

# Walk the dog!

The European School Project about People and Animals

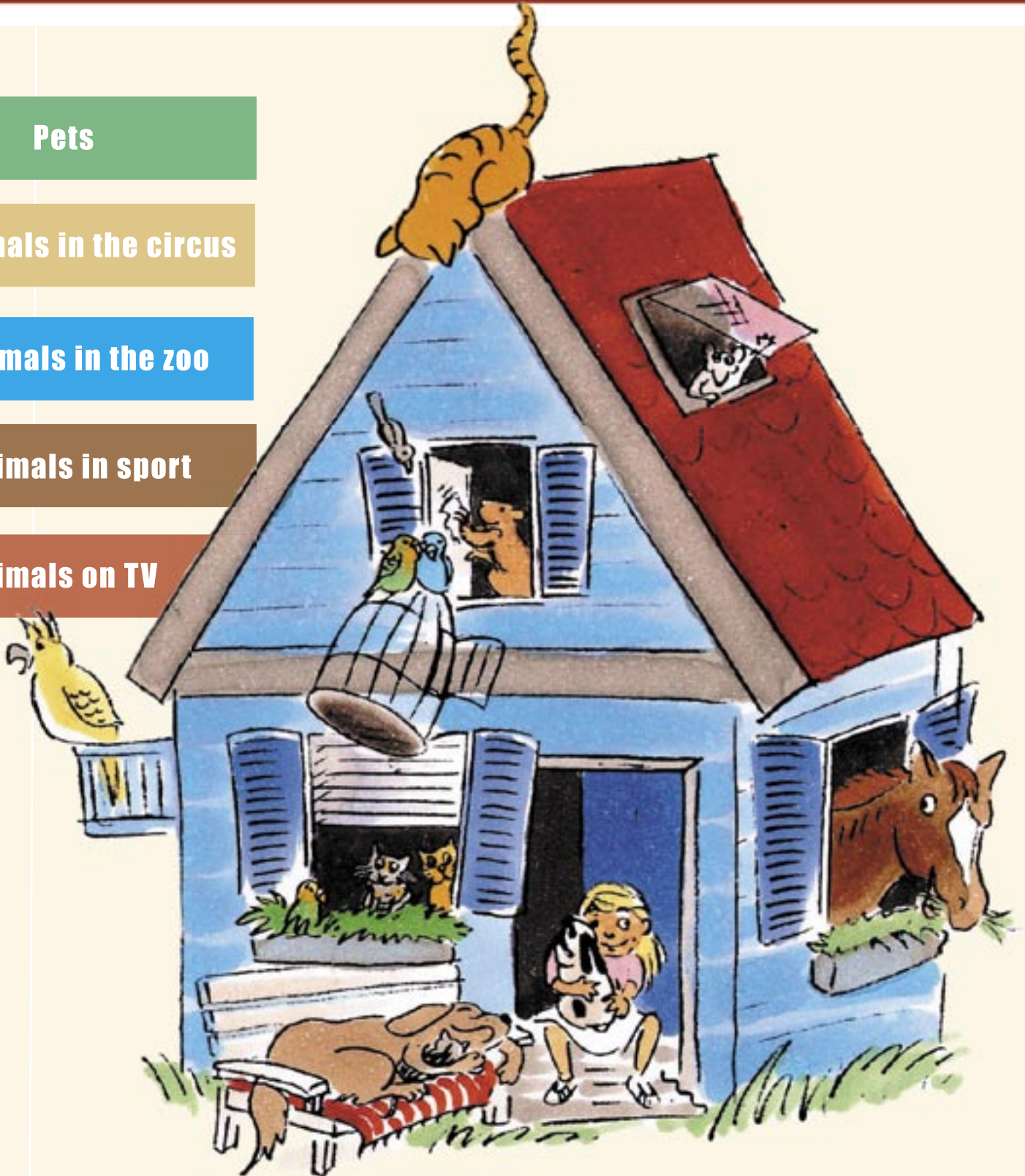
**Pets**

**Animals in the circus**

**Animals in the zoo**

**Animals in sport**

**Animals on TV**



**Student magazine 1**

for pupils from approximately 8 years of age

# People's strange love of animals

Some animals are very close to us,



others are very strange



Some animals we love,



others don't fare so well in our care.



