

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

2. Answer the following questions.

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

- What qualities of the animals listed above in the right column caused you to give your lowest ranking?
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?
2. How might other people’s opinions differ from yours? Why do you think their opinions may differ?
3. How would the way a person feels about an animal affect the way he or she treats an animal?

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						
Barn cat						
Border Collie puppy						
Cow						
Chicken						
Goat						
Guinea pig						
Horse						
Lab mouse						
Ladybug						
Lamb						
Llama						
Monarch butterfly						
Mosquito						
Pig						
Rabbit						
Rat						
Turkey						

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
Can this animal feel pain?	_____	_____	_____	_____
Does this animal eat and drink?				
Does this animal have a nurturing mother?				
Do humans use this animal to produce food or clothing or to provide companionship?				
Is this animal considered a pest by humans or other animals?				