

Do Animals Like People?

“My unscientific viewpoint of speculated animal preference”

LAND:

- Dogs - certainly, man's companion from antiquity. Maybe not the Dingos in Australia
- Domestic Cats - prefer to be in a warm location, well-fed, and like to be petted. They are really attracted to quick objects (like mice) and catnip.
- Elephants, Indian - man's helpmate in the forest for a long time. At the Monterey Zoo (Wild Things), the large elephant enclosure has all the elephants in one corner where the humans come to visit and talk to them. The keeper says they will remember your voice. They like the water and the mud provided as well as the social aspects of having other elephants around.
- Lions - friendly if they are male or are females under four years old. Females above that age are prone to occasional fits of attack mode. This is hard on keepers who never know when the attack will take place. Humans do not taste good, so they are not wild food in Africa. People with guns are bad.
- Tigers – would rather stay far away from humans. Injured ones sometimes take the easy prey like the local person. In Las Vegas, during Siegfried and Roy's last show, Roy got picked up by a tiger.
- Bears, Black or Brown – garbage dumps are your friend. They will eat almost anything. Humans leave behind easy food everywhere. Occasionally, in the wild, people get attacked by a hungry bear.
- Deer - they think people are wonderful except during hunting season. People get rid of all their predators and plant tasty plants to eat like tall grass, hosta and gardens.
- Orangutans - 2000 years ago, there were 500,000 on Borneo and 5000 humans, now there are 500,000 humans and 5000 orangutans. They are way too strong for a human to control and also exchange diseases with people. They do not like cages. Orangutans do not have a 2000 year old memory and can live around humans quite amicably and can learn as well as a 3 year old child.

WATER:

- Crocodiles, Sharks, and Polar Bears - yum, these have no hesitation about eating humans.
- Tropical Fish – Each one has its own personality and coloration. These are becoming quite rare in the wild. There are many more being fed by humans in their display fish tanks. Better survival rate.
- Sea Lions – they bark and they have teeth. They seem to ignore me in the ocean when I am in a kayak or swimming. They do not like sharks. They seem to like being in shows or an aquarium.
- Dolphins – do they like doing stupid tricks on demand for humans who then give them a fish? It seems easier than foraging through the ocean for something to eat. I think they actually like being actors in a show, but the accommodations seem cramped. Historically, a friend to people.
- Killer Whales – The “Free Willie” movement got one out of a Mexico City show and back to Norway where it lingered close to shore, did tricks for the local boys, and died due to onshore pollution. Another whale decided to get even with the trainers that refused to give fish for the wrong behavior. So what is the answer? Would they like to do shows in a small pool or chase prey in the ocean?

AIR:

- California Condors - humans leave lots of lead shot around and they all got poisoned. At one point, they were all captured to increase their numbers. Captivity raised condors are being released in the wild. I do not know what their feelings really are; after all, they are bird brains.
- Whooping Cranes – the tallest North American bird. They almost became extinct, but human intervention to protect nesting areas and their migration path saved them.
- Bird Pets – parakeets, parrots, macaws, canaries, cockatiels, conures. Live in houses with people, typically have small cages and get fed regularly. Can sing and interact with people; seem to like it.
- Garden Birds – these are for people who put out bird food, then more bird food, then find themselves involved in an aerial war with the expected refuse around the yard. This then attracts mice and other rodents, which then in turn attract snakes and other predators. The ecology then becomes a disaster.
- Passenger Pigeons – a bright orange breasted bird that liked to fly in flocks. Extinct by 1912. Sigh!
- Island and Flightless Birds – “as dead as the dodo bird”. Since 1500, over 190 species of [birds](#) have become [extinct](#), and this rate of extinction seems to be increasing. This is really tragic.