

*i love animals too, but leave 'em alone already*

Let me start out by saying that I am very much of an animal lover. I will be the first in line for any cause that fights for the preservation of our national wildlife community. There are few things that I enjoy more than to sit back and enjoy a nature show on my favorite cable channel. To watch the graceful Eagle in flight with the deep blue sky as a backdrop and the majestic mountains and valleys as its playground. Or the powerful Grizzly Bear playfully slapping and bouncing along the stream in search of his 'catch of the day'.

The animal kingdom is the greatest source of fellowship the good Lord could have provided us, and I believe that we all have an obligation and responsibility to do all we can to insure that every member of the animal world has the opportunity to live and grow within their natural environment that they were created for.

Although I am happy to see so many people working towards building a better world for our animals, I've got to be honest and tell you that I am becoming very concerned about our methods.

We're a funny group, we humans. We seldom let well enough alone. The simple solution is rarely our cup of tea. We love our world of gadgets and toys. We invent new methods of doing something and, instead of letting it go at that, we rush back to the lab to invent something that is more powerful, more efficient and more durable.

Our good scientists who are dedicated to preserving our animals have done very well... keeping many of our animal friends from becoming faint memories. But I can't help but think that they have gone a bit too far with all this research stuff.

They put the animal to sleep, weigh him, measure everything on him, draw tubes of blood from him, yank out one of his teeth, (they tell us that this tooth will tell them a lot about this animal), staple an identification tag on his ear and place a large, brightly colored collar around his neck to transmit radio signals.

After all this, the compassionate scientist will softly gaze into the camera and tell us that this procedure 'doesn't bother the animal at all!'

Now who do they think they are kidding?! The dentist will always smile and tell us that we won't feel a thing... until we are far removed from the dentist's office and the Novocain wears off.

Here this poor animal was enjoying a nice day amongst his own when he suddenly feels a sharp pain in his shoulder, then is chased around by this huge metal bird

with blowing wings until he becomes so dizzy and weak he cannot stand on his own feet. He crumbles to the ground, fighting to regain his strength before he loses the battle and fades off.

When he comes to, he finds his peers have left him, he realizes that his ear, shoulder and rump are quite sore, his head feels like someone took a baseball bat to it and he has this contraption around his neck that makes him most uncomfortable.

Yet we are to believe that all of this testing stuff has no affect on the animal's lifestyle?

I don't know, I think animals did very well for thousands of years without our helpful gadgets and radio waves. I mean, if we let this go on, our forests, jungles and oceans will be jam-packed with radio signals from creatures large and small and the peaceful, gentle colors of mother nature will be cluttered with bright, florescent neckbands that will do as much to helping the hunters as it will our scientist who are so dedicated to preserving them.

Don't get me wrong, I truly do appreciate the efforts that are being made towards understanding and preserving our animal neighbors. But I can't help but think that if we really want to help the animal kingdom, we should leave them alone and stop messing up their environment. After all, most of these documentaries too often tell us that an animal's only true enemy is man. The Elephant and the Rhino are almost extent, yet these animals have no natural enemies within the animal kingdom. Only man has caused their demise and what is so sad is that we have killed them not for our own survival, but for sport, jewelry and some pretty purses.

I think we need to get a grip on all these gadgets and radio trinkets that we keep slapping on these poor animals. If we really are sincere about helping the animal kingdom survive, we need to stop killing them for our own selfish reasons and put our efforts into protecting the environment that we all, animals as well as humans, must exist within.

Just A Thought