## What's happening on the following pages:

Now it gets beastly

Amazing animals  
*The things animals can do* Page 4

Have you ever seen an animal?  
*...they are often not recognisable as animals* Page 5

This is where all the animals are  
*Where the animals live with people* Page 6

Pets

A house full of animals  
*... they are often turned into real humans* Page 7

"I want a dog!"  
*... but is it possible?* Page 8

The big checklist for pets  
*There is no holiday from the dog* Page 9

Zoo Animals

A fur seal full of gold coins  
*This is what some people do to animals in the zoo* Page 10

A hyena with a ski lift  
*Animals in the zoo* Page 11

Circus Animals

A bear on a bicycle  
*Do animals like circus tricks?* Page 12

On the road with the circus  
*How long do you last on three square meters?* Page 13

Animals in sport

Sporty animals?  
*About anglers and show jumpers* Page 14

The jump over the Eiffel Tower  
*Frequently we demand too much of the animals* Page 15

Animals on TV

Ronny at the edge of the fire!  
*Animals on television* Page 16

„I want a film star like that!“  
*101 abandoned Dalmatians* Page 17

Species protection

Where have all the species gone?  
*Driving animals to extinction, we humans are good at that* Page 18

What to do?

A lot is going wrong here!  
*„Spot the mistake“* Page 19

Don't give up now  
*„What can I do?“* Page 20

### Task:

Can you think of further examples for our "strange relationship" with animals?

# What is it all about?

Dear readers of *Walk the dog!*,

we humans find animals cute, boring, smelly, pretty, fluffy, slippery, fast, smart, flexible and sometimes also awkward. But do we love animals?

“Surely”, a lot of people very quickly answer this question: “We humans love the animals”. If we look a little closer the answer is not quite so straightforward any more. In fact we do have a strange and sometimes even sad relationship to the animals on this planet.

A lot of our domestic animals we do indeed love very much although we don't always treat them very well. Our animal husbandry procedures are often not appropriate for the species, lab animals suffer during experiments, other animals we force to ride a bicycle through the circus, and a lot of others we put in tight cages where they sit around, are bored and often even get sick because of it. Should we do everything we want with animals just because we're stronger? Or should we take responsibility for them and look after their welfare? After all animals are our fellow beings on the earth.

It is worthwhile to think about this strange relationship to animals. Of course you don't have to sit in a boring corner and think.

No! In order for it to be fun to engage with the animals in our country there is *Walk the dog!*

At the latest when your *Walk the dog!*-magazines look as ragged as your favourite book you should have a look at our web page: [www.walk-the-dog.eu](http://www.walk-the-dog.eu).

Lots of fun with *Walk the dog!* wishes you the

Erna-Graff-Foundation for Animal Welfare



Prof. Jörg Luy  
(Chairman of the board)



Lars Röper  
(Chief Executive Officer)



## Task:

What kind of foreword would you have written for this magazine?

# Amazing animals

**Quite clearly: Skaters are tops! Space ships too!  
And dancers, pop stars, holidays and football players! But animals?**



## The magic world of animals

“Clumsy Dachshund”, Paul and Lennard had whispered to each other although the man coming down the street was taking a German Shepherd for a walk. But now the two boys were quite astounded. The man was turning around and indicating to the two to come to him.

“Boys”, he said, “you really should know that animals are just as marvellous as skaters, space ships, rock stars or detectives.” Paul and Lennard were puzzled. “Big load of bull”, they thought, “what can animals do apart from bark or roll around in the mud?”

“Regardless whether they are pigs, chickens, dogs or elephants”, said the man with a low voice, “they all can do terrific things of which we humans can only dream.”

“Termites for example”, said the man, “live in large colonies and build enormous termite mounds which they inhabit.” Again the boys were startled. “The mounds of African termites can reach a width of 25 metres and a height of 7 metres”. Paul and Lennard were rather astonished. But this guy had even better stories.

“There are birds”, he said, “that fly from Canada to South America and back.” Paul and Lennard’s brains were rattling. They were imagining the distance on a map and came to the conclusion that the birds could fly unbelievably far. But the man with the German Shepherd wasn’t finished, yet. “When the birds are back in Canada”, he said, “they land in the same nest that they were living in before the departure”. Paul and Lennard’s jaws were dropping.

“There are fish that send out electrical signals. That’s how they communicate”, said the man. “Wow”, shouted Paul and Lennard, “animals are certainly much more exciting than we thought til now”. The man and his German Shepherd were wearing a broad grin.

**You see: Animals can do just as amazing things as we humans.**

Of course they are not interested in becoming rock stars, doing wild stunts on roller blades or building space stations. Did you know that bees see the world totally different from us through their composite eyes? If we had eyes like that all of a sudden the grass would be red and all the flowers would have patterns. After all there are different ways to see the world.

**Isn’t it terrific that so many animals live on the earth?**

**They all are our fellow beings and we should look after them well.**

*Task:*

Have you ever imagined an earth without animals?

