

# Wild or Tame?

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## Science/Health

Grade 4

### Objective

To understand that pets, unlike wild animals, have lost much of their natural ability to take care of themselves.

### Standards--Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

#### §112.6. Science, Grade 4.

(8) Science concepts. The student knows that adaptations may increase the survival of members of a species. The student is expected to: (A) identify characteristics that allow members within a species to survive and reproduce; (B) compare adaptive characteristics of various species.

### Skill

Students will be able to differentiate between wild and domestic animals and illustrate the different ways their needs are met.

### Materials

photos or drawings of domestic and wild animals

### Activity

Students will choose a companion animal and identify its wild counterpart.

### Helpful Background Information

[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

### Procedure

1. Write the words *wild* and *domestic* on the board. Ask students for a definition of each and have them record the definitions in their science journals. Explain that domestic animals have come to rely on humans to provide for most of their needs and have lost much of their ability to fend for themselves.
2. Show students pictures of various animals from magazines, calendars, books, etc. Ask which animals are wild and which are domestic.
3. Help students name various pets and identify the animals that are their wild counterparts (e.g., dog/wolf, cat/lion, canary/wild bird, horse/zebra, pig/peccary, cow/buffalo).

4. Ask students to draw pictures showing how a wild animal meets one of its basic needs and how that need is met by humans for domestic animals. (Basic needs include shelter, warmth, food, water, and companionship.)



*To view this lesson plan online, go to [www.klrn.org/hand-in-paw](http://www.klrn.org/hand-in-paw)*