

Animals and Animosity

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Activity 1

Use the following words and phrases to fill the gaps in the sentences below.

chasing the dragon crocodile tears eagle-eyed male chauvinist pig

- A: Is she crying?
B: No, she's just pretending. They're only
- A: What does '.....' mean?
B: It means breathing in the smoke of heroin as it burns.
- A: I don't like him. He doesn't have any respect for women at all.
B: I know. He's a real
- A: Do you think we could try to copy the answers from other students?
B: No! Our teacher is so s/he'd spot us immediately!

Activity 2

Read the questions and use them to begin a conversation with your partner.

- Do you think animals can really be our friends? Do animals really have personalities and emotions? Do they have souls?
- Some people say that certain breeds of dog are dangerous (e.g. pit bull terriers, rottweilers etc). Some people say that certain dog *owners* are dangerous or irresponsible. What do you think?
- What should be done in cases where a pet attacks someone? Have you ever been attacked by somebody else's pet? What happened?
- Should pet owners be held responsible for the behaviour of their pets? Should potentially dangerous pets be kept on leads or muzzled in public? In what cases do you think a dangerous pet should be put down?
- Do you think that exotic and/or potentially dangerous pets are a good idea? Why/not? What are the advantages of having an exotic pet?
- What do you think about using dangerous animals for entertainment? For example, in circuses and organized fights?
- Have you ever been on a safari? Would you like to? Why/not? Do you think safari parks are a good idea? Why/not?

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Activity 3

*Should pet owners be held responsible for the behaviour of their pets? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.*

Task 1

1. *Did most people agree or disagree that pet owners should be held responsible for the behaviour of their pets?*
2. *What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?*

Task 2

1. *Read the post your teacher has put on the board at: <http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.*
2. *Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.*

Task 3

1. *Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.*
2. *Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.*

N.B. Netiquette!

PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

Activity 4

Have you seen 'Beethoven'. This is a film about a pet St. Bernard dog and his long-suffering owners. It's a fun film for all the family. Why not try to see it in the original language?

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