

Advantages of Keeping Wild Animals as Pets

- **Owners of wild animals / supporters of keeping wild animals as pets / enthusiasts**
- Owners can gain a sense of superiority by owning rare and exotic animals like reptiles or spiders
- Unlike "common" pets like dogs, wild animals (like certain reptiles or birds) offer a unique experience for owners + emotional bond 👍
- Some argue that private ownership helps preserve species that are endangered in the wild (captive breeding programs).
- Owners may be driven by their interests or passion about biology and animals in general as keeping a wild animals and taking care of them can develop a profound understanding of biology, conservation, and the specific needs of a rare species.

Disadvantages of Keeping Wild Animals as Pets

- Most wild animals have complex biological and social needs that cannot be met in a domestic setting (e.g., space to roam, specific diets). This leads to psychological distress and even malnutrition
- Even "tame" wild animals retain their predatory (捕食者) instincts. There is a constant risk of physical injury or the spread of diseases that can jump from animals to humans.
- The demand for exotic pets often fuels the illegal wildlife trade, which decimates natural populations and disrupts local ecosystems. It encourages illegal hunting.

How Social Media Affects the Choice of Pets

- Short videos of "cute" monkeys or colourful lizard can go viral, leading to impulse buying.
- People see the "cute" 15-second clip but ignore the years of difficult care and resources required to keep those wild animals.

- Users may choose exotic pets to stand out, gain "likes," or signal their social status as those animals can be used to project an image of wealth and uniqueness, treating living creatures as fashion accessories.
- Social media often glosses over (= overlook) the dangers or the illegality of certain pets. Influencers may post photos with wild animals without disclosing the specialized license they have.
- Online marketplaces with live-streaming and "underground" groups on social platforms make it easier for people to bypass traditional pet stores and buy exotic animals illegally.

Any other things

- Wild animals examples: crocodiles, parrots, lizard, snakes, loris, monkeys, lions, spiders, tigers
- Instinctive behavior: Natural impulses that cannot be "trained" / "tamed" out of a wild animal
- Ecological footprint: The impact of a person or community on the environment and ecosystem. Toxic / venom
- Commodification + animal welfare: Treating an animal like a product or a commodity is cruel and inhumane.