

How Much Am I Worth? :

Using Sentient Property Classification for Animals



This fun yet serious audience participation program starts with the announcement, “Here ye, here ye. Court is now in session with the ‘Honorable Judge’ Carolyn B. Matlack presiding.” A costumed “judge” walks up on stage and calls the “court” to “order” with a loud *bang, bang* of her gavel and immediately questions her listeners . . .

“How many of you have a pet at home?”

“Mrs. Jones, you have your hand up. Would you mind telling us what kind of pet you have?”

Answer: “A dog.”

“What kind of a dog?”

. . . and so the dialogue goes. Audiences are encouraged to do what they love to do – talk about their pet – in a way that inevitably leads to a description of a FEELING their pet has, e.g., Max trembles with fear before a thunderstorm.

“Oh, so you think (your pet) has feelings?”

The “judge” continues, asking about pets’ feelings and the value of their companionship and bond. More questions are posed to the audience about their pet’s worth leading to its ‘real’ or actual ‘market’ value as opposed to the family’s valuation of their pet. We compare selling their dog with selling the chair upon which they sit on the local street corner, followed by a discussion of Fido or Fluffy’s legal value and the ramifications for us and for our pets as well. Usually gasps from the audience at this juncture let ‘the judge’ know that the point is hitting home.

The program concludes by suggesting a way to help our law become more pet-friendly by changing their legal status to ‘sentient property’ (feeling property) and how, specifically, without a lot of time and effort on their part, this can be done.

NOTE: Audience can read more in the short book, *We’ve Got Feelings Too* which can be found at www.WeveGotFeelingsToo.com or Amazon.com. Fun and adoptable to all ages and levels. 704-664-3892.

