



UNTAMED S2E7: Wildlife Rehabilitation

Discussion Questions

These discussion questions are designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a “big picture” understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

[Wild animals vs. domesticated vs. habituated, rehabilitation, permit]

The following questions are best used when paired with a complete viewing of the full episode, and may be more suitable for advanced levels:

1. When it comes to injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife, some people may have a “let nature take its course” mentality. Do you think this is appropriate in all situations? Why or why not?
2. Obtaining a permit to care for wildlife can be a lengthy, complicated, and expensive process. Why is it important for wildlife to be treated by a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, instead of an untrained (but usually well-meaning) citizen?
3. If you were to be interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator, where would it be a good place to start? What would be the largest barrier in obtaining a permit for you, personally?
4. What impact does successful, ethical wildlife rehabilitation have on communities?
5. Why can't wildlife that's been inappropriately raised by well-meaning citizens (not permitted wildlife rehabilitators) not go back to the wild in most cases? What kind of impact can inappropriately raised wildlife have on communities?

The following questions are best used when paired with a viewing of “Wildlife Rehabilitation: In (About) Two Minutes”, a synopsis of the major themes and key topics covered in the full episode, that may be more suitable for younger audiences:

1. A wildlife rehabilitator is someone who works to treat sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning those animals back into nature. Can you think of a profession that might have similar goals, but for humans?
2. Why is it important that injured wild animals are treated by people with special training?
3. What should you do to help a wild animal in need of care?