

**Activity 3.1.1 Animal Value****Purpose**

Think about your most prized possessions, such as your iPod®, fishing rod, a family photo, or a “Most Improved” certificate from playing sports. You value these items for different reasons, maybe due to monetary investment or fond memories. Why are these objects important to you? Do items having importance to you have the same importance to others?

People are different, that includes their feelings about animals. One person may feel life would not exist without a dog, whereas another individual sees no point in owning a dog. As you explore your feelings about the importance of animals remember to respect the fact your classmates may not feel the same. During discussion, please remember that animal welfare is a matter of personal values. While you may disagree with others, individuals are entitled to their viewpoints and you should not put those opinions down. Sharing ideas, philosophies, and opinions is important in understanding differing viewpoints.

**Materials****Per student:**

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

**Procedure**

In this activity, you will determine the value of different animals based on your opinion. As you go through this activity, keep in mind there are no right or wrong answers. At the conclusion of the activity, you will share some of your thoughts when your teacher asks for discussion.

**Part One – Assessing Value**

In Table 1 of *Activity 3.1.1 Student Worksheet*, assign a value of importance to each animal by placing an “x” in the column representing the importance of the given animal. 0 represents the least importance to you and 5 represents the most importance.

**Part Two – Supporting Your Assessment**

1. Select two of your highest ranking and two of your lowest ranking animals and record the name of the animals in the space provided:

High	Low
Puppy	Ant
Cat	Mosquito

2. Answer the following questions.

- What qualities of the animals listed above in the left column, caused you to give your highest ranking? I have some animals similar to these

- What qualities of the animals listed above in the right column caused you to give your lowest ranking? I don't see the purpose that they serve.
3. Enter the four animals you ranked above in the proper columns in Table 2 of *Activity 3.1.1 Student Worksheet*.
  4. Look at the similarities and differences of the animals. How might others agree or disagree with your ranking of the importance of each animal? Make notes below to use later in discussion.

## Conclusion

1. What qualities did you use to assign a "value" to each animal in Part One of this activity?  
What purpose they serve
5. How might other people's opinions differ from yours? Why do you think their opinions may differ?  
They might say that they cause problems in the environment. Hey may have different uses for them.
6. How would the way a person feels about an animal affect the way he or she treats an animal?  
If she feels that the animal is the same as people they will treat them better than if they don't.
- 7.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Activity 3.1.1 Student Worksheet

**Directions:** Place an “x” in the column representing the importance of the given animal, 0 represents the least importance to you and 5 represents the most importance.

**Table 1. Animal Values**

Animal	0	1	2	3	4	5
Ant	x					
Barn cat						X
Border Collie puppy						X
Cow						X
Chicken						X
Goat						X
Guinea pig						X
Horse						X
Lab mouse						X
Ladybug						X
Lamb						X
Llama						X
Monarch butterfly						X
Mosquito						X
Pig	X					
Rabbit						X
Rat						X
Turkey						X

**Directions:** Based on your opinions, answer the questions below for each animal by placing a yes (Y) or no (N) in each corresponding column.

**Table 2. Exploring Animal Value**

Question	High Ranking Animal	High Ranking Animal	Low Ranking Animal	Low Ranking Animal
	cat_____	_____Puppy	_____Mosquito	_____Ant
Can this animal feel pain?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Does this animal eat and drink?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Does this animal have a nurturing mother?	yes	yes	no	No
Do humans use this animal to produce food or clothing or to provide companionship?	yes	yes	no	no
Is this animal considered a pest by humans or other animals?	no	No	Yes	Yes