# Have you ever seen an animal?

**In the super market?**



**On the playground?**



**Are you living in the city?**

There it often is not quite so easy to spot animals.  
Certainly! Dogs do run around there, of course there are cats as well,  
grandma may have a budgerigar and dad an aquarium.  
But cows, chickens and pigs? You very rarely see them there.

Often they already look like this.....

or like that.....



and aren't at all recognisable as animals.

**In the EU there are approximately:**

1.6 billion pigs

90 million beef cattle and 24 million dairy cows

There are billions of pets living in Europe, too. Most of them live in Russia (about 37 million)

This is followed by Italy, with approximately 30 million  
and France in third place with 29 million pets.

**Where are all those animals?**

**Tasks:**

You surely spotted the hamburger and the shoe? Do you know of any other products for which animals or parts of animals are being used?

# This is where all the animals are!

So, have your eyes popped yet? You can see there are animals in many living rooms, in aquariums, in research labs, on the horse race track, and of course in nature. Besides animals live in zoos and circuses. Abandoned or found animals are housed in the pounds. Thousands of animals are kept in big barns. From these production animals meat, milk and eggs are derived (see Walk the dog!—magazine 2).

With one of these photos we've cheated a little bit and have put it together from two photos. Which one is it?



## Tasks:

Please consider how the pig might feel in the disco?  
Would it be happy and would it be dancing?

# A house full of animals

**Would you like to live in a house full of animals?**

Of course, who wouldn't want to do that? But there are a lot of things you have to consider if you desire a dog, a cat, a guinea pig or an elephant. But that doesn't mean at all that all these people know what animals like, are allowed, hate and what makes them sick. Dogs, cats, budgerigars, rodents or fish in many cases get the wrong food, are being left alone too often or people dress them up in cloths. This is how owners frequently turn their animals ...

**into real humans!**



**Do you approve of such antics being performed with animals?**

We humans only do that because we want to be entertained by the animals. In a lot of those cases we show no consideration to whether the dogs like to wear silly hats or a scarf.

## Task:

For what reasons do you think humans keep a pet?

# “I want a dog”



## A rainy day!

“I want a dog, I want a dog, I want a dog, I want a dog....” Emma surely had repeated this sentence a few thousand times, and “soon”, she thought, “mum and dad will give in for sure”. She wanted a dog, definitely, a real dog with a fluffy coat, two droopy ears and always full of cheer. A dog, who would greet her after school with a wagging tail and with whom she could romp around the blocks and through the paddocks. “What on earth was it that mum and dad had against it?”, Emma asked herself, “after all they do love animals as well.” And naturally she would take her dog for a walk at least three times every day. “So, where is the problem?” she asked herself and went over to her parents to say her new favourite sentence: “I want a dog, I want a dog, I want a dog....” Dad put his index finger on her lips and made a long “Shhhhhht!”. Emma was silent. Dad lifted his finger and pointed out the window. “Now it would be high time”, said dad, “to take your dog for a walk.” Emma looked out of the window. She swallowed. The rain was drumming against the glass pane. Apart from that the title song of her favourite program sounded from the TV-set.

Emma desires a dog “sooooo much”. Many of you certainly feel exactly the same way. Maybe it’s not a dog, but you would like a cat, a hamster, a budgerigar, a parrot or an elephant. After all you can desire anything that comes into your head. But sometimes it is for the best if the desire stays just that. Because having an elephant at home surely wouldn’t work, would it? And even with those other animals you have to consider very carefully whether you have enough time and enthusiasm to look after them properly. The most important thing is that you get all the information about what’s good for the animals, what they like, what they dislike, what they need and what they are not allowed!

On the next page you’ll find a pet checklist with detailed information.

## Tasks:

Think of a role-play: You own a pet shop.

A woman comes in and wants to buy an animal. What’s your advice to her?

# The big checklist for pets

**Guinea pigs** love to nibble on electrical wiring! So, don't let them run around the house by themselves, otherwise.... Guinea pigs are very social animals. Therefore you should never keep just a single animal, otherwise they get very lonely. Naturally two animals also create twice the work! And the cage should be cleaned thoroughly at least twice a week. Otherwise the animals will become sick and unhappy. Did you know that guinea pigs often die of obesity because they are fed too many sweets?

**Holidays from the dog?** That does not happen! Dogs are pack animals. And your family is his pack. Therefore he always wants to be with you. That brown smelly stuff that comes from the rear end of the dog when you take him for a walk, you have to pick it up every day and dispose of it in the rubbish bin. Dogs want to go for a long walk at least twice a day and on top of that go for several small runs. Then you have to take the dog out, regardless of what the weather is like. Do you remember the story about Emma?



