Below is a jumble of 20 points about animals and creatures in the novel. These are the sorts of points that you would make if you had to write an essay on this topic. There are 4 points for each of the bubbles on the spider diagram, which have been given a colour code. For example, this means that somewhere in the list below there are 4 points that would go with the bubble “PINK - Lennie’s relationships with animals.”

**TASK A - Find the 4 points to go with each of the bubbles.** You can do this by highlighting, by using coloured pencils or by writing the colour next to the point. The first two have been done for you as examples.

1. Slim kills at birth several of his dog’s puppies, showing the practical attitude to animals on the ranch as these puppies are not needed and Lulu cannot feed them all. (**ORANGE**)

2. Candy is upset that he has allowed someone else to kill his dog. This links with the novel’s ending when George musters his courage to kill Lennie, ensuring that he dies happy and unafraid. (**BLUE**)

3. In the opening paragraphs of the novel, Steinbeck creates a picture of the natural world being disturbed by humans as the animals flee to safety. (**_______**)

4. Steinbeck describes Lennie as being like a horse when he drinks. Like an animal, he is simply answering a basic need. (**_______**)
5. At the end in the clearing, the heron eats a water snake, demonstrating Nature’s way of the survival of the fittest. (_______)

6. When a mule splits its hoof, Crooks and Slim tend to it. This attention is needed for practical, unsentimental reasons to keep it as a useful, working creature on the ranch, unlike Candy’s dog. (_______)

7. When Lennie explains early in the novel how he always unintentionally killed the mice that his Aunt Clara gave him, Steinbeck is giving the reader an indication of how he is unable to control his strength. (_______)

8. Lennie kills the puppy with his heavy-handed petting and clumsy shows of affection. (_______)

9. Candy’s dog has for many years provided companionship for him, regardless of the fact that it has long since stopped being a useful and skilful sheepdog. (_______)

10. In the barn, as Curley’s wife’s body is discovered, Steinbeck emphasises the ranch animal noises that accompany this scene. (_______)
11. Steinbeck's simile that compares Lennie to a bear conveys to mixture of brute strength and innocence. (_______)

12. Steinbeck's detail of the noise that the lizards make adds sounds to the opening scene. (_______)

13. Although not explicitly stated, the mercy-killing of Lennie mirrors the killing of the dog earlier in the novel. Both are killed as a means to end their suffering and they are shot with the same gun. (_______)

14. When Lennie claims that he will go and live in a cave, and George states that someone will shoot him, the author is suggesting Lennie's similarity to a wild animal. (_______)

15. In his description of the carp's movement, Steinbeck stresses how Nature is full of strange forces. (_______)