

CASE

*Curriculum for Agricultural
Science Education*

Principles of Agricultural Science – Animal

Domestication

Unit 2 – Lesson 2.1 Taming Animals

What is domestication?



- Think of a domestic animal
 - What makes an animal domesticated in your mind?

What is domestication?



Defined:

To bring wild animals under the control of humans over a long period of time for the purpose of providing useful products and services; the process involves careful handling, breeding, and care.

Why domesticate?

- More stable food and clothing supply
- Allows for specialization
- Leads to less nomadic cultures and greater population density
- Allows for selective breeding
 - Early genetic modifications
 - Greater production capabilities lead to surpluses and storage

Six Characteristics of Domesticated Animals

1. Diet
2. Growth Rate
3. Ability to Breed in Captivity
4. Disposition
5. Temperament
6. Social Hierarchy

Characteristics Leading to Domestication

1. Diet

- Must be flexible
- Herbivore or omnivore are more sustainable



Characteristics Leading to Domestication

2. Growth rate

- Reach maturity relatively fast
- Lifespan and reproductive cycle short enough for humans to control breeding.



Characteristics Leading to Domestication

3. Ability to breed in captivity

- Some animals will not breed in captivity



Characteristics Leading to Domestication

4. Disposition

- Calm and moderately predictable
- Not overly aggressive



Characteristics Leading to Domestication

5. Temperament

- Does not panic easily
- Humans can manage flight zone



Characteristics Leading to Domestication

6. Social hierarchy

- Can be modified
- Will accept humans as leader



Domestication Facts

- Some animals can be partially domesticated or raised in captivity.
- If humans cannot control and modify an animal's appearance or behavior, the animal is not fully domesticated.

Domestic or Tame?

- Domestic:
 - Entire species
 - Meets all six domestic characteristics
- Tame:
 - One or a few individuals
 - Offspring still possess traits of wild counterparts



References

- Diamond, J. (1999). *Guns, germs, and steel*. New York, NY: Norton.
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