

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Talk about a time when you met a wild animal

You should say:

- how old you were
- what the animal was
- how it reacted to you

and say how you felt about meeting the animal.

Model answer

When I was in primary school, one day our teacher announced that we were going on a field trip. I got pretty excited about the **prospects** of spending the whole day in the woods. I was six or seven then, and we lived in the city, so I wouldn't see much of the trees and nature, let alone animals in their **natural habitat**.

When the day came, we **set off**. The summer sun makes everything better, and our trip was no exception. It took us about two hours to drive to our camping spot. As we were unpacking, I noticed a hare sitting in tall grass, watching us. I took a piece of fruit and slowly approached it. I guess it really wanted to **dash away**, but the smell of the **treat** was too much to resist. It approached me cautiously, but wouldn't get closer than five feet. I ended up just leaving the fruit for it to **nibble** on.

Seeing the hare made me really think about the relationship between humans and animals. I guess it was used to seeing people around, which is why it showed curiosity and was brave enough to approach us. I wonder if I would be lucky enough to see any wild animals there nowadays.

IELTS Speaking Part 3

Pets

What can you tell about a person by the pet they have?

I believe you can **infer** quite a lot about the owners judging by their pet. To start with, pets usually act like their owners, and vice versa. Let's say somebody has a German Shepherd. This would probably mean that they are outgoing, focused and disciplined. They take their **canine** pet for a walk, meet other dog-owners, strike up conversations. Similarly, owners of cats are more likely to be **homebodies** who find comfort in staying in rather than going out. I guess simply the fact that a person has a pet also speaks volumes about them. Animals throughout human history have been known to be great companions to lonely people. So, if one has a dog or a cat - even a bird - could mean that they are single.

Should people be allowed to keep larger pets, such as dogs, in flats?

This is a **point of contention**. The main issue here is that dogs and other large animals can be quite noisy, and this noise can be very disturbing, especially during the night. Needless to say, the carefree owners of such pets have very little control over their behaviour. You simply can't stop an **unruly** dog from barking at night or running around the flat in a sporadic **fit** of joy. Another point to consider is the **detrimental** effects that can be a result of living in **confined spaces**. Without proper exercise, pets like dogs can get ill. Not all owners are aware of this, so through **negligence**, they can harm their pets, even if they love them.

Animals in captivity

Is it morally right to keep animals in places such as zoos and circuses?

Of course it is not. Humanity is in no position to hold animals unwillingly, either for entertainment or education. Unfortunately, the area of animal rights is largely undeveloped and even ignored by modern legislators.

Commodifying animals is a very common practice, as it has been since the dawn of times. However, in the old days animals could be used to facilitate hauling goods or helping with farming. Therefore, it could be at least partially justified. Nowadays though it is completely inexcusable.

Do we need a law that punishes the owner for not treating their pets right?

I'm pretty such laws exist in the more developed countries. And if it's not, then it's high time they come up with one. Then we wouldn't need animal shelters that get daily new arrivals of abandoned cats and dogs. There could be a preventive law that would not allow people to have pets to begin with unless they go through a certain procedure that confirms their good intentions and financial well-being. Just like in most cases with bans and penalties, a hefty fine would be the most effective deterrent for negligence towards pets and animals in general. All we need now is a good precedential base.

Pets and animals vocabulary

Natural habitat - a place where a particular animal or plant lives naturally.

Treat (n) - something tasty.

Nibble (v) - to eat something in small bites.

Canine (adj) - relating to dogs.

Unruly (adj) - difficult to control, refusing to follow rules or commands.

Confined spaces - small, closed, tight spaces such as small rooms.

General vocabulary

Infer (v) - to guess by using the information given or available.

Homebody (n) - a person who prefers to stay home rather than spend time outside.

Detrimental (adj) - negative, harmful or damaging.

Fit (n) - (here) an unusual period of experiencing a certain emotion or state, i.e. a fit of joy is a short period when one feels especially joyful.

Negligence (n) - state of not paying enough attention to something or someone.

Commodify (v) - to turn something into a commodity (a ware, a product), not used literally.

Haul (v) - to transport something, usually something heavy.

Hefty fine - a large payment one has to pay because they have broken the law or a regulation.

Deterrent (n) - (here) something that prevents a certain undesirable action or behaviour.