

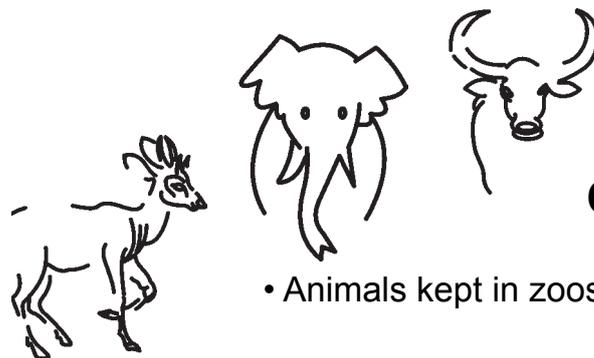
# Wildlife Welfare in Daily Life



## What is “Wildlife” ?

**Definition :** “Wildlife” refers to (wild) animals which are not domesticated (in case of plants, not cultivated)

- When we think of “wildlife” we think of animals that live in the wild or away from human habitation.
- But any free-ranging non-domesticated animal is wildlife (except feral formerly domestic animals).
- Examples are tigers, lions, eagles, butterflies, fish, rodents, bats, lizards, snakes, etc., that one sees in the forest.



## Captive Wildlife ?

- Animals kept in zoos are wildlife, even though they live in captivity.
- Temple animals, although domesticated perhaps, are still wildlife -- elephants, monkeys, bats !
- What about frogs, insects, house geckos, lizards, spiders, snakes, crows, etc. that we see around our house and compound. There are also wildlife. We call it “daily life wildlife”.

## What is “Daily life wildlife”?

“Daily life wildlife” is a term created by Z.O.O. to draw attention to the animals that live close to us that we all take for granted.

We consider these animals so common that we treat them like objects, as if they didn't have feelings.

People – usually in their childhood – may sometimes get a habit of mistreating animals by being careless with the feelings and lives of the animals they encounter on a daily basis.



## What is “animal welfare”

Welfare means “well-being”.

Wildlife welfare therefore means the well-being of wild animals in *both* wild and captivity.

### Well-being means

- to be free from neglect, abuse, stress, distress and deprivation.
- to have basic needs satisfied, & even to have comfort, happiness, contentment, and general good . . .

## Human Welfare



- Humans give a lot of importance to their own welfare.
- For our own welfare, we often harm other life forms unknowingly and unnecessarily.
- captive wild animals i.e., animals in the laboratory, zoos, pets often have a hard time when human beings are insensitive.
- Free-living animals also deserve kind treatment to the extent possible.

## Why learn about wildlife welfare ?

- Wildlife is important to our survival, even daily life wildlife.
- You kids are tomorrow's adults.
- Good values will never let you down in life. Practising good values makes you feel good always.
- Learning to be kind to all animals builds good values and prevents other bad habits.



## Human activities affect welfare of wild animals in forests :

- Destruction of habitat
- Introduction of diseases through domestic animals
  - Hunting / trapping / poisoning
- Disturbance caused by tourism (firing crackers in forest)
- Introduction of inappropriate animals
- Release of chemical pollutants



## Cruelty in Daily life

- Killing household insects that could be scooped up and set free.
- Killing or injuring animals that come in or near the house but are harmless (such as frogs, garden lizards, insects, birds, bats, shrews, etc.).
- Torturing animals just for entertainment
- Such animals are not just harmless ... most of them are helpful to us !
- Some animals like mosquitos are pests due to their impact on human health, but they are few compared to the number of useful animals.



### Daily life mistakes !

Many of the animals people kill or shoo away play a beneficial role in our lives ...

- Frogs, snakes, bats control insect and rodent populations.
- Many insects and some bats are pollinators. They are responsible for one-third of the food we eat and also for flowers and some trees.
- Shrews and other small rodents spread seeds and also eat up grasses that clog waterways.
- Worms break down living material for enriching the soil.

### Check your Habit !

- These are bad habits. We just don't think !
- Common sense applies. No need to be fanatical ! (You can swat mosquitos).
- Sometimes we just don't know what animals are harmless.
- Cultivate investigation rather than careless habits.

### Daily life wildlife as pets

- Wild animals — even daily life wildlife should not be kept as pets.

- Not every animal can adapt itself to humans condition.

- All animals have some basic requirement that a captive situation can't provide.



- Many wildlife pets become upset and even die of stress and trauma.

- Keeping wild animals can sometimes be dangerous to humans because of their unpredictable nature or disease.

## Watching daily life wildlife

- Daily-life wildlife doesn't have to be kept  
You can watch them from a distance like a naturalist studying wildlife in the wild.
- Keep a record of the behaviour of a familiar gecko. Does it come in the same room daily ? Does it like the wall or ceiling better ?
- See how many frogs come into your bathroom in a month.
- Watch ants troop up the wall to get a dab of sweet stuff..
- Count kinds of birds in your compound.

## Since we are talking about wildlife ...when you go to the zoo

- Don't tease animals in the zoo; they also have feelings.
- Don't throw stones, or paper, or sticks or stones.
- Don't feed zoo animals your food. It is not good for them and could make them sick.
- Watch wild animals at the zoo like you watch daily life wildlife



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