we try to follow in our relationships with other humans should also be followed in our relationships with animals.

Take a look at the examples on the next page of situations in which the Golden Rule is not being followed for animals. For each one, explain (a) why the situation doesn't 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.”**

(This includes animals!)



1. You see a farmer hitting a bull who is struggling to pull a heavy cart.

(a) Why doesn't this situation live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do to change it?

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

(a) Why doesn't this situation live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do to change it?

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

(a) Why doesn't this situation live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do to change it?

4. Your best friend finds a turtle in the forest and takes the animal home.

(a) Why doesn't this situation live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do to change it?

5. Your cousin wants her father to buy her a bird to keep in a cage.

(a) Why doesn't this situation live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do to change it?

Part 2: Practising 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 jungle to the tiniest little fish in the sea – are living, feeling beings, just like us. We can learn more about their lives by having empathy for them – in other words, by imagining ourselves in their place in order to understand how they feel.

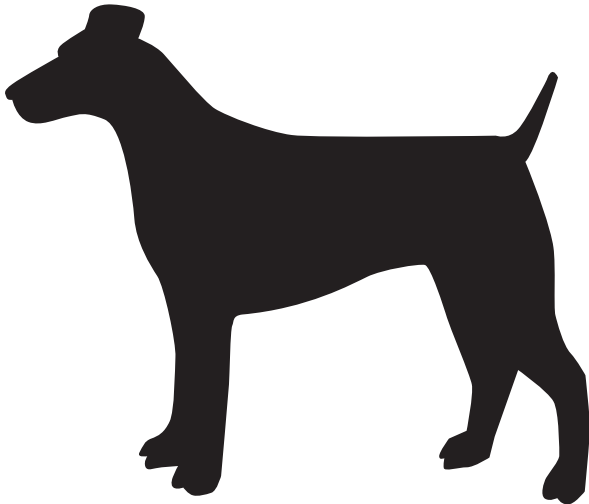
The following story describes a situation in which dogs have empathy for a human baby.

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Indian Dogs Protect a Human Baby From Danger

According to a story that appeared in the newspaper *Aajkaal*, one spring evening in 1996, a pack of hungry, homeless dogs who were looking for food at a dump in Kolkata came across a newborn baby girl who had been placed near the rubbish. The dogs smelled the baby, who was cold and crying. They might never have met a human baby before. But they saw that she was small and helpless and realised that a dump was no place for her – there were many dangers, and there was no one to feed her or keep her warm. So they stopped looking for food right away and stayed with her throughout the night. In the morning, some locals walked through the dump and saw her. The dogs allowed them to pick her up, understanding that they would take her somewhere safe. The locals carried her to a police station, and the dogs followed them and then waited outside. When her parents could not be found, she was taken to a home for lost children, where she would be safe.

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This is one of many true stories from around the world in which dogs or other animals – including pigs, dolphins, chickens, and even kangaroos – have helped humans in need.

The story shows that empathy is important for understanding what someone else is feeling. Now, read each situation below. In the spaces provided, write how each animal might feel.

1. A dog who lives indoors with a human family feels ...

2. A tiger stuck in a cage at a zoo feels ...

3. A baby calf on a dairy farm who has been taken away from his mother feels ...

Part 3: I Am an Animal(cont'd)

ANIMALS ARE AMAZING



Part 1: Amazing Animal Facts

The more you know about animals, what they can do, and how they behave, the more you'll see how 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 kilometres.
- ✓ Beavers live in societies with homes, lodges, and food storage.
- ✓ Chickens worry about the future.
- ✓ Cows form a circle around their calves to protect them when there's danger or rough weather.
- ✓ Elephants sometimes use twigs to draw in the dirt.
- ✓ Orangutans build platforms above their "nests" to keep out the rain and also 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.
- ✓ Sheep can recognise and remember the faces of at least 50 other sheep.
- ✓ Male emperor penguins guard and keep the females' eggs warm for two months, without food, in freezing Antarctic weather.
- ✓ "Electric" fish and eels communicate with each other by sending electrical signals.



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 much do you know about animals? Let's put your knowledge to the test! Read each statement below. Tick the box for "True" if the statement is true or the box for "False" if it's false.

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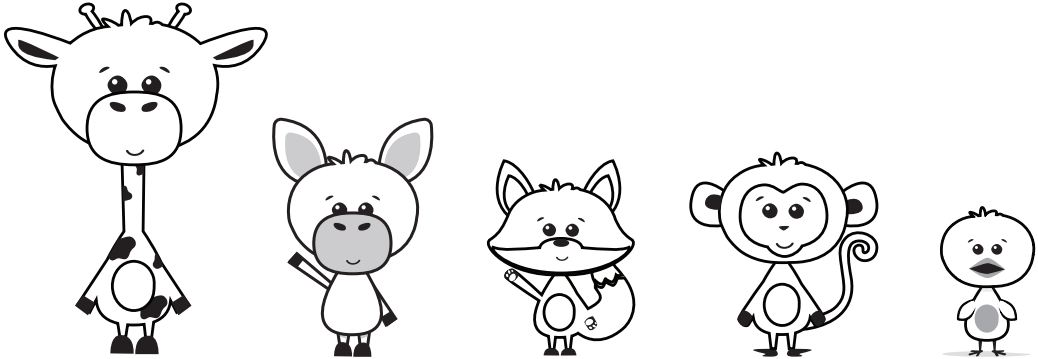
TRUE **FALSE**

- 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. Pigs can play 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. A dog's sense of smell is thousands of times better than a human's – dogs can even 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 kilometres over oceans and even through storms without getting lost.
- 9. Octopuses and squids change colour to communicate with one another.

