

An Animalistic Relationship

The Psychology Behind Human-Animal Interactions



QUEST 7 PSYCHOLOGY

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS CURRICULUM

STUDENT EDITION

Recap

You will be going
to the State Fair of
Texas to observe the
interactions between
the show animals
and their trainers!
How close is their bond,
psychologically speaking?

STATE FAIR MAP



Recall from your class discussions:

- ★ The American Psychological Association (APA) has standards for ethical decision making when it comes to the collection, storage, and use of psychological data
 - This means when you're researching, you have certain responsibilities.
 - Visit the following websites for more info:
 - ☐ <http://www.apa.org/action/science>
 - ☐ <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code>
- ★ There's a cool new study in Psychology called Human-Animal Interaction (HAI):
 - <https://www.waltham.com/waltham-research/hai-research>
 - Here's one on service dogs: <http://www.apa-hai.org/human-animal-interaction>
 - The Society of Counseling Psychology has more to say: <http://www.div17.org/sections/human-animal-interaction>
- ★ In class, you should have written a question that relates to HAI that you can research and document at the Fair. If you haven't...that's ok, write one now! What would you like to know about HAI? Ask a question that you can answer through observation:
 - _____
 - _____



Plan Your Route

- ★ Make your way to the Woofus, behind the Cotton Bowl. Gaze at him and say hello.
- ★ Tour Cattle Barn No. 2, the Livestock Judging Pavilion and Cattle Barn No. 1.
- ★ Then cross the road and tour the Horse Barn and the Swine Barn.
- ★ Stop at the Milking Demo off MLK Blvd and observe the Ranch Arena.
- ★ Head down Nimitz Dr. and stop at the Pan Am Arena.



Source: <http://dogsaholic.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Dog-and-woman.jpg>

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Optional Materials to Bring

- ★Your question that you wrote in class, that relates to Human-Animal Interaction
- ★Writing utensil and notebook OR
- ★Electronic device to record notes

While You're There

You will use information you gather at the State Fair to help you with THREE project goals:

1. Answer the original question with a conclusion in a written essay, based on your observations from today
2. Create a body art piece that references your human-animal experience
3. Design a multimedia presentation to accompany your written work and photos from today.

The objective of your visit is to use APA standards to gather research on Human-Animal Interaction at the Livestock Barns of the State Fair of Texas and make a conclusion based on the information you gather. In addition, you'll take photos and/or make some sketches to use in your art and English projects back at school!

★**AN ANIMALISTIC RELATIONSHIP:** While navigating through the Livestock Area, observe and document the relationships between the animals and humans. Your question from class can guide your research.

- o You should plan to see at least one show during your visit in either the Ranch Arena or the Pan Am Arena.
- o It is important that you notice and write down people's behaviors toward the animals and the animals' behavior toward the people.

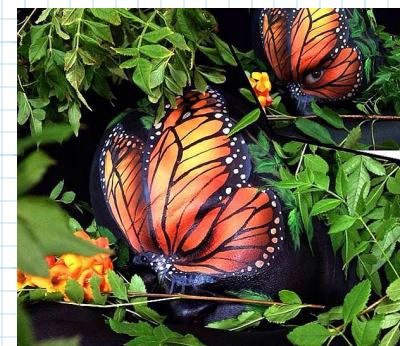
- ☐ How do the owners/trainers talk to the animals? Nicely? Meanly?
- ☐ Are the animals receptive or apprehensive of their affections? How can you tell?
- ☐ Are the owners/trainers gentle with the animals? How?
- ☐ What facial expressions do you notice from the humans toward the animals?
- ☐ Do you notice satisfaction in the human when the animal does something he/she likes? How can you tell?

★**IMITATION IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF FLATTERY (ART PORTION):** As you make your way through the Fair and take note of all the wonderful human/animal interactions, find which animal you connect most with.

- o If possible, take some photos of this animal, or, if a camera is not available, create some sketches to use for your project.
- o You'll use this back in art class, so save your work!!

★**PHOTO OP (ENGLISH PORTION):** During your English project, you'll need pictures!

- o Make sure you get permission before taking any human's photo.
- o You will need:
 - ☐ Three pictures of the animals that you observed
 - ☐ Three pictures of the humans you observed
 - ☐ Three pictures of the human/animal interactions you observed



Source: <http://www.demilked.com/animal-body-art-painting/>



Back at School

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will work on your three projects. See your teachers for more information.