

IELTS Speaking topic – Animals and pets

This is a sample response for IELTS Speaking Part 2 and 3. In addition to the model answer there are highlighted words and phrases. **Teal** is for vocabulary relating to this topic, **yellow** is for generally useful words and phrases.

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Describe a situation 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 the 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, that 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 from 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 night time. 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*

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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 exercising, pets like dogs can get ill. Not all owners are aware of this, so through **negligence** they can harm their pet, 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 have 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 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