

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 随身英语

Saving Mr Chimp

拯救大猩猩先生

BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

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Vocabulary: judicial case 庭审案例

Should animals be **entitled** to the same rights as people? The question is not so **outlandish**. A **judge** in the US once suggested that chimpanzees had the right to **habeas corpus**. Judge Barbara Jaffe was **ruling** on the case of Leo and Hercules. These two primates have their own lawyers **arguing** that they should be moved from a university lab to an **animal sanctuary**. She did change her mind after a while.



Does friendship mean anything to him (or it)?

Animals have always intrigued us. Some people find them very intelligent and capable of friendship, jealousy and longing. That's enough to give them rights, isn't it? Not for people like Professor Carl Cohen of the University of Michigan. He says that rights are a concept special to the human **moral code**. And animals don't know anything about right and wrong. The academic points out: "Animals do not **commit crimes**; animals are not attacked for their moral views."

In any case, humans have become more sensitive to animal suffering throughout the years. In 1999, New Zealand **granted basic rights** to five great ape species. Their use in research, testing or teaching was banned in a move seen as the greatest **legal** success in animal rights history.

In 2002, in an **unprecedented** move in the European Union, Germany granted some rights to animals in its **constitution**.

The **ambiguous** relationship between people and animals can be perceived in language. In English the pronoun used for an animal is 'it'. But many people refer to their pets as 'he' or 'she'. It makes them more of an equal to us.

What do you think? Should animals have rights similar to humans?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Who might be moving from a lab to a sanctuary?
2. What do animals lack, according to Professor Carl Cohen?
3. What can't apes be used for in New Zealand?
4. Which pronouns can you use for animals in English?
5. Which noun means feeling pain or distress?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. When Joanne got divorced the judge said she was _____ to half of her husband assets.

granted	entitled	given	taken
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2. Men and women are _____ before the law.

sensitive	relative	equal	similar
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3. I must point _____ that not everything you say is true.

at	to	on	out
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4. The judge told Mr. Ross: "If you _____ the crime, you have to accept the punishment."

make	commit	act	take
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5. Lady Gaga wears _____ clothes. She has even worn an outfit made of meat!

outside	out of bounds	outlandish	out of order
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Who might be moving from a lab to a sanctuary?
Primates Leo and Hercules.
2. What do animals lack, according to Professor Carl Cohen?
A moral code, which includes the concept of right and wrong.
3. What can't apes be used for in New Zealand?
Research, testing or teaching.
4. Which pronouns can you use for animals in English?
It, she, he, them.
5. Which noun means feeling pain or distress?
Suffering.

Exercise 练习

1. When Joanne got divorced the judge said she was **entitled** to half of her husband assets.
2. Men and women are **equal** before the law.
3. I must point **out** that not everything you say is true.
4. The judge told Mr. Ross: "If you **commit** the crime, you have to accept the punishment."
5. Lady Gaga wears **outlandish** clothes. She has even worn an outfit made of meat!

Glossary 词汇表

to be entitled	有资格的，有资格享受的
outlandish	奇异古怪的
a judge	一位法官
habeas corpus	人身保护权
to rule	(动词) 裁决
to argue	争辩
an animal sanctuary	一个动物庇护所、动物保护区
a moral code	一项道德规范
to commit crimes	犯罪
to grant basic rights	授予基本权力
legal	法律(上)的
unprecedented	前所未有的，没有先例的
constitution	宪法，大法
ambiguous	模糊的，不明确的