LESSON: City Wildlife
PROGRAM: Online Presentation
AGE GROUP/GRADE LEVEL: 3rd grade and up

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the different types of wildlife that can be found in cities and gauge students' attitudes about how these animals should be treated.

PURPOSE: To promote compassion and respect towards all living things.

TIME FRAME: 60 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Laptop
- Projector
- Extension Cord

OPENING:
- Introduce the topic of city wildlife by asking students to brainstorm what types of animals they may find in city areas. You can also ask if they have ever seen any type of wildlife in their neighborhoods or in the city.

PROCEDURE:
- **Slide-by-slide explanation:**
  - **Slide 1-2**
    City Wildlife Introduction
    - What is wildlife?
      - Nonhuman living things and wild animals living in their natural environment.

  - **Slides 3-4**
    Wildlife vocabulary words. Use examples of different animals when explaining meaning of vocabulary words. For example Rattlesnakes *camouflage* well into their environment because the patterns on their body resemble leaves, rocks, and the color of the dirt. Owls

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camouflage well into their tree habitats. Deer are *herbivores.* Mountain Lions are *carnivorous.* Bats are *nocturnal. Diurnal* animals include many mammals.
Skunks or Owls can be an example of *nocturnal* animals. An example of *crepuscular* animal can be a squirrel.

- **Slide 5**
  Pets vs. Wild Animals. Compare and contrast a pet dog and a coyote on the different ways they get food, shelter, and care (this can be interactive with the students). Make sure to stress that pets depend on humans for their survival such as food, shelter, and care and wild animals do not.

- **Slide 6**
  Animals in the City. There are many different animals in the city. This is a great time to ask students what wild animals they see in their community. *Question: Who knows what different categories of animals there are?* **Answer:** Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Arthropods.

- **Slide 7- 26**
  Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, and Arthropods.
  There is a topic slide giving a description and details of what characterizes each category of animal. The animals covered are Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, and Arthropods. Following the topic slide are different animals in the city with small description of what they eat, their habitat, how they are helpful in the environment, and the dangers they face living in the city. Vocabulary words that apply are listed and should be reinforced with the students.
  - **Slide 8-13** *Mammals* – California Sea Lion, Coyote, American Black Bear, Coyote, Western Grey Squirrel, Opossum and Striped Skunk
  - **Slide 14-18** *Birds* – Hawks, California Gull, Pigeon and House Sparrow

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- **Slide 19-22** *Reptiles and Amphibians* – Desert Tortoise, Alligator Lizard and Bullfrogs
- **Slide 23-24** *Fish* – Catfish
- **Slide 26** *Arthropods* – Bees, Cockroaches, Flies, Spiders and Butterflies

- Cool facts are located under pictures and should be talked about at the end of each slide.

- **Slides 27-33**
  Cool Facts! Can these animals live in your city? Please note this portion should be interactive with the students. Also, depending on location of the school, some animals might be more commonly seen then other locations.
  - **Slide 28-29** Mountain Lions can live on the outskirts of cities and in large, natural parks across the U.S
  - **Slide 30-31** Peregrine falcons can live in many cities across the world. They live and nest on skyscrapers, bridges and window ledges
  - **Slide 32-33** Black Bears can rummage in trash cans behind restaurants and houses. They have been spotted in backyards and roaming through cities. These bears have changed their usual habits by becoming more active during the night.

- **Slide 34-38**
  What impact do people have on the environment?
  - Encroachment: loss of habitat due to development
  - Air and Water Pollution in ecosystems and habitats. Animals such as amphibians and fish cannot survive in polluted water.
  - Feeding and keeping wild animals as pets can affect an animal's natural survival instinct and make it dependent on humans. It can also put an animal in harm's way. Bear who get fed human food will often become pests in camp sites and then have to be removed and/or relocated to a new location

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- **Slide 39**
  Our impact on the environment often causes animals to become…
  - Endangered: When there are not many individuals left in a specific species.
  - Extinct: This means that a species couldn't survive anymore on this planet, and it is gone forever.

- **Slide 40**
  Extinct Species
  - California Condor – Loss of habitat caused this bird to almost go extinct. Successful captive breeding programs were established to help save this animal. The programs have been responsible for increasing the population of California Condors.
  - Desert Tortoise- Their population has declined 90% since the 1980's
  - Passenger Pigeon's became extinct in 1914
  - California Grizzly Bears have not been seen since 1924

- **Slide 41**
  - *How can we help?*
    Discuss with the students ways they can help that are listed. Help encourage them to think of different ways they can help that are not on the list.

- **Slide 42**
  - Discuss websites to visit for more information on city wildlife, ways to help, and places to visit to learn and see more.
  - Follow up with questions, if time allows.

CLOSING (OPTIONAL):
Remind students that all animals need compassion and respect, even if they aren't animals they would consider "pets".

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