Animals play a very important role in our lives; they make up ecosystems, provide us with food and serve as loyal companions.

However, in the past few decades, several different species of animals have been hovering between existence and extinction, mostly caused by humans. After all, there are so many things that threaten animals: pollution, global warming, habitat loss, illegal trade and so forth. In fact, every day species around the world are being threatened with extinction! So what can we do to help?

Firstly, we absolutely need to regulate the cutting of trees. People are destroying the natural habitats of different species, ruining ecosystems that support life. In fact, the world's main rainforests could completely vanish in a hundred years at the current rate of deforestation. But why should we care? Well, eighty percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests. How would you feel if you were displaced from your home?

Furthermore, we need not even think big. Take this for example: a lot of cosmetics are tested on animals. And no, I do not mean it is a relaxing spa treatment for a rabbit; I mean that new products are tested on rabbits' eyes to see how they react. In most cases, these rabbits either suffer a severe eye burn or go completely blind. Though rabbits are not considered endangered, animal cruelty is another agony some animal species are facing today. Thus, people should only buy products that are cruelty-free.

Now, we should rethink the way we look at all pets – both wild and domesticated. Do we house animals for sheer entertainment or do we merely have them for our emotional security and protection? It is not enough to feed them; we have to give them the proper environment. Does putting them in cramped flats together with humans really help? If the natural state of animals is freedom, how humane is it to keep them in tanks, cages and zoos?

Finally, humans and animals should live in healthy co-existence. And being higher animals, we should know better how to safeguard the general welfare of other animals.