Wake-Up Call

Leading to IGCSE in English

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Express Publishing
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Pre-Reading Task

Read the following questions and quotations and discuss with your teacher the importance of animals in our lives:

- How do you communicate with your pet?
- How does your pet communicate with you?
- What do you communicate about?
- What do you think pets offer a person?

To this day, and probably till the day I die, it kills me to see people neglect their animals. Pets aren't just something you have in the house to look pretty. They are living creatures that require things, such as a warm place to sleep and live, regular visits to the vet, and above all, somebody who will provide the right food. I found out that all animals are different, of course, and that their systems react differently to different foods so it is our responsibility to pay attention to the food we give them. In return, they show us how much they love and trust us. Most people in this world don't understand what it is like to have the love and companionship of an animal, no matter what kind they are. Every living thing needs some form of love or attention.

all-creatures.org.

"... the difference in mind between man and the higher animals, great as it is, is one of degree and not of kind."
Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
A human being is part of a whole, called by us the ‘Universe’, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.

Albert Einstein (1879 -1955)

Working animals
Conflicts and natural catastrophes do not discriminate between people and animals. In countries such as Afghanistan, where people and animals depend on one another, WSPA’s work is making a real difference for animals by demonstrating the value of animal welfare to people who depend on them.

WSPA (World Society For The Protection Of Animals).
You're hiking in the woods with a friend one evening when a wind kicks up and rain starts to pour down. Suddenly you realize your friend isn't with you anymore. You shout, but your voice gets lost in the storm. Taking out your flashlight, you signal "SOS" in Morse Code. A few hundred feet away you see your friend's flashlight signaling, "I'm coming".

Humans and animals both communicate in many ways. Humans use almost 6,000 spoken, written, and code languages and also depend on body language, sight, touch, and smell to relay messages. Animals communicate with many sounds, actions, and cues as well.

Dolphins, toothed whales, and porpoises depend on vocalization, echolocation, and ultrasound to communicate with each other and navigate. With echolocation, dolphins emit and process up to 700 clicking sounds per second to detect the size and location of an object hundreds of meters away. Researchers at the Living Seas exhibit at the Epcot® Center in Orlando, Florida, found that dolphin echolocation is sensitive enough to detect a three-inch steel ball from 100 yards away.

Another experiment at EPCOT Centre involved a communications keyboard. Each key on the keyboard had a word written on it, and each key had a related cubbyhole containing an object that represented the word. Humans activated the keyboard by touching a key. Dolphins activated it by inserting their beaks into one of the cubbyholes. Inside each cubbyhole was an infrared beam. When that beam was broken by a dolphin's beak, the human word was heard on an overhead speaker. Dolphins used vision and echolocation to determine which cubbyhole to select when the keyboard was activated.

The dolphins seemed to expect certain types of behaviour from the trainers. When a human touched the key, the dolphins would swim ahead, and then turn to make sure their trainer was following them to the right place.

Scientists don't know if the dolphin's interaction with humans is sophisticated communication or a conditioned response motivated by a reinforcer (food). It may be a long time, if ever, before we can speak "dolphin" and find out what's on their minds.
Key Words

body language use of facial expressions, posture, gestures, and other nonverbal communication

conditioned response first demonstrated by Ivan Pavlov, a Russian scientist. Dogs heard a bell when fed, teaching them to associate food with the sound of a bell. Eventually the dogs' response to the bell was to salivate in anticipation of food.

echo-location bouncing sound off objects to provide information about size, location, and movement of those objects

frequency the number of cycles or complete "waves" (sound, radio) per unit of time

ultrasound high frequency sound that humans are unable to hear

vocalization formation of sounds

Reading Comprehension

Read the text on the opposite page and answer the questions.

