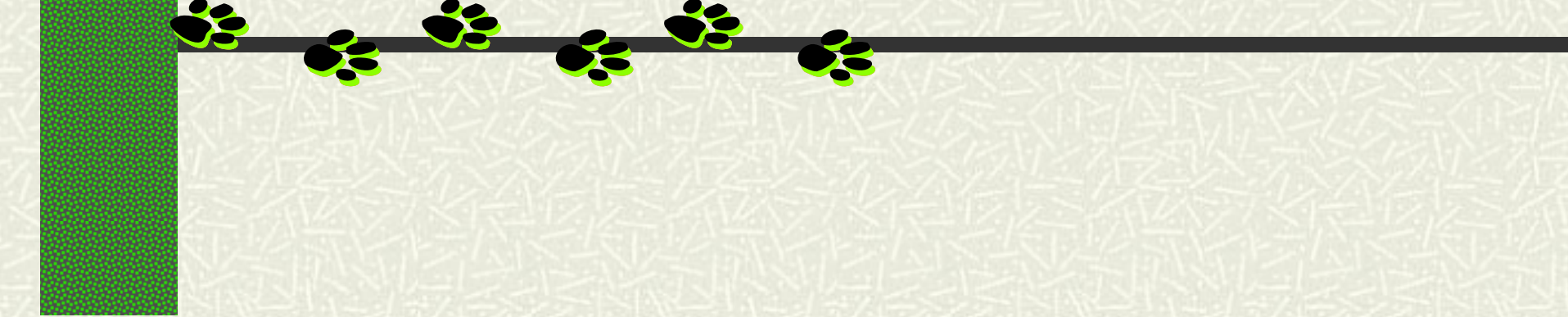


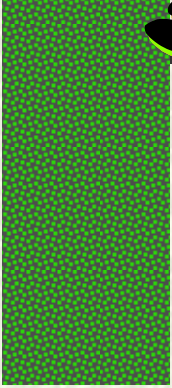


Welfare and Conservation of Wildlife

The 'Humane' Protection of Wildlife



**How can animal welfare
and conservation be used
for the *humane* protection
of wildlife?**



- # Animal welfare and wildlife conservation are often considered to be two distinct areas of animal protection.
- # They can both offer **PROTECTION** to animals, but the **degree** of protection can vary considerably.



Conservation

- # Protection of their habitat
 - # Ensuring that populations of wildlife are sufficient in size to prevent them being threatened with extinction
-



Animal Welfare


is the physical and psychological state of an animal as regards its attempt to cope with its environment.



So on one level:


Conservation is all about **numbers**

Welfare is about the **individual**



When conservation is used as management tool, animals can be:

- # **Harvested** for human use
 - # **Exploited** for human benefit
 - # **Killed** for human entertainment (hunting)
 - # **Culled** to keep their numbers down
-



This can lead to the animals suffering from:

Stress

Pain

Injury



Harvesting of wildlife

Whaling and trapping of fur bearing animals

Killed for entertainment

Hunting of elephants, bears, rhinos, etc

Exploitation

Bear farms, bear parks, zoos

Culling

Seals, kangaroos



Harvesting of Wildlife - Whaling

- # Whales are killed for their meat, their blubber and oils
 - # The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was formed initially to ensure the continuation of the whaling industry – to manage the whale stocks for human benefit
-



Whaling

- # Today the argument in the IWC is still about numbers – how many can be killed without causing the species to decline – this is protection of whales for human benefit
 - # But the animal welfare argument is that “whales cannot be killed humanely”
-



Fur trapping

- # Four million wild animals are killed in the United States each year by 160,000 part-time trappers supplying pelts to the fashion industry.
 - # A decade ago the situation was even worse: seventeen million wild fur-bearing animals were killed by 300,000 trappers
-



Fur Trapping

How many dead animals does it take to make a fur coat?

30-40 opossums

60-80 sables

130-200 chinchillas

40-50 martens

10-12 badgers

16-20 beavers

10-24 foxes

100-400 squirrels

10-16 otters

18-26 fishers

6-8 foals

16-22 bobcats

8-12 lynx

120-160 hamsters

65 minks

180-240 ermine

60-120 muskrats

6-12 whitecoats

20-30 domestic cats

18-20 karakul lambs

30-45 broadtail lambs

26-34 coypus

12-18 ocelots

60-70 skunks

20-30 wallabies

20-30 raccoons

3-5 wolves

8 seals



Fur trapping



Fur trapping

- # Trapped animals may struggle in pain for days.
- # Dehydration, blood loss, hypothermia, and predation by other animals may claim their lives before the trapper returns.











Turtle Farms

- Claim they help wild populations by farming and often releasing back to wild to supplement wild populations.
- Captive conditions can be very poor – overcrowding, disease spreads in captive conditions, inhumane slaughter.
- Also encourages a trade in turtle products which the buyers are told that the animals are farmed and therefore acceptable

Do all conservationists care about animal welfare?



Perhaps not!





Perhaps not!

The picture you have just seen was taken at a global wildlife group's conservation centre. Several turtles had been born there since 1999 and were housed in such tubs for over 2 years.