Oh no, soooo embarrassing



**Budgerigars** create a lot of dirt. The fact that they're only happy if they can snuggle up to a partner means: Two birds – twice the dirt! They love to fly. Not that unusual for birds, you'd think. But you should also consider that budgerigars should really be zipping around the apartment a couple of times a day. You should keep a close eye on them while they do that.

**Tomcats think it's great** to spray with urine. And all cats love to sharpen their claws on pillows or carpets. Your belongings can suffer greatly from this. Frequent loneliness makes cats sick and unhappy. The litter box needs to be cleaned at least once a day. The animals do not wear a watch but still want to be fed at the same time every day. You can never be real close mates with a cat. That is to say that these animals have their own head.

As you can imagine for pets, regardless whether they are hamsters, dwarf rabbits, chinchillas or rats, also have their own heads and their very own requirements. You can also make pet checklists for these animals.

**Because the most important thing is:  
Become aware and think about it before you buy yourself an animal!**

## Task:

Does anyone of you have a pet? Please describe its daily schedule and its preferences.

# A fur seal full of gold coins



Just imagine, you are having a break. You've made yourself comfortable in an armchair or you are lounging about on your bed. Every couple of minutes or even seconds someone appears at your open window, waves, yells something at you, pokes their tongue out or throws coins rocks, shoes, branches, or food at you.

Many people do such things with animals in zoos.

They go to the zoo to be entertained by the animals. They stand in front of the cages and fool around in order to make the animals do funny, wild or exciting things. Frequently this kind of behaviour is quite annoying for the animals.

After all they don't want to perform as clowns for the humans all the time.

572 coins were found in a Californian fur seal after its death, people had thrown them into the animal's mouth. If someone would throw coins or rocks into your mouth while you were yawning that would be rather wicked, wouldn't it?



Again and again animals like this hippopotamus die in zoos from swallowing things that visitors throw in front of their noses or trunks. Frequently animals in zoos become weird and act strangely because of all the fooling around of and the pestering by the humans. Sometimes they get very aggressive, mate all the time or hide away timidly. A lot of people find this kind of behaviour of the animals particularly funny and really get stuck into the yelling, pestering and throwing. This goes on and on. A truly vicious cycle.

# A hyena with a ski lift

**“Phoah, I’m so bored!”**

Paul is a hyena. He has lived his entire life in the zoo. By now Paul knows that the humans don’t think of hyenas as particularly special. For a long time he has watched the humans. They much rather stand in front of the enclosure of Manuel, the elephant, or the terrarium of Karl, the old crocodile. Paul is bored pretty much the whole day. But he doesn’t envy Karl or Manuel either. At their places there are always people standing around, waving at them, fooling around or even throw rocks, branches, vegetables or coins at them. One day, out of extreme boredom, Paul has started to bite himself. A bit at first, and when that became too boring harder and harder until there was some real bleeding. The zoo director must have realised at some stage that Paul is biting himself bloody out of boredom. Then he bought a ski lift for Paul. Paul was pretty astounded. After all he didn’t know the first thing about skiing, and there wasn’t any snow and not enough room either.

Paul’s keeper Rudi put up the ski lift and attached Paul’s lunch to it – a thick piece of meat. Pretty strange, thought Paul. But when Rudi turned on the ski lift and Paul’s lunch all of a sudden started zipping around the enclosure Paul was excited. Now he could properly hunt after his lunch. And Paul wasn’t quite so bored anymore.



**Can you imagine that animals in zoos are sometimes really bored to death? What should they do anyway? Someone brings them their food so they don’t have to hunt for it. And often they don’t have friends to play with either.**

Sometimes the animals in the zoo become really sick because there is absolutely nothing to do for them. And there is not a lot of room either. So they run through their enclosures or cages all day, always the same route. No wonder that they become quite weird that way.

**Why don’t you run around in a circle for an hour...**

**How do you feel?**



But more and more zoo directors are starting to use their imagination in order to better occupy the animals. You have read the story of Paul the hyena. A zoo director in Denmark came up with the idea of the ski lift. Maybe you could pay attention in your favourite zoo as to what the animals are doing there all day!

## Task:

Paul, Karl and Manuel from the story above would like to write a letter to the humans. Could you word this letter for them?

# A bear on a bicycle



Have you ever been to a circus with your parents or your friends? If so, you might have even seen a bear that was riding on a bicycle? An elephant that was dancing salsa or a sea lion who was snogging the spectators? It really looks funny when animals do such things, doesn't it? Do you think the animals have fun doing it?