1 List the different ways in which man can communicate.

2 List the different ways in which animals can communicate.

3 Imagine you are a dolphin. What would you do in order to get information about an object some distance from you?

4 What kind of information would you expect to get?

5 In what different ways did man and dolphins activate the keyboard in the experiment at EPCOT Centre?
Pre-Reading Task

Expressing your views

Read the following questions and comments and discuss with your teacher the importance of responsibilities to animals in our lives:

- What are your views regarding giving animals as Christmas gifts?
- What responsibilities do we have if we have a pet?
- Do you think that a pet has similar feelings to those of a person?
- What kind of feelings do you think your pet has got?
- How does your pet express these feelings?

Useful Vocabulary:

- to break somebody's heart
  
  Someone stole my dog and it broke my heart.

- a warm welcome
  
  When I return home from school, my cat gives me a warm welcome.

- to see red
  
  I see red when I see an animal being treated badly.

An animal can be: affectionate, loving, warm, gentle, cute, cuddly. It can bring joy to your life. It can be a fabulous companion. It can be a comfort in your hour of need.

An animal can be: aggressive, brutal, indifferent. Can you add to the above list?

Working Animals

What kind of working animals can you think of — give examples.

What do you know about working dogs?
ABSOLUTELY TRUE STORY HEARD ON A WISCONSIN RADIO STATION REPORTING ON THE INCIDENT.

A guy buys a new Lincoln Navigator for $42,500 (with monthly payments of $560).
He and a friend go duck – hunting in midwinter, and of course all of the lakes are frozen. These two guys go on a lake with their GUNS, a DOG, and of course the new NAVIGATOR.
They decide they want to make a natural – looking water area for the ducks, something for the decoys to float on. Now making a hole in the ice large enough to invite a passing duck, is going to take a little more power than the average drill auger can produce. So, out of the back of the new Navigator comes a stick of dynamite with a short 40 – second fuse. Now our two Rocket Scientists, afraid they might slip on the ice while trying to run away after lighting the fuse (and becoming toast, along with the Navigator), decide on the following course of action: light the 40 – second fuse; then, with a mighty thrust, throw the stick of dynamite as far away as possible.

Remember a couple of paragraphs back when I mentioned the NAVIGATOR, the GUNS, and the DOG ...?
Let’s talk about the dog: a highly trained Black Labrador used for RETRIEVING, especially things thrown by the owner. You guessed it: the dog takes off across the ice at a high rate of speed and grabs the stick of dynamite, with the burning 40-second fuse, just as it hits the ice.
The two men swallow, blink, start waving their arms and, with veins in their necks swelling to resemble stalks of rhubarb, scream and holler at the dog to stop. The dog, now apparently cheered on by his master, keeps coming. One hunter panics, grabs the shotgun and shoots the dog. The shotgun is loaded with #8 bird shot, hardly big enough to stop a Black Labrador. The dog stops for a moment, slightly confused then continues on. Another shot, and this time, the dog – still standing – becomes really confused, and of course, terrified. Thinking the two geniuses have gone insane, he takes off to find cover. Yes, under the brand new Navigator ...
The men scream and begin to run as the still- hot exhaust pipe on the Navigator touches the dog’s rear end. Yelping, the dog drops the dynamite under the truck and takes off after his master.

Then "BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM"! The truck is blown to bits and sinks to the bottom of the lake, leaving the two idiots standing there with ... “I can’t believe this just happened” looks on their faces.
The insurance company says that sinking the Navigator in the lake through the illegal use of explosives is NOT COVERED by the policy.
‘Genius’ has yet to make the first of those $560.00 a month payments ... The dog is okay ...
Writing

Write an article to be published in your school magazine stating your views on: *Hunting and Hunting Dogs.*
The article should be about 150 - 200 words long.

**Arguments For:**
Freedom of choice / personal freedom
Jobs related to hunting would be lost
Hunters enjoy the countryside

**Arguments against**
Personal freedom doesn't mean you have a 'right' to be cruel
Many people make a living from selling drugs and stealing cars. The fact that people
depend on an activity for their livelihood doesn't make the activity acceptable.
Barbaric / cruel to animals
Endangering lives

**Useful vocabulary:**
Ban
Abolish
Forbid
Prohibit
Make illegal

For teachers' inspection ONLY