Bear farming



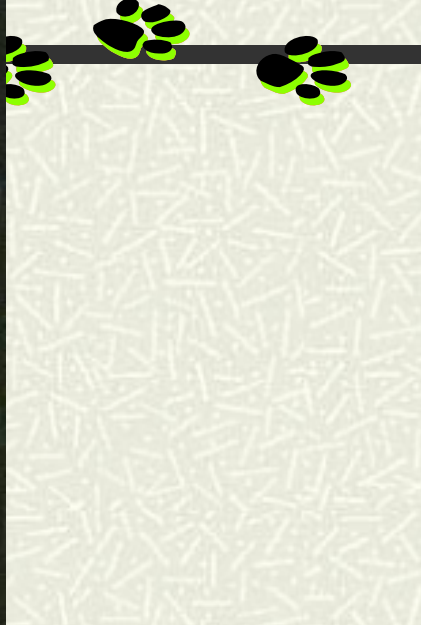
Chinese bear specialists claim that farming bears for their bile is protecting bears in the wild



A decorative header at the top of the slide. On the left is a vertical green bar with a white dot pattern. To its right is a horizontal black line with five black paw prints, each with a green outline, spaced along it. The background of the slide is a light grey with a repeating pattern of small white paw prints.

Zoos

Zoos often use conservation as a justification for their existence – yet poor welfare conditions in enclosures can cause the animals to display abnormal behaviour, which creates a poor educational exhibit, leaving the visiting public with no real understanding of the animals or the threats they face in the wild.

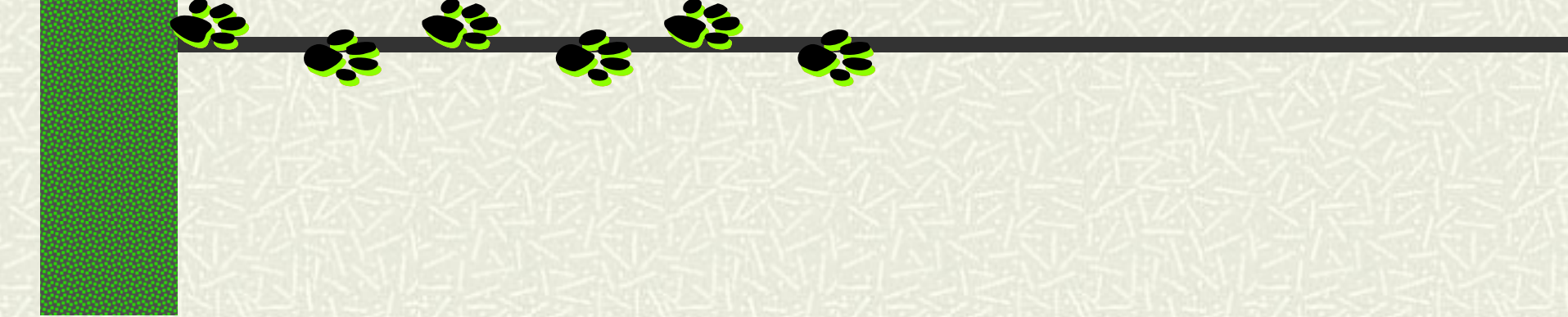






Sport hunting

Sustainable utilisation as a conservation philosophy is being used in a “use-it-or-lose-it” argument with elephants and rhinos in Africa



The international ivory ban was enacted in 1989 to halt a decade of elephant slaughter that cut the 1.3 million African elephants living in 1979 to 500,000 today.



Culling – nuisance / ‘pest’ animals

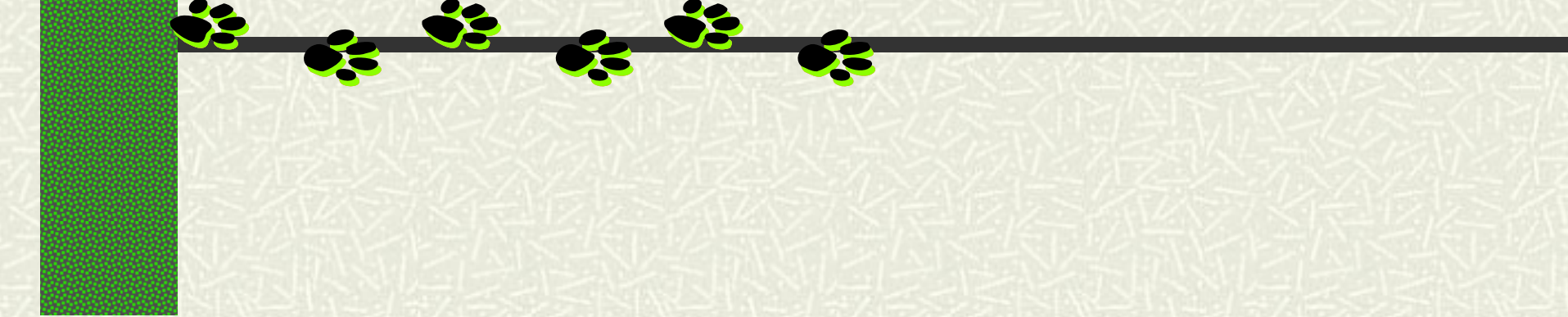
- # Culling is all about numbers with little regard for the individual
 - # Conservation can be used as an argument for mass killing – or ‘culling’ – where harvesting of ‘pest’ species is claimed necessary
-



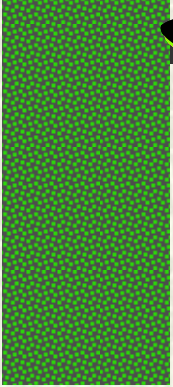

Sealing

A quota of 250,000 Harp seal pups to be killed annually has been agreed by the Canadian government because the seals are blamed for a 99% decline in the mass of spawning cod off the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland



- 
- # Similarly, bear hunting in North America can be dressed up as a necessary sport – to keep the numbers of ‘pest’ or nuisance black bears down.
 - # Yet there is often severe animal suffering due to inexperienced hunters, hunting with dogs, with bows and arrows, crossbows, etc.
-





The 'Humane' protection of wildlife

- #should encompass both preservation of the species and their natural habitats
 - #while also ensuring the **welfare** of the individual animals
-