The Pet Debate

I am absolutely certain that all living things have a fundamental right to their freedom and therefore we should not keep animals as pets.

I believe that wild animals were not evolved to live in captivity, trapped into lives they did not choose. Yet in Britain today it has become socially acceptable to keep animals as pets, sometimes in very small cages or tanks. I really feel strongly that the time has come for us to think about the lives that we force upon them and realise that all animals should be free to live a happy and fulfilling lives in the wild. How would you feel if you were shut in a tiny dirty cage 24 hours a day and the only highlight of your day was some dried up food being thrown in?

It is clear that many animals in captivity are driven to madness by boredom and frustration. They then exhibit unnatural behaviour such as pacing round and round or banging into the bars of their cage over and over again because they are so stressed and unhappy. It is said that Britain is a nation of pet lovers with 13 million (46% of) households have pets. The pet population stands at a staggering 65 million animals (including fish). However when did you last stop and think about whether we provide those animals in captivity with a happy quality life? The vast majority of pets live in totally unsuitable living conditions.  Many are terribly neglected, some live in total fear of their owners and some live in dirty disgusting conditions. It seems to me that many have miserable and extremely restricted lives.

The fact is a vast amount of money and resources are used up keeping pets. According to the PFMA, there are around 8 million dogs and 8 million cats in the UK. This huge number is equal to almost half the households in the UK owning a dog or cat. They all need feeding, medical care and take up a considerable amount of our time and money. In a world climate where food prices are rising and many children are not getting enough to eat, can we really afford to look after so many animals and is it even right to waste money and food in this way?  However I know that some people would argue that it is their right to choose how they want to spend their money, however I would explain that as the world is getting over populated we cannot sustain this waste of precious resources on animals which are kept as pets.

Without doubt animals really do not belong in a human home. We cannot properly meet their needs in terms of exercise, diet and environment, so it is extremely cruel to keep them as pets. Additionally they use up too many precious resources which could be used to help humans in need. Therefore, I am totally against keeping animals as pets.

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| Main Point 2 |  |
| Main Point 3 |  |