

## HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Rebuttals

Topic: Owning exotic pets would be desirable.

### INTRODUCTION (PRO)

Hello, my name is... [Full Name].

In this speech, I will refute each of the opposing team's arguments.

To begin, let's discuss: Harming Health & Safety

### PRO-01: vs. Health & Safety Risks

*They said...* owning exotic pets harms our health

*We say...* it will not harm our health

*Because...*

*First...* Proper Care and Washing

*According to...* the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), June 2023

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/exotic-pets.html>

*It States...* Proper care and cleanliness can reduce the risk of diseases from pets. Washing hands after touching pets, cleaning their homes, and regular vet visits are important. Following these steps helps keep everyone healthy.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not harm our health because good hygiene and care can stop the spread of diseases.

*Also...* Special Care is Available

*According to...* the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), May 2023:

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/exotic-pet-care>

*It States...* More vets are now trained to care for exotic pets. These vets can give advice on keeping pets healthy, feeding them right, and handling them safely, keeping both pets and owners safe.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not harm our health because special vet care helps prevent health problems with exotic pets.

*Therefore...* owning exotic pets will NOT harm our health.

*The next argument I will refute is...* Harming the Environment.

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### PRO-02: vs. Harming the Environment

*They said...* owning exotic pets will harm the environment

*We say...* it will not harm the environment

*Because...*

*First...* Responsible Ownership and Regulation

*According to...* the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, April 2023:

<https://www.fws.gov/exotic-pet-ownership-regulations>

*It States...* Responsible ownership and strict rules can reduce environmental risks. Licenses and permits ensure only qualified people own exotic pets, lowering the chance of illegal trade and release. These rules help protect local ecosystems.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not harm the environment because regulations and responsible care can prevent damage.

*Also...* Help from Breeding Programs

*According to...* National Geographic, February 2023

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/exotic-pet-trade-and-captive-breeding>

*It States...* Captive breeding programs for exotic pets help conservation. These programs reduce the need to capture animals from the wild, protecting natural populations and helping endangered species. This makes sure pets come from proper sources.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not harm the environment because captive breeding helps protect wild populations and supports conservation.

*Therefore...* owning exotic pets will NOT harm the environment.

*So, for all these reasons, please vote for the PRO. Thank you.*

## **HMDC Elementary Debate Class (Summer 2024) - Rebuttals**

Topic: Owning exotic pets would be desirable.

### **INTRODUCTION (CON)**

Hello, my name is... [Full Name].

In this speech, I will refute each of the opposing team's arguments.

To begin, let's discuss: Increasing Education

#### **CON-01: vs. Increasing Education**

*They said...* owning exotic pets can increase education

*We say...* it will not increase education

*Because...*

*First...* Lacking Proper Resources

*According to...* the Humane Society, March 2023

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/exotic-pets>

*It States...* Many exotic pet owners do not have access to the special resources and educational materials needed for proper care. Exotic pets need specific knowledge that most people cannot easily find. This lack of resources can lead to wrong information and poor education.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not increase education because the necessary resources for proper care are not easily available to most owners.

*Also...* Potential for Misinformation

*According to...* the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), April 2023

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/exotic-pet-care>

*It States...* Owning exotic pets can spread wrong information because people often rely on unverified sources and personal stories. Owners may social media for advice, which can lead to sharing incorrect care practices and false facts about these animals.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not increase education because relying on unverified sources leads to wrong information, reducing any educational value.

*Therefore...* owning exotic pets will NOT increase education.

*The next argument I will refute is...* Health Benefits.

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### CON-02: vs. Health Benefits

*They said...* owning exotic pets can improve mental health

*We say...* it will not improve mental health

*Because...*

*First...* High Maintenance and Stress

*According to...* Psychology Today, May 2023

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/animal-emotions/201705/the-problems-keeping-exotic-pets>

*It States...* Exotic pets need a lot of care and maintenance, which can cause stress and anxiety for owners. Providing the right environment, food, and care can be overwhelming.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not improve mental health because the high maintenance required can lead to more stress and anxiety for the owners.

*Also...* Risk of Emotional Attachment Issues

*According to...* the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), April 2023

<https://aldf.org/article/why-exotic-pets-dont-belong-in-your-home>

*It States...* Emotional attachment to exotic pets can be problematic due to their unpredictable nature and the potential for sudden health issues or premature death. This can cause significant emotional distress and grief, which outweighs any potential mental health benefits.

*This Means...* Owning exotic pets will not improve mental health because the potential for emotional attachment issues and the stress of dealing with unpredictable health problems can negatively impact the owner's well-being.

*Therefore...* owning exotic pets will NOT improve mental health.

*So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON. Thank you.*