

Multispecies Attitude Worksheet

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

This worksheet is a working draft designed for congregations beginning or currently engaged in Animal Ministry. We intend it as a tool to foster discussion and self and group awareness and not as a means to pass judgment on individuals or to dictate what any one person or congregation "should" think or do. Please use it as best fits your circumstances and community. As this worksheet is in development, we welcome any comments or suggestions you have for redesigning this questionnaire. To offer feedback, please contact the Reverence for Life Program Coordinator, (www.uuam.org).

This simple questionnaire can help to determine a group's attitude towards same and other species and explore the issues that affect the lives in our multispecies communities. There are several ways it can be used.

- The leadership of the congregation, the staff, or members of your animal ministry team or social justice committee might complete it and discuss the results.
- It can be passed out at a worship service devoted to the subject of animals. The results can be compiled and later shared.
- A small group participating in one of the programs, such as the Multispecies Awareness Encounter, a Vegetarian Potluck, or a Faith Development Activity could complete and discuss the questionnaire.

Many congregations are surprised by the level of discomfort and distrust that exists when we discuss our relationship with other animals. Keeping the individual results anonymous will help to reveal true feelings—information that should be valuable to a congregation involved in or considering animal ministry or entering the Reverence for Life Program of the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry. Only by being honest can a congregation hope to make progress toward affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all beings.

We suggest offering this questionnaire when there is plenty of time for the participants to fill it out, and then time afterwards to discuss it. You might wish to set up the discussion of this questionnaire as a covenant-style gathering with guidelines for deep listening, such as equal time for everyone, no advice giving, speaking in "I" statements, etc. We also suggest that if the group so desires, to make the general results available as an article in the congregational newsletter.

This questionnaire is an educational and discussion tool designed for you to assess the way you feel and think about animals of various species. It is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. The results are anonymous. Please consider each item carefully and answer to the best of your ability by circling the appropriate number.

1. Would you be uncomfortable learning that your neighbor had a

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

dog	1	2	3	4	5
cat	1	2	3	4	5
wild animal	1	2	3	4	5
large domestic animal (such as cow or horse)	1	2	3	4	5
bee colony	1	2	3	4	5

Why? _____

2. Would you be uncomfortable learning another describe their best friend as a . . .

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

Dog or cat	1	2	3	4	5
bird	1	2	3	4	5
reptile	1	2	3	4	5
insect	1	2	3	4	5
marine mammal	1	2	3	4	5

Why? _____

3. Would you be uncomfortable being in a group that was (otherwise) 100% . . .

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

Omnivores	1	2	3	4	5
vegetarians	1	2	3	4	5
vegans	1	2	3	4	5
hunters	1	2	3	4	5
animal right activists	1	2	3	4	5

Why? _____

4. At a congregational potluck, would you be uneasy sitting next to someone who was eating a diet that was...

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

Vegan	1	2	3	4	5
Vegetarian	1	2	3	4	5
Carnivore	1	2	3	4	5
Omnivore	1	2	3	4	5
Other _____	1	2	3	4	5

Why? _____

5. Would you be uncomfortable knowing that your minister...

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

Was vegetarian 1 2 3 4 5

Was vegan 1 2 3 4 5

Ate animals 1 2 3 4 5

Promoted animal ministry in the congregation 1 2 3 4 5

Was an animal advocate 1 2 3 4 5

Enjoyed hunting or fishing 1 2 3 4 5

Why? _____

6. Would you feel uncomfortable having nonhumans in the congregational buildings, such as during the annual Animal Blessing?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 No

Why? _____

7. Are you comfortable with humans having domestics animals as pets?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

8. Are you comfortable with humans having wild animals as pets?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

9. Are you comfortable with others hunting animals?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

10. Are you comfortable with others eating animals ?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

11. Are you comfortable with others fishing ?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

12. Are you comfortable with wild animals kept in zoos?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

13. Are you comfortable with using animals in research?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

14. Are you comfortable with using animals as entertainment, such as horse and dog racing, and circuses?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

15. Would you be comfortable if the Unitarian Universalist First Principle, which currently reads "we covenant to affirm and promote the *inherent worth and dignity of every person*," was changed to "*inherent worth and dignity of every being*"?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

Why? _____

16. Would you be comfortable if the Unitarian Universalist Second Principle, which currently reads "we covenant to affirm and promote *justice, equity, and compassion in human relations*," was changed to "*justice, equity, and compassion in all relations*"?

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

Why? _____

17. Are you comfortable with this statement, "Humans are a species with their own unique and special traits, just as are all other species. As one of many species in multispecies, ecological communities they merit the same moral consideration as all others."

1 yes 2 somewhat 3 don't know 4 probably not 5 no

Why? _____

18. Which species of animal do you connect with the most? Why?

19. Which species of animal do you connect with the least? Why?

20. Would you like to share anything else regarding your relationship with nonhuman beings?