

## Animal Habits

**Objective:** Students will not interfere with an animal's routine that could result in injury to a person.

**Concept:** Animals become accustomed to routine and will become agitated, and subsequently dangerous, if this routine is broken.

**Targeted Age:** Upper elementary

**Materials:** Bean bag

Ask a volunteer group of six students to form a circle. Create a routine of tossing a bean bag in the same pattern, calling each person by name before tossing them the bean bag. Do this several (6-8) times so a pattern is established. After you think the group is following the routine without much thought, suddenly change the order.

**Q: What are examples of animal routines?**

**A:** Cows following the same path to the pasture or livestock coming to the feed trough at the same time each day.

**Q: What might happen if you got in the way of a dairy cow when she is going to the barn for milking?**

**A:** You could be pushed down and run over.

**Q: How does animal behavior change when their routine is disturbed?**

**A:** Animals can be agitated when their routine is broken. They may push and shove humans or be forceful.

