

## **Respect for Animals**

Inuit have always respected all animals due to the fact they have been the main source of food, and clothing for thousands of years. Animals meant survival. Without animals, people starved to death, or froze to death. Meat is used as food while the fur is used as clothing, and fat as fuel. Without animals, some Inuit did not survive.

People are encouraged to treat animals with great deal respect at all times. We are encouraged to go beyond the “smell ” of the animal. The animals may smell but that is their own. We have to respect that.

Animals are not good as pets. When animals no longer have freedom, ( Zoo) they lose sense of reality and will die under stress. Animals are made to roam and go as they please. When we take them out of their freedom, animals tend to live without spirit and without free will. Their space is limited or taken away. Their usual nutrients are no longer taken. Animals cannot think clearly, or act normal under these circumstances; therefore, they die under stress. Similarly, a person immersed in total different language, is in a similar situation. They are usually lost and cannot join the rest.

Once animals are wounded, they should be hunted until they are killed. Animals should not be left wounded. A wounded animal left behind may bring bad luck in the future for the hunter, (And other people around him ). Inuit only shoot at animals they mean to kill. No animal is ever shot just for fun. Animals are believed to have souls like humans and should be respected as such. We still hunt today for food and clothing. Respecting animals is just as important today as it was for our ancestors. Respecting animals shows respect for yourself.

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