

UNIT III - ANIMALS IN SOCIETY

Lesson 3: Selecting an Animal

Competency/Objective: Identify factors in selecting an animal.

Study Questions

1. **What facilities and resources are needed to raise animals?**
2. **What factors should be considered in selecting a pet?**
3. **What are the sources of pets?**
4. **What factors should be considered in selecting a livestock and fish species?**
5. **What are the sources of livestock and fish?**

References

1. *Exploring Agriculture in America* (Student Reference). University of Missouri-Columbia: Instructional Materials Laboratory, 2000, Unit III.
2. Transparency Master
TM 3.1 Pet Concerns
3. Activity Sheets
AS 3.1 Animal Budget – Can You Afford a Pet?
AS 3.2 Pet Sources
AS 3.3 Livestock Concerns

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TEACHING PROCEDURES

A. **Review**

Lesson 2 discussed various responsibilities of owning animals, addressed issues concerning animal welfare, and illustrated animal control regulations. This lesson discusses components in selecting animals such as purpose, costs, facilities and resources, selection criteria, and sources of animals.

B. **Motivation**

List on the board several different types of animals. These should include common pets, farm animals, and exotic animals. Have students provide positive and negative aspects that each animal might present. Explain to students that in this unit they will learn factors to consider when selecting animals.

C. **Assignment**

D. **Supervised Study**

E. **Discussion**

Q1. **What facilities and resources are needed to raise animals?**

A1. **These facilities and resources are needed.**

- a) **Food and water supply**
- b) **Shelter**
- c) **Cleaning supplies**
- d) **Bathing and grooming supplies or equipment**
- e) **Exercise and recreation equipment**
- f) **Medical equipment and supplies**
- g) **Start-up and maintenance costs**

Discuss the costs involved and the resources needed to raise animals, then have students complete AS 3.1.

Q2. **What factors should be considered when selecting a pet?**

A2.

- a) **Purpose**
- b) **Cost**
- c) **Maintenance**
- d) **Space**
- e) **Time**

Use TM 3.1 to help describe the considerations involved in the selection of a pet.

Q3. **What are the sources of pets?**

A3.

- a) **Animal shelters**
- b) **Seedstock producers**

- c) **Newspaper advertising**
- d) **Pet stores**

Discuss sources where people can purchase or receive pets for free. Use AS 3.2 to have students investigate the advantages and disadvantages of each source.

Q4. What factors should be considered when selecting a livestock and fish species?

A4.

- a) **Owner's goals**
- b) **Money**
- c) **Space**
- d) **Time**

Discuss the considerations of each factor and how it varies between livestock species. Have the students complete AS 3.3 to better illustrate factors that affect the type of livestock people choose to raise.

Q5. What are the sources of livestock and fish?

A5.

- a) **Seedstock producers**
- b) **Sale barns**
- c) **Commercial feeders**
- d) **Independent advertisers**
- e) **Fish hatcheries**

Discuss the sources of livestock and emphasize that the source of purchase is largely affected by the purpose of the animal.

F. *Other Activities*

1. Have a local pet store owner speak to the class about different types of pets.
2. Visit a local livestock or small animal breeder to learn about the operation and facilities, or invite that person to speak to the class regarding the resources needed to raise a specific animal.
3. Have students create a poster or collage showing an animal of their choice and the equipment and resources needed to raise it properly.

G. *Conclusion*

Livestock and pets require money, time, and a multitude of resources for proper maintenance. The consumer should think carefully about time, equipment, space, and money concerns when selecting an animal that best fits those resources. Pets can be obtained from a variety of sources, such as animal shelters, seedstock producers, or from advertisements in the newspaper. Selecting livestock entails identifying one's goals and assessing how much money, space, and time can be devoted to the species. Livestock can be obtained from seedstock producers, sale barns, and commercial feeders, as well as independent advertisers.

H. *Answers to Activity Sheets*

AS 3.1 Animal Budget – Can You Afford a Pet?

Answers will vary.

AS 3.2 Pet Sources

Suggested answers are as follows:

| Source | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Animal Shelter | Pets are free or low cost. Adoption for displaced pets | Pet history is unknown. |
| Breeders | Registered, purebred pets Health regimen is followed. | Can be expensive |
| Pet Stores | History is known. Can purchase supplies Can find exotic/rare breeds | Can be expensive |
| Newspaper Ads | Pets are free or low cost. | Pet may not be registered. |

AS 3.3 Livestock Concerns

Answers will vary.

I. **Evaluation**

A unit test is provided at the end of this unit. If a lesson quiz is needed, use questions pertaining to this lesson from the unit test.

Pet Concerns

What Do You Want from a Pet?

Do you like exotic pets?

Do you like affectionate pets?

Do you want a low- or a high-maintenance pet?

What Is Your Budget?

How much does the pet cost?

How much are food & other ongoing supplies?

Can you afford to maintain the pet?

Where Do You Live?

Are pets allowed?

Will the pet be inside or outside?

How much space is available for the pet?

How Much Time Can You Spend?

Will the pet need to be exercised?

Does the pet & the cage require cleaning & upkeep?

Does the pet require a great deal of attention?

Which Type of Pet Is Best for You?

Pet Sources

Objective: Students will investigate sources for obtaining a pet and determine the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Directions: Use various resources (interviews, Internet, reference books, etc.) to determine the advantages and disadvantages of each source for obtaining a pet. Put the information in the chart below.

| Source | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Animal Shelter | | |
| Breeders | | |
| Pet Stores | | |
| Newspaper Ads | | |

Lesson 3: Selecting an Animal

Name _____

Animal Budget - Can You Afford a Pet?

Objective: Students will determine a budget for a pet.

Directions: Complete the following budget for the animal of your choice.

Animal _____

| | START-UP COSTS (\$) |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Purchase price | |
| Registration | |
| Neutering | |
| Vaccinations | |
| House/shelter | |
| Lot/pasture | |
| Equipment | |
| Toys/leash | |
| Bath supplies | |
| 1 bag of food | |
| Vitamins | |
| Dishes | |
| Fencing | |
| Other | |
| TOTAL | |

Ongoing Expenses:

Bag food \$ ____ x ____ bags/month x 12 months/year = A. _____

Monthly Cleaning \$ ____ x 12 months/year = E. _____

Supplements \$ ____ x ____ /month x 12 months/year = B. _____

Monthly lot rent \$ ____ x 12 months/year = F. _____

Registration Fees or Annual Dues C. _____

Other H. _____

Yearly Vaccination/ Veterinarian Fees D. _____

Total Yearly Maintenance: _____

Lesson 3: Selecting an Animal

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Livestock Concerns

Objective: Students will select livestock to raise, explain why this animal was chosen, and describe what the animal will need.

Directions: Assume that you have a choice between raising beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, poultry, swine, bison, bees, or ostriches. Research the following questions and write your answers in the space provided.

Key Questions:

1. Which animal would you like to raise? Why?
2. What kind of equipment/food is needed to care for the animal?
3. How much space will be needed to raise the animal?
4. For what purpose will you raise the animal?
5. Considering where you live and your personal resources, can you realistically care for this animal? Why or why not?
6. Select three different types of animals and compare their needs and your ability to care for them.