No question about it: circuses are a fantastic thing. The acrobats and clowns are unbeatable. However, animals need to be trained for a very long time by their handlers before they can do something like dancing or cycling. They definitely don't do such things out of their own free will. Why would they? After all they are not humans!

All too often the circus trainers beat the animals or use fear to make them do their bidding. Of course you don't see any of that in the arena because the spectators wouldn't like that at all. But even if the handlers train the lions and bears with love and teach them all those tricks in a gentle way a lot of the time the animals still don't like to perform them. Animals can naturally do enough fantastic things about which we humans can marvel. Do you recall the story from page 4?



## Lisa and the bear

"Do you like to ride a bicycle?" Lisa asked the circus bear who was constantly pacing up and down in his cage.

"Pah", grunted the bear, stopped for a second and shot Lisa a short glance: "Do you like to run through the prickly and spiky undergrowth on all fours?" Lisa understood what the bear meant. Of course she didn't like doing that because her hands and feet would hurt a lot. The bear seemed to realise what Lisa was thinking. "Exactly", he said, "and that's what is happening to me when I ride the bicycle through the arena. Afterwards all my bones hurt because I'm not made for riding a bicycle."

Why does the bear look so sad?

Well, he's missing his wilderness. It's quite clear, isn't it? How would you like to be in the clink, innocent?

## Tasks:

What might a locked up bear dream at night?

What does a bear dream in the wilderness?

What would those two bears talk about if they met each other?

# On the road with the circus

A circus moves from city to city. That's why the cages of the animals have to be small and easy to transport. In particular the large wild animals like lions, primates or bears more often than not have far too little room. Frequently they get very sad or even become sick while sitting in their small cages or running around in circles again and again. It's the hope of many animal welfare supporters that the governments will soon prevent the circuses from keeping such animals.

A bear quite often has only twelve square meters of room in his cage. If you calculate that a human because of his much smaller size would only get three square meters, that would be mighty tight for you.

**You wouldn't last very long on so few square meters, would you?**



**Where else should we be watching these fantastic wild animals?**

**The good bit is:** There are so many documentaries about animals on television. There you can see how the bears, lions and apes live in the wilderness. Isn't that a lot more exciting than a bear on a bicycle? After all, riding a bicycle you can do yourself.

But do you know what a bear gets up to in the forests of Canada or a polar bear at the North Pole? Now, that's where it really gets exciting!

## Task:

Why don't you take some chalk and draw an area of three meters square on the floor of your classroom?  
Who would like to spend an hour in it?

# Sporty animals?



Sure, most animals are extremely sporty. They can jump higher than us humans, run faster, spit further or have one whole Horse Power. We utilise many of these attributes when we organise horse or dog races or let animals perform tricks.

Likewise hunting and fishing are seen as sports. In this the animals fare the worst if the hunters or anglers get them: The animals die in these sports.

In Spain bull fighting (photo below right) is popular during which spikes with barbs and little flags are jabbed into the neck of the bull. Most of the time the bulls die in this 'sport'.

In South America and Asia dog and cock fights are quite popular. In these people let animals fight each other until one of the two animals is dead or severely injured.

The animals don't always fare as bad as with hunting, fishing, bull fighting or during dog or cock fights. But even for show jumping and for the horse and dog races the animals quite often have to train too hard!



## Tasks:

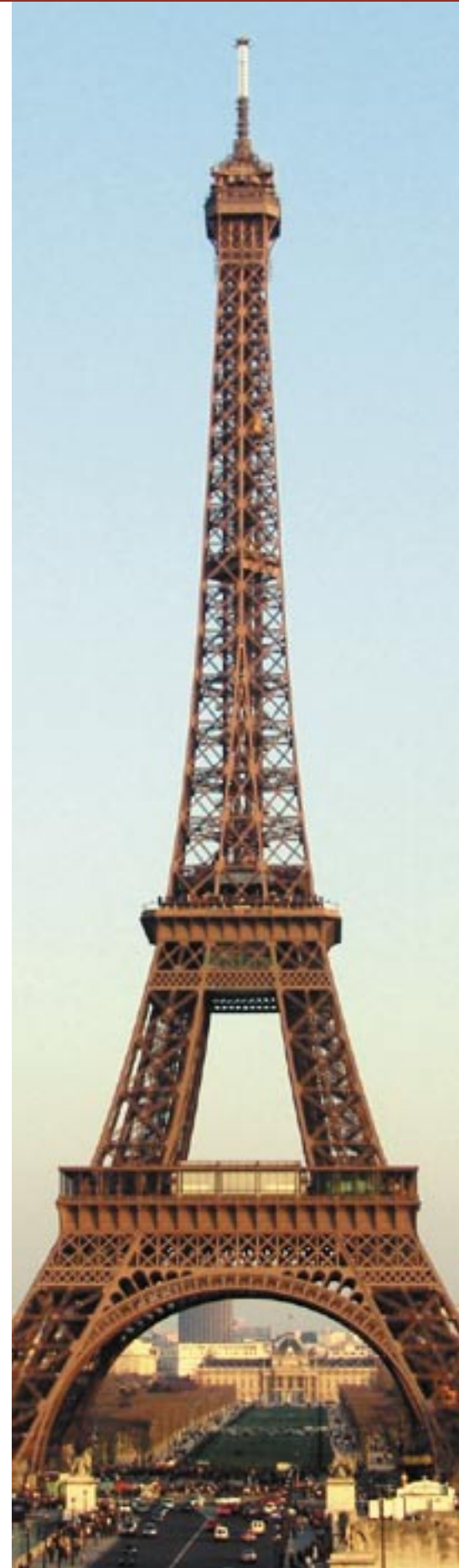
Which types of sport with animals do you know?  
How do the animals fare in these?

