

9. Harassing wildlife is cruel and illegal. Shooting, trapping, or forcing a threatened or endangered animal into captivity is also illegal and can lead to their extinction. Don't participate in this activity, and report it as soon as you see it to your local state or federal wildlife enforcement office. You can find a list of state wildlife departments at <http://www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html>.

10. Protect wildlife habitat. Perhaps the greatest threat that faces many species is the widespread destruction of habitat. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the special places where they live. Wildlife must have places to find food, shelter and raise their young. Logging, oil and gas drilling, over-grazing and development all result habitat destruction. Endangered species habitat should be protected and these impacts minimized.

By protecting habitat, entire communities of animals and plants can be protected together. Parks, wildlife refuges, and other open space should be protected near your community. Open space also provides us with great places to visit and enjoy. Support wildlife habitat and open space protection in your community. When you are buying a house, consider your impact on wildlife habitat.

-What is an Endangered Animal?

An endangered animal is one that is at risk of becoming extinct, which means no longer in existence. Dinosaurs are the largest group of animals to have ever become extinct, although the kinds of dinosaurs are quite diverse; others include; dodo birds, mammoths, and even some species of tigers.

Endangerment of animals is occurring more often due to being threatened by environmental changes, the destruction of habitat, the shortage of food supply, and being hunted. Many of these causes are preventable if more people were educated about the dangers of their habits. **-What Can You Do to Help Endangered Animals;**

The biggest thing we can do to help endangered animals is to take care of our world. Maybe tigers and leopards don't live where you do, but many animals do. They need protection, just like other animals do. There are many ways that we can protect animals by taking care of our own environment.

Recycle: We need to make sure that we are recycling plastic, tin, and paper, so that we don't use our world's natural resources. Every time paper is made or a bottle is made, resources from our Earth are being used. Some of these resources are found where animals live, and to get to them, we need to disrupt their habitat. By making sure we reduce, reuse, recycle, we allow places where endangered animals live to be protected from being destroyed.

Reduce: By reducing what you use, you can also protect our Earth. One way to do this is, instead of writing on one side of a paper, write on both sides. Also, when you leave a room, reduce the energy you are using by turning off the lights.

Reuse: We should also choose items that can be reused, like a reusable water bottle, rather than prepackaged water bottles. By using reusable containers for our water, rather than buying bottled water, we prevent many of our resources from being used up. Another example is use a towel, rather than paper towels.

Plant a Tree: Many animals use trees for shelter, protection, or even food. All big trees began as small trees. The only way to assure there are going to be big trees in the future is if there are small trees today. You can achieve this by planting trees in your neighborhood.