

Exotic pet ownership should be restricted



Exotic pet ownership is on the rise and presents a multitude of problems. Exotic pets should be left to professional handlers and zoo keepers and organizations that have the training, expertise and licenses to maintain and care for these animals.

Points For	Points Against
Exotic animals are a rarity and the opportunity to own something can be special and empowering. What harm could they cause?	Keeping wild and exotic animals as pets threatens public health and safety as well as animal welfare. Wild animals can attack and spread disease, and the average pet owner cannot provide the care they need in captivity. From tigers to bears to chimpanzees, these are dangerous wild animals.
Owning a primate can be an exciting adventure! Imagine sharing your home with a primate. What harm could owning one primate cause?	There are an estimated 15,000 primates kept as pets in the United States. From chimpanzees to capuchins to lemurs to marmosets, primates of all sizes are wild animals capable of inflicting serious and sometimes catastrophic injuries. They can also spread diseases that can be deadly to humans. Highly intelligent and social, primates suffer terribly in the pet trade.
Owning a big cat can be an exciting and rewarding.	Tigers, lions, and other big cat species retain their predatory instincts, they can, and do, injure and kill people.

Owning an exotic snake can be amazing!
Keeping them locked in a tank will ensure your safety. If it ever gets too big or you can no longer care for it, you can always release it into the wild.

A snakes seems to be a healthy animal and all you would have to do is feed it. They don't appear to have any special needs or suffer from any diseases.

Large constrictor snakes like pythons, boa constrictors, and anacondas are powerful wild animals capable of killing an adult human.

Allowing ownership of these dangerous reptiles threatens public safety, environmental health, and the welfare of the animals themselves.

The majority of reptile owners keep their pets for less than one year. Some animals die due to poor care, while others, including unwanted snakes, may be intentionally released outdoors or escape from poorly secured cages. Requiring specialized expertise and care, many captive constrictor snakes end up suffering from starvation, dehydration, parasites, respiratory infections, mouth rot, and other symptoms of neglect, and there have been many cases of extreme cruelty to these snakes.



Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

Building your Argument

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

Opinions, Preferences:

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

Disagreeing:

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

Partially agreeing:

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

Delaying Strategies

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

Asking someone to repeat

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

Holding the floor

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet, I haven't made my point yet ...

Expressing solutions and alternatives

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ...,
To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices....,

Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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