# The jump over the Eiffel Tower

**Sports like show jumping** or dressage could be fun for animals and humans. But sadly humans sometimes become brutal when the achievement of records is at stake. Then they abuse the animals to make them jump even higher, run even faster or do even weirder contortions during a dressage display. Most riders are certainly nice to their horses. But some show jumpers obviously think it would be great if their horses could manage to jump over the Eiffel Tower (photo right). Then all the gold medals and a great deal of money would be their's for sure.

**You have to look really carefully at hunting:** Hunters like to think of themselves as the ones that care for the animals in the forests. Sure, sometimes there is no other way than to kill an animal. If there really are too many animals of a certain species living in a forest. Or if an animal is severely sick. Then it is best to end its suffering. But then there are hunters who don't take all of this so seriously. They walk into the forest with their gun, set brutal traps and feel like heroes when they kill an animal. In spite of this you have to carefully inform yourself before you criticise a hunter: Because like everywhere there are good ones and evil ones.

**The meanest thing** that humans can do with animals certainly is to let them fight against each other. During dog or cock fights many people stand around in a circle and two animals are biting or hacking into each other until one of them usually ends up dead on the ground. In Asia and South America these fights have a long tradition but even in Germany they sometimes are held in secret.



## Fighting animals

“Are there really people that find joy in animals tearing or hacking each other to pieces?” Jacob asked his father. “There are people who find that fantastic”, his father answered. “Why is that?”, asked Jacob. “I believe it makes them feel very strong”, sounded the answer of Jacob's dad. “So, are these people weak?”, asked Jacob who wanted to know even more specific.

His father looked stern. “Maybe”, he said “I for my part believe that you have to be a rather spineless weakling if you feel the need to watch something as ghastly as animal fights.”

## Tasks:

Only a foolish saying by George Bernhard Shaw (author)?:

”When a man wants to murder a tiger, it's called sport; when the tiger wants to murder him, it's called ferocity!”

# A beastly program

Well, isn't that a rather beastly TV program?

There is almost nothing, other than maybe football or romantic movies that people would rather watch than animal programs.



Inspector Rex who loves nothing more than a good gangster chase is certainly a big star amongst the animals. The German Shepherd has really become a household name. Another “movie star” amongst the animals is “Our Charly”. Chimpanzees in kids’ cloths surely are really cute but the little monkey probably would much rather be with his mother and the rest of the monkey gang than wear bib pants in front of the camera.

The animals always require a lot of training in order for them to perform at the shoot just like the camera man and actor want them to. Animals are in fact not that keen to be on TV. Unlike a lot of humans! Some animal trainers like Ronny’s from the story below sometimes expect too much from their pupil. If the animal then ends up not doing what it is supposed to there might be the odd hit with a whip, an electric shock or it gets put into the cage without dinner.

Ronny at the edge of the fire!

Ronny didn't have a clue what those funny people with the cameras wanted from him. After all he was a monkey. “And monkeys have the right to check themselves for lice all day, play wildly with their mates and peel heaps of bananas.” But now something weird had happened. All of a sudden the humans wanted him to run past a burning car. Never would he do that, he was certain of that. After all instinctively he had the utmost fear of fire. “Never, never”, said Ronny to himself again. But then it all turned out quite differently: When the humans realised that Ronny wasn't going to run around the fire this close they called for a small man with a moustache. The man looked surly at Ronny. Somehow Ronny had the feeling that the tiny man would force him to go around the fire.

## Task:

Ronny from the story above doesn't speak our language.

