



Human-Animal Bond

Craft for All Ages

Activity Description: Learn about the human-animal bond and then create a collage poster to represent what the human-animal bond means to you.

Understanding the Human-Animal Bond

The *human-animal bond* is a positive relationship between people and animals, where both benefit in terms of their health and well-being. Not every instance when a person and an animal are together represents the human-animal bond. For example, when watching animals used in entertainment or taking a picture with a tiger cub, the person might look happy, but these attractions usually do not meet the needs of the animals, and the person and the animal do not really know each other. The human-animal bond is about a person and animal developing a real connection, the person understanding what is best for that animal, caring for him/her, and in return benefiting from the shared companionship.

Watch at least 3 of the following videos to see examples of the human-animal bond. The animals featured in the videos are either animals who are living in their natural habitat who approached a person (the person did not feed or coax the animal to come to them) or animals who were rescued (meaning that the animal was in need of help). It is important to remember that generally, wild animals should be watched and appreciated from a distance for our own safety and to respect their needs and space.

- Deacon and Pumpkin (friendship with a pony), [youtube.com/watch?v=qcBeQF6zB9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcBeQF6zB9I)
- Dominic and Maria (friendship with a goose in the park), [youtube.com/watch?v=0czs_OtqrLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0czs_OtqrLA)
- Miley, Gizmo, and Bentley (friendship with two pigs), [youtube.com/watch?v=hSOI8UPDbSk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSOI8UPDbSk)
- Sarper and family (friendship with cats), [youtube.com/watch?v=D-u-bt9MSI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-u-bt9MSI4)
- Cynthia and Miu (friendship with a rescued pigeon), [youtube.com/watch?v=aZoWg3leD4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZoWg3leD4A)
- Toby and Carter (friendship with a rescued dog), [youtube.com/watch?v=mDo567CHLMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDo567CHLMg)
- Ya Zhi Yung and Cookie (friendship with a rescued cockatoo), [youtube.com/watch?v=llas4eke7Pc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llas4eke7Pc)

After watching the videos, answer these follow-up questions:

1. How would you describe the human-animal bond (the relationship between people and animals)?

2. Choose one of the videos you watched and describe the relationship between animals and people. How do they feel about each other? How did the person benefit? How did the animal(s) benefit?

Making Your Collage

A collage is a piece of art made up of photos, pictures, drawings, words, short phrases, and symbols on a poster board. The images and text on the collage all come together to tell a story and share information in a beautiful and fun way.

Gather images and words (e.g., printed, cut out from old magazines, found online, or hand-drawn and written) that show and describe and represent the human-animal bond; the ways that people and animals positively interact with each other and benefit from each other. These can include images of you, your friends, or your family with the animals in your lives.

Make your collage and share it with your friends or family! (You can share with your friends by taking a picture of it and texting it to them or showing it on social media.)

