



本期Karen继续与各位分享远渡重洋的有趣故事。入乡随俗，在逐渐适应美国的生活后，Karen开始注意到，在美国，人们会把小动物当成自己的家人一般对待，和谐相处。下面我们一起来听Karen细细道来吧！

Hey Crazy English Speaker fans,

How's everything? I hope you are enjoying this column so far. I notice my understanding of America is changing as time goes by. The other day when I was in a supermarket, I thought to myself, *Hey, what's the matter with me. I'm not thrilled by the countless items on the shelves and the Made-In-China labels on the products anymore.* But it wouldn't be appropriate if my excitement remained after I'd encountered the same things over and over again.

That said, I am still surprised to see squirrels jumping around on the grass and trees. Autumn seems to be one of the busiest seasons for them to stock up food for the frigid winter ahead. There are squirrels everywhere in the city, although you would think the hustle and bustle would scare them away. If it were not for their fluffy big tails, the squirrels would be no different from rats, since they also like searching for food in dumpsters. I also saw hares a couple of times near my apartment building, which is in the middle of a big city, where you would think such animals couldn't survive. Of course, if you are in the countryside, you'll be likely to bump into deer in the fall. The wild life in America is just breathtaking. Unlike in Chinese cities where we normally see mice and flies and other vermin,



critters like squirrels, chipmunks, skunks and many others coexist with humans.

Americans have a strong affection toward animals. No matter if they are pets or just animals in the zoo or on the farm, they all have names! Yes, just like our pandas, a pony may be named Shirley and her mother is called Lisa. Do you notice I use the gender-specific pronoun "her" to indicate a female pony? It is very common in America to use he, she, his, her or his or hers to denote a specific animal instead of using it or its. In Americans' eyes, animals are living creatures just like humans. So don't be surprised if you hear an American introducing his or her pet to you by saying, "His name is Matt."

Alright, so much for this time. I'll be happy to answer your questions about my American life if you have any. For the time being, thank you for your support! Happy New Year to you!

Cheers,  
Karen  
in Pittsburgh, PA 

