

Animals

Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? How was your week?

Play a game: “How many animals can you think of that...?”

- In pairs for two minutes, list animals that can fly. Whichever pair thinks of the most animals wins! If you want to play again, list animals that people can ride or animals that can swim.



Let's get started

As a group, read the title of the story. Then discuss the questions below.

- What does “unlikely” mean?
- Who do you think Lulu is?
- What do you think the story is about?

Now, read the story together.

Lulu, the Unlikely Hero



On August 4, 1988, Jo Ann Altsman had a heart attack in her bedroom. Lulu, one of Jo Ann’s pets, wanted to help Jo Ann. Lulu was very brave. She squeezed through a “doggie door” and waited by the street. When she saw a car, she walked into the street and lay down in front of the car. The driver stopped his car and got out. Lulu then led the man to the house. The man found Jo Ann and called an ambulance. Because Lulu was so brave, the ambulance arrived in time to save Jo Ann’s life.

Source: Young, Constance. “Animal Heroes.” <http://www.all-creatures.org/stories/a-animalheroes.html>

In pairs, discuss these questions. Then, share your answers with the group.

- What kind of animal do you think Lulu is? Why do you think so?
- Do you believe this story? (Do you think it is true?) Why or why not?
- Do you have a pet? Did you have one when you were a child? Explain.

Conversation skills

As we discuss, let’s ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let’s also use the phrase “Tell me more.” The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

Discussion: Discuss these questions as a group or in small groups.

Do people like pets in your native country? If so, what kinds of pets are popular? Why are they popular?



What is one of your favorite animals? What animals did you like when you were a child? Why?

What wild animals live in your native country? What wild animals live in Washington?

What animals or insects are dangerous? Which ones are you afraid of? Why?

Are there zoos in your native country? Do you like to go to the zoo? Why or why not?

Have you visited the zoo in Seattle? What did you like best?

What animals are important to your native country's economy? What animals are important to your native country's history?

Some East Asian and Turkic countries have a calendar with a 12-year cycle. Each year is represented by an animal. Each animal has different traits. Does your native country have this tradition? Explain.



Do you eat meat? Why or why not? Do you know any vegetarians?

What are "animal rights?" Are there animal rights groups in your native country? Explain.

In the U.S., people often treat farm animals very badly. One animal rights group in the U.S. has named October 2nd "World Farm Animals Day." On this day, some people sit in cages to educate people about the abuse of farm animals. What do you think about the treatment of farm animals?



How do you feel about the use of animals for medical research?

What do you think about hunting? Are there laws about hunting in your country?

In your native culture, are humans more valuable than animals, less valuable or the same? Explain.

What are the biggest differences between animals and humans? What are some similarities between animals and humans?

Name some endangered species. Why are animals becoming endangered?

Group Reflection: What did you learn today? What do you want to talk about next week?