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5th Grade – 2nd Place
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Responsible Animal Caretaker

We need animals for food or companionship as part of our life. As a rule for the world to follow, animals need to be used in the right way as we are to be responsible for our earth. Native Americans set a good example in how to be responsible for the animals on earth.

Native Americans used all parts of a buffalo to make different things. The skin was used for clothing. They used their stomachs to make water containers. Their bones were used to make knives and arrowheads. The fat was saved for cooking and making pemmican. They used the skin to decorate vests, boots, and legging dresses. Their horns were made for dishes and spoons.

Humans need food in order to live. For example, a cow is used for food like hamburgers or steaks. My Aunt Anita lacks iron in her body so she eats hamburgers a few times a week.

On the other hand, animals help us feel emotionally good also. People use them as pets to keep them company. Dogs are used at hospitals to comfort people to forget their pain. While others may use dogs to help them see for the blind people. My neighbor, who is a senior citizen, owns a dalmatian by the name of Maggie. Maggie does the human hugs in the morning. She'll bring her toys so that you can play. She cuddles with you when you are down. I can't imagine how Mrs. Sally would be without Maggie, her dog, in a big house by herself. Maggie brings joy to my neighbor.

There are people who love to hunt animals. This is where we need to set our rule and enforce it to protect our earth. While there are those that love to hunt animals as a hobby, they must use it as a source of food too. We cannot kill for the thrill or to make it as a trophy. The animals may become extinct. This will lead to changes in our food ecosystem and then, the whole earth.