



Animal Stereotypes

Identify animal stereotypes and the impacts they may have.

Description: You will explore animal stereotypes and the impacts they may have on the animal's survival.

Location: Exhibit of your choice.

Materials: pencil, a clipboard or writing surface.

Activity: A stereotype is a specific image or conception associated with members of the same group. For example, soccer moms have been stereotyped as driving minivans. Writing in complete sentences, answer the questions below.

1. Choose one type of animal at the Zoo to focus on for this activity:

Type of animal: _____

Location at Zoo: _____

2. List six words that immediately come to mind when you think of this animal.

3. Are the words you wrote above mostly positive or negative? Why do you think you have that perception?

4. Does the animal's signage information and exhibit support any stereotypes (positive or negative)? Why do you think that is?

5. What are some examples from stories or history that portray this animal in a stereotypical way? Which stereotypes were reinforced?



6. Many of the animals at the Zoo are threatened or endangered species, meaning their survival is in some danger of extinction. How do you think stereotypes have played a role in this animal's status? (Look on the signage to find out if the animal's status is endangered, threatened, etc.).
7. Write a short essay on any stereotypes placed upon the animal you chose and why it might be important to maintain or change them.

