

Graciela Corral

Prompt 4: "Nature vs Nurture."

### Nature vs. Nurture in Today's World.

In a world based on only logic and reason there would be no need for the argument of whether nature or nurture matters more in the overall performance of a living being. Logically only the nature of a living being would define its success. Yet, animals and people in the past have gone past those standards and beat the boundaries set by nature. For example, Secretariat was a horse that won the triple crown title in 1973. This horse set multiple track records and was the first non-human to be established in ESPN's 50 greatest athletes of the century. This piece of history proves through there is in fact an impact from the nurture point of view. Secretariat sired over 600 offspring but none of them accomplished anything near what secretariat did. This proves that there is a big difference that nurture makes, nature can only do so much.

Training animals is very different from teaching people, but likewise nurture and hard work are more important than genetics. With hard work, perseverance, and training anything can be achieved. An animal that is genetically bred to be a better runner or more athletic may have a personality that isn't fit for a competitive setting, but with training and work that same animal can be improved.

The same is true for people, the genetic part plays very little in how people develop. The success of a person depends on their work ethic and how they are raised and treated. For example, my father was born and raised in a small town in Mexico. He lived with my grandmother and his three siblings, no one in his family had aspired for more. Everyone was content with the little that they had and stayed in their small adobe houses. My father was not

happy with that at all. At the age of 17, he came to the United States in the trunk of a car and looked for more in life. My father brought his own success upon himself and his genetics played no part in it at all. What made him successful was his hardwork and dedication, he saw my grandmother and wanted to give her a better life. The love and support my grandmother gave my father when he was growing up provided him with a strong foundation and drive to better himself and provide for his family.

When dealing with animals I acknowledge the nature of an animal, but I also hold nurture to a higher importance. An animal that is skittish and is very easily spooked isn't worthless, it might only need confidence training or might need to be exposed to new things to remove the fear. An animal might have suffered abuse from previous owners as well and this creates an even bigger impact on how the animal might perform or react to certain stimulants. This is true in most, if not all, living things. People show how they are raised through their actions and how they go about their day, rarely do people inherit behaviors through genetics.

In my childhood, I was taught respect and to work hard for what I wanted. Nothing was handed to me and I always knew that my parents worked hard for what they had. Through working with animals I also learned a lot of respect. Horses weigh around one thousand pounds, they don't ask for respect but if you do act unreasonably with them they can easily hurt, if not kill you. When working with horses a person learns boundaries and how to read body language. Through this type of upbringing I am very different from other people my age. I believe that the difference between me and other people my age comes from my upbringing and not from my genetics. By working with horses and livestock since a young age I see how it can help me as a young college student. I also have decided to pursue a career in veterinary science with a focus in equine sciences to continue to work with animals.

I believe that nurture is more important than nature. When dealing with animals it is important to understand their nature and breeding but the upbringing and training of the animal is much more important. The same is true for people, the upbringing and personality of a person is very important and greatly affects how they go about their lives. A person or animal that is successful, only gets to that point through hard work, perseverance and dedication.

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