**“Born Free In the USA: Exotic Animals as Pets”**

 On August 28, 1999, in Centralia, IL, a 3 year old boy was strangled by the family’s pet python. This led to the 3 year old boy’s death. It’s just very sad how the boy was given life and then after 3 years, he was dead, just because of the pet python his family owns. Exotic animals should not be kept as pets, humans can get hurt and sick from the animals, and, exotic animals need a lot of difficult cares. Lastly, having exotic animals as pets is very bad for the animals’ well-being.

 One reason exotic animals should not be kept as pets is because you can get hurt and sick. These exotic animals are very dangerous, especially to human beings. For example, you can get hurt because exotic animals can bite, scratch, and attack humans. In the article, “The Dangers of Keeping Exotic Pets” it says, “children and adults have been mauled by tigers, bitten by monkeys, and asphyxiated (suffocated) by snakes.” This shows how dangerous any exotic animals kept as pets can be. Another example is that you can get sick because exotic animals are wild and they can bring diseases that are dangerous and fatal to humans. In the article, “Exotic Pets” it stated that, “diseases include rabies, distemper, herpes, viruses, salmonella…and bubonic plague.” This shows a lot of the diseases that the exotic animals may have on them.

 Another reason exotic animals should not be kept as pets is because exotic animals need a lot of difficult care. One example is that some people can’t afford exotic animals’ needs because the exotic animals need a big amount of space and need foods that owners might not be able to afford. Most people cannot meet the needs of those exotic animals. The second example of why exotic animals need a lot of difficult cares is because some exotic animals need a lot of attention from their owners. Exotic animals, such as skunks, pigs, hedgehogs, and macaws need a lot of attention from their owners. They usually get attention by screaming and doing bad stuff that would alert their owners and so their owners’ attention will turn to them.

 The last reason exotic animals should not be kept as pets is because having exotic animals as pets can be bad for the animals’ well-being. Keeping wild animals as pets is already very cruel and should be the last thing a human does. An example is that when exotic animals are taken away from the wild for pets, they might be carried away from their families and friends. That’s really sad and the animals would be depressed. Because look at it in this way, how would you feel if someone took away you from all your families and friends and dropped you into a place you’ve completely never seen before? I think you might feel mad, lonely, sad, depressed, and miserable, right? Do you think the exotic animals might feel that same way also? The answer is yes. Another example is that when the exotic animals don’t obey their owners for some reason, the animals might get hurt. Humans treat the exotic animals unfairly and have more control over the animals. In the article, “What’s Wrong with Having Exotic Pets as Pets?” it said that, “sometimes the owner of the exotic pets get the pets’ nails/claws cut because of avoiding injury or harm to the character…the animals may be caged, chained, or even beaten into submission.” This is very horrible to the animals and again, treated unfairly.

 Some might think that exotic animals should be kept as pets. This is because humans may think that exotic pets are very interesting, special, cute, and unique to have than just some domesticated pets, where plenty of people have them. However, you should consider about the future more because when exotic pets grow older, you might not think of them as interesting, cute, special, and unique anymore as they were young. You might see that the exotic pets are more dangerous. You can also see that your budget is getting lower because you’re spending a lot of money on the exotic pets than just any regular domesticated pets. The exotic pets need more food, larger homes, and more care for when they’re older. Some exotic animals, such as a tiger may need somewhere about $6,000 for it to be kept in captivity, also, a mountain lion may need 8-10 pounds of meat per day, which is costs a lot of money. The point is when you first got the exotic animals; you just don’t know what the causes and effects that the exotic animals would make.

 In conclusion, if you are someone that loves and cares about animals, then it’s important to not keep exotic animals as pets anymore. If you really want a pet at home, then the answer to that should not be exotic pets. In fact, the answer should be domesticated pets. Domesticated animals are so much more capable for being pets. So it’s much better and safer to have domesticated animals as pets than exotic animals. Exotic animals should be kept as pets because you might get hurt and sick. Also, exotic animals need a lot of difficult cares and; having exotic pets can be bad for the animals’ well-being.

**Sources:**

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