

Research Project: Exotic Pets

In this research project, you will use the internet to collect information about an exotic animal and use that information to determine if that animal would make a good pet.

Procedure

1. Pick an exotic animal from the following list:
 - hedgehog
 - snake
 - ferret
 - large cat (e.g. tiger)
 - monkey
 - ape
 - iguana
 - tropical bird
2. Using the internet, research the animal you have selected in order to answer the following questions:
 - a) What exotic animal did you choose?
 - b) What is the scientific name of the animal?
 - c) Where is its natural habitat (where is it found in nature)?
 - d) What is its adult size?
 - e) What does it eat?
 - f) Does it have any special health problems?
 - g) Is it a safety issue for humans?
 - h) What size of cage does it need?
 - i) Does it require any special environment?
 - j) What are its social needs (does it need a companion)?
 - k) How much does it cost to purchase?
 - l) How much does it cost (monthly) to maintain?
 - m) Is it easy or difficult to care for?
3. On a blank sheet of paper, write each question and your response.

Conclusion

1. In your opinion, would your animal make a good choice for an exotic pet?

2. What is the most important information gained from your research that supports keeping your animal as an exotic pet?

3. What is the most important information gained from your research that does not support keeping your animal as an exotic pet?

4. What are some reasons why a zoo is a better owner for an exotic animal, rather than an individual?