Could you maybe speak for him and explain why he does not like to run around the fire?

# “I want a film star like that!”



Thousands of animal owners would love their dog, cat or bird to become a super star like Inspector Rex, Charly or Donald Duck.

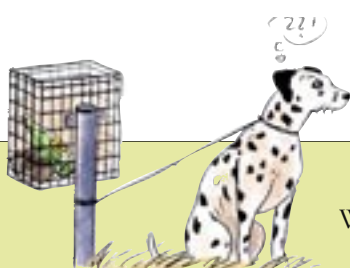
After all the animal wouldn't just be on TV all the time and they could be really proud but also the money would be rolling in big time: The German Shepherds who play Inspector Rex are so famous by now that the film studio pays a huge amount of money for every episode of the series. That sometimes gives people silly ideas and they force their animals to learn a trick.

**When an animal becomes a star many people shout:  
“I want an animal like that!”**

Notorious examples for this are the Harry Potter movies? Have you seen them? After “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” started in the movie theatres in England all of a sudden loads of kids wanted nothing more than an owl for a pet. One just like Hedwig, Harry’s mail owl! However, owls suffer greatly in captivity and frequently panic when they are locked up. Apart from that these wild animals aren’t bred for the purpose but captured in the forest and sold.



Another example is Dalmatian dogs. They became incredibly popular after the Walt Disney movie “101 Dalmatians” showed at the theatres. Lots of people suddenly wanted a Dalmatian. Many breeders reacted quickly and bred a lot of Dalmatians. The people bought and bought. Only a few months later the police found a large number of abandoned Dalmatians at motorway service stations and in parks. Sadly, people are often like this: First they are enthusiastic about an animal and buy one. Then it becomes boring or creates too much work, so they leave the animal somewhere and abandon it.



### Task:

Would you like to copy the Dalmatian on the left and write or draw into the speech balloon what he might be thinking right now?

# Where have all the species gone?



It really is hard to believe how many different species have already lived on this earth. The scientists estimate it to be 500 million. “Wow”, one could shout. But the vast majority of these species only ever lived for a couple of thousand years and then vanished. It really is quite a natural thing. Sometimes the conditions change for the animals. Severe changes in the climate like ice ages or heat periods occur, or catastrophic events like earthquakes or volcanic eruptions destroy the environment and exterminate species in this way.

## But the best at wiping out species are the humans:

Humans have driven about 400 species to extinction over the last 300 years. That’s more than one species per year.

## Why are so many animals exterminated?

We have cut down their forests, hunted them until they were all dead or poisoned their water with chemicals from our factories. Now we can admire animals like the Carolina parakeet or the Tasmanian Tiger only in museums. And by now the orang-utan has also become very rare in the wilderness.

## Are these all the reasons why species die out? No, not at all! Other reasons are:

### The desire for killing

There are people that hunt and kill animals just for fun. They don’t care whether the species is nearly extinct or not. Examples for threatened species like that are the Grizzly bears or the Siberian tigers.

### The trade with exotic animals

More and more people don’t want a dog or a cat as a pet but a totally unusual animal. A swamp turtle, a sea horse or even a monkey. The trade with these animals is actually illegal here. But people often buy these animals secretly. However, they don’t belong here, suffer frequently in small cages and have become quite rare on our earth.



### Tasks:

Make a list: What are the reasons for buying an exotic animal?  
What arguments are against it?

# A lot is going wrong here!

Have a very close look at this picture. Could you find out in which situations the humans aren't treating the animals in a way that would be good for them? You can read the answers if you do a headstand! Those who turn the magazine around early are smart cookies but of course also bad sports!

