

IELTS SPEAKING EXAM – SAMPLE ANSWERS

Animals and Pets: Part 2 – Sample Answer

I'll describe an endangered animal in northeastern China. It's called the Manchurian or Siberian tiger. Manchurian tigers are very impressive animals. Like all tigers, they have orange and black stripes and a white underside, and powerful claws and teeth. The largest is nearly 1.5 meters tall, and can weigh between 300 and 400 kilos of muscle! They are the largest of the cat family and the most effective and dangerous hunters. They are found all over Siberia and in a few places in northeastern China. They usually hunt and live alone, and only meet other tigers during the mating season. I think there are less than 50 of them in the wild in China. There are more kept in captivity, in zoos or special parks. There is one wildlife park in Harbin that is famous for its many Manchurian tigers.

Most Chinese admire the tiger as a symbol of strength and fierceness. Tigers have had a place in Chinese culture for thousands of years. They are found in Chinese literature new and old and are the subject of many famous paintings, But I don't think many Chinese know that this special breed of tigers is all but wiped out in the wild. I hope more efforts will be made in the future to protect the tiger's environment. Without the forests they live and hunt in, Manchurian tigers can only exist in captivity.

Vocabulary for Cue Card

Here are the vocabularies for "describe a wild animal from your country" with examples:

1. **Endangered:** (of a species) Seriously at risk of extinction.
Eg: Tiger is one of the endangered species worldwide.
2. **Fierceness:** Wild or hostile
Eg: Cheetah is known for its fierceness
3. **Captivity:** The condition of being imprisoned or confined.
Eg: He was under 366 days of captivity
4. **Mating:** The action of animals coming together to breed
Eg: "These birds start mating in May."

Part 3 Sample Answers

Do many people in China like to have a pet?

I think the number of Chinese who like pets is less than half the total population. Many Chinese are afraid of common pets. I think it's very funny, but some are really scared of animals, even very tiny and harmless ones. This may be because of something in their childhood, I don't know. There are many people in China who like pets, but not the majority, for sure.

Do you think there should be laws to protect the welfare of pets and farm animals?

I don't really know. I guess there should be laws, but we really shouldn't need them. People should be responsible enough to treat pets and farm animals well. But since many people are too selfish to care, we must have some laws. But the laws shouldn't become so important that they nearly equal laws protecting the welfare of human beings.

Are there any wild animals in China that are not found in any other country?

Yes. The giant panda and the Tibetan antelope. There are probably also some birds and other animals that are only found here, but I don't know anything about them. It's sad, but the animals that are found only in China are the ones that are the most endangered. I think that's the same for other countries, though.

How do Chinese people feel about the protection of wild animals?

Many Chinese are only now beginning to learn about the importance of protecting wild animals, as well as the environment they live in. The new generations are being taught to respect wild animals. But people never even see them except on TV, so they only have a vague idea of the need to protect them. I admire the many brave people who have made sacrifices to protect wild animals, like the Kekexili mountain patrol. There was a recent movie made about them.

What is the purpose of having zoos?

Zoos are really a compromise, I think. They are a way for people who live in the city, especially children, to see wild animals. But I think that unless the zoos are the best quality, they shouldn't be operated, as it's cruel to keep wild animals in small cages or dirty surroundings. High standard zoos can be good, as they educate the general public about the world around them. But I still think it would be better if people could learn about animals straight from nature, not seeing them in zoos.

Vocabulary for Speaking Part 3

- **Antelope:** A swift-running deerlike ruminant with smooth hair and upward-pointing horns
Eg: A lot of antelope can be found in the forest reserves
- **Vague:** Of uncertain
Eg: Patients are showing vague symptoms of coronavirus
- **Compromises:** An agreement or settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.
Eg: John compromised with Kim.
- **Patrol:** An expedition to keep watch over an area
Eg: The night patrol has begun.