Part 3: How Do They Feel?

We still don't fully understand animals' language, but we know they communicate with each other in their own ways, and we can imagine what they might be thinking and feeling.

Choose a wild animal and find out about the natural habitat of that species. Then, on a blank sheet of paper, write a letter to humans from the animal's point of view about a problem caused by humans that affects that species, such as poaching or destroying the forest. Put yourself in the animal's place, and explain why you're worried about your home and life.



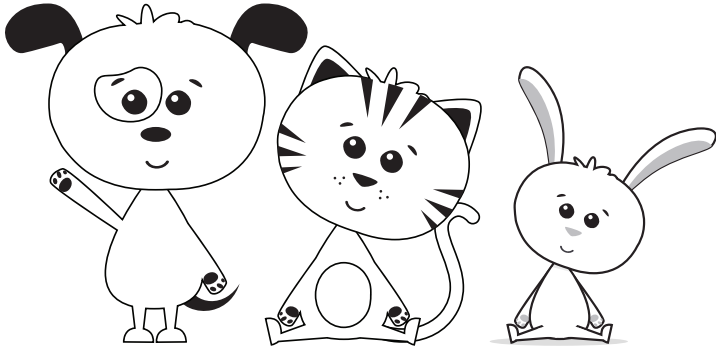
HOW YOU CAN SAVE ANIMALS



Part 1: Be an Animal's Best Friend

Dogs, cats, and the other animal companions who share our homes aren't wild – they're domesticated. This means they rely on their guardians (that's us!) to make sure they 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 domesticated animal. Think of two things that animal likes, two things you both like, and two things you like. Write them in the spaces below.

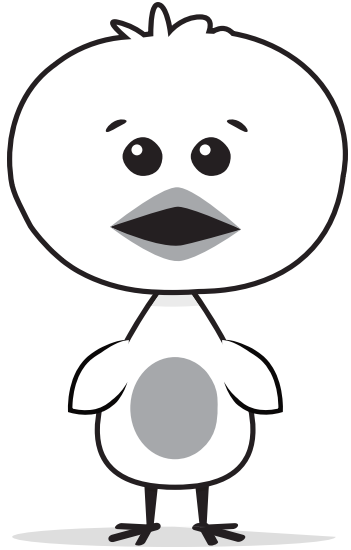
A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'A _____ LIKES: (Your chosen animal)'. The right circle is labeled 'I LIKE:'. The overlapping area in the center is labeled 'WE BOTH LIKE:'. Both circles contain horizontal lines for writing.

Part 1: Be an Animal's Best Friend (cont'd)

Now, think about two things that animal doesn't like, two things neither of you like, and two things you don't like. Write them in the spaces below.

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'A _____ (Your chosen animal) DOESN'T LIKE:'. The right circle is labeled 'I DON'T LIKE:'. The overlapping area in the center is labeled 'NEITHER OF US LIKES:'. The interior of both circles is filled with horizontal lines for writing.

And remember: if you're bringing an animal into your home, never buy one from a pet shop or a breeder. Cats, dogs, rabbits, fish, rats, mice, and birds suffer in the pet trade, which treats them like objects, not living beings. There are countless loving dogs and cats waiting for homes in shelters across India. Save a life by adopting one!



Part 2: Changing Times, Changing Minds

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



Using donkeys to carry bricks



Turning cows' skin into leather shoes



Forcing animals to perform tricks in circuses

Part 3: Animal Overpopulation = Sad Maths

In India, millions of dogs and cats struggle to survive on the streets or end up in animal shelters because there simply aren't enough good homes for them all. This is why it's so important to make sure that our dog and cat companions are sterilised by a veterinarian. It's also vital that we always adopt animals from shelters instead of buying them from pet shops or breeders, which only makes the homeless-animal crisis worse.

A female dog who hasn't been sterilised may have two litters of six puppies each year. **Assume that each litter has three males and three females.** The answer to the maths problem below will help us understand why there are so many dogs and cats on the streets and in shelters and it's so important for humans to help them.

Write the number of dogs mentioned in each sentence in the space to the right. Calculate the totals where shown.

1. Rani is an unsterilised female dog. (1 x 1)	_____	
	+	_____
2. In the summer, she has 6 puppies, 3 females and 3 males. (1 x 6)	=	_____

		TOTAL A
3. In the monsoon season, she has her second litter of 6 puppies. (1 x 6)		_____
	+	_____
4. Her 3 daughters each have a litter of 6 puppies. (3 x 6)	=	_____

		TOTAL B
5. The next autumn, she has her third litter of 6 puppies. (1 x 6)		_____
	+	_____
6. Her 6 daughters each have a litter of 6 puppies. (6 x 6)	=	_____

7. Her 9 granddaughters each have a litter of 6 puppies. (9 x 6)	+	_____
	=	_____

		TOTAL C
8. The next winter, she has her fourth litter of 6 puppies. (1 x 6)		_____
	+	_____
9. Her 9 daughters have a litter of 6 puppies each. (9 x 6)	=	_____

10. Her 27 granddaughters each have a litter of 6 puppies. (27 x 6)	+	_____
	=	_____

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