SHABBAT: ANIMALS

SHABBAT: ANIMALS AND MUKTZA

Shabbat: Moving Animals

All animals are *muktza* on *Shabbat*, even pets, since they do not have a practical use. Moving the animal or its fur or picking up an animal is a violation of *muktza*.

REASON Originally, all animals were owned for specific practical purposes (cats to catch mice, dogs for protections, horses for traveling...) and they were not used as pets as they are today (for companionship, to pet, etc). Some *poskim* say that some pets are not *muktza* since they are similar to toys.

SHABBAT: ANIMAL CARE

Shabbat: Feeding Animals before Yourself

If you do own an animal, you must generally feed it before you are permitted to eat your own food. If you eat first, you have violated a *Torah* commandment.

Shabbat: Dog-Walking inside Eruv

You may walk a dog or other animal on a leash on *Shabbat* within an *eruv* or inside an enclosed property.

Shabbat: Dog-Walking outside Eruv

You may walk a dog or other animal on a leash on *Shabbat* outside a private domain, but you must hold the leash within 10 1/2" (27 cm) of the end and no part of the leash may droop to within 10 1/2" of the ground at any time.

Muktza: Feeding Animals that Do Not Belong To You

You may not feed animals that do not belong to you on *Shabbat* (even if they are tame).

EXCEPTION It may be permissible to feed dogs on *Shabbat* even if they do not belong to you. Consult a *rabbi*.

SHABBAT: ANIMALS' DOING MELACHA

Training Animal To Violate Shabbat

You may not train your dog or other animal to turn on or off lights for you on *Shabbat*.

SHABBAT: TRAPPED ANIMALS

Shabbat: Trapping/Releasing Animals

You may not trap wild animals on *Shabbat* (or on a *Jewish festival*). You may release a wild animal that is trapped in a trap or cage by opening the door or gate, but you may not move or lift the cage when the animal is in the cage.

NOTE The question behind this was asked by my niece Eliza when she was 6-years-old—ANYONE can ask intelligent and useful questions!

Shabbat: Feeding Wild Trapped Animal

You may not feed wild animals on *Shabbat*. *But*, if you intend to keep an animal that you trapped, you MUST feed it.

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