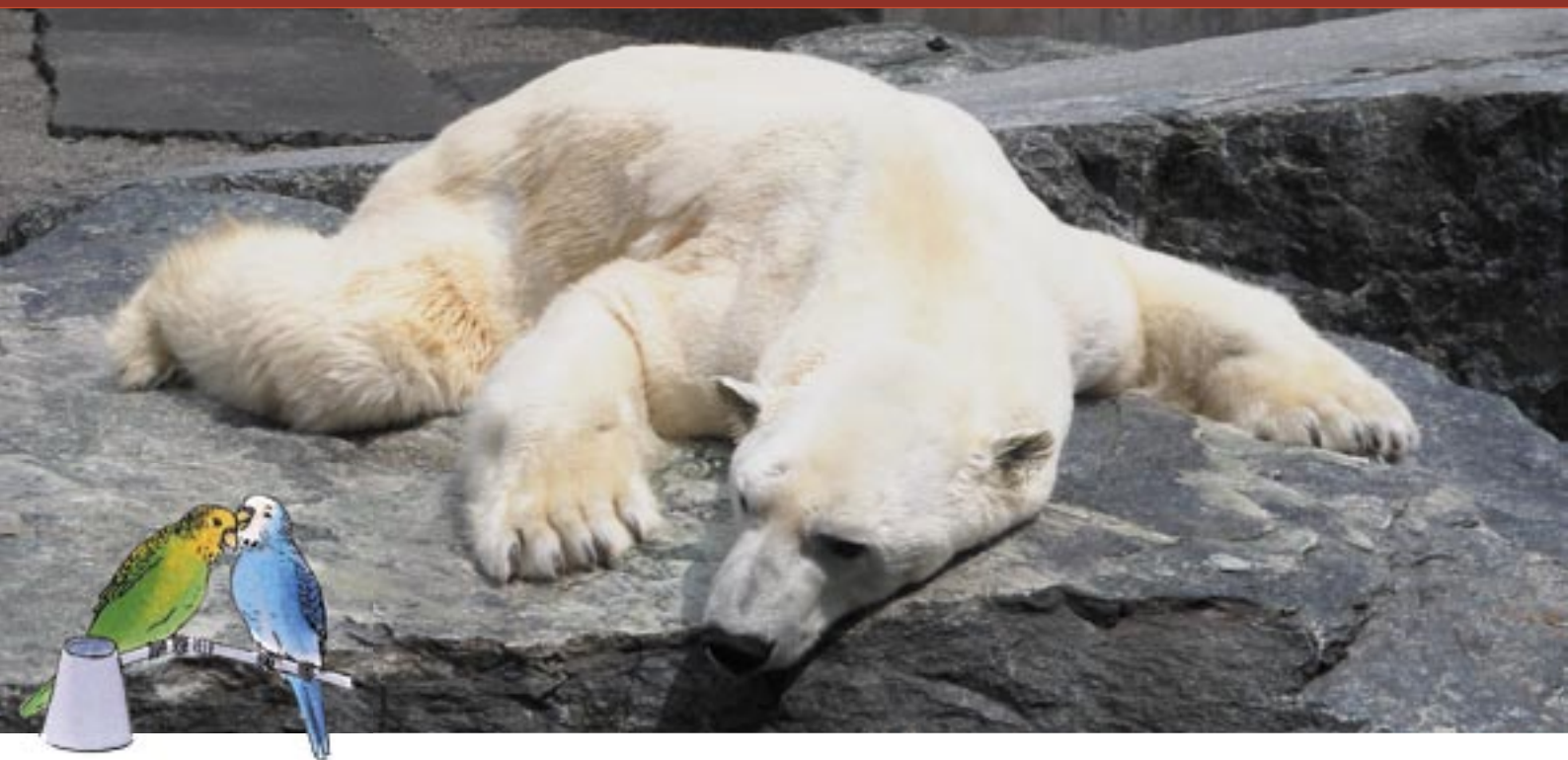
Have fun!



The solution:

1. The circus bear on the poster really does not look happy as he is skating around.
  2. A rabbit doesn't belong on the window-sill. That's way too dangerous.
  3. A budgerigar alone in his cage gets very unhappy and lonely.
  4. To hassle a tied up dog that is mean.
  5. To simply let one's dog do its business on the footpath is not the done thing.
  6. To take photos of a dressed up dog is certainly no fun for the animal.
  7. To romp through the city with your dog without a leash is dangerous.
- Why cheap bread rolls and a hairdresser have something to do with animals you will find out in the second magazine of our *Walk the dog!* series. Although you can start thinking about where the eggs for the bread and cake dough are coming from and what sham-poo and make-up have to do with animals. Here's a hint: These substances have been tested for years before they can be sold.

# Don't give up now!



**Surely you know the feeling:** You've learnt a lot of new things and now you really want to have a go at making the world a better place. Than you think about it and consider it, and to be honest you don't really know what to do.


But don't worry, there are a few things to pay attention to with regards to animal welfare. The best thing is: Tell everybody what you've learnt about animals. Maybe you can do a presentation to your class, report about it at diner or explain to your friends how the animals fare with us. If friends of yours would like to buy themselves a pet show them the pet checklist and tell them that there are a lot of things to consider when you decide on an animal. Take note of the facial expressions of the animals in the zoo, in the circus or on television, maybe you can figure out how they feel. Tell your friends to also have a close look. There is nothing wrong with everyone knowing that animals are fascinating fellow beings. After all there are still people who don't know that.

**Have lots of fun doing that!**



The European School Project about People and Animals

*Walk the dog! is a project of the:*

Erna-Graff-Stiftung  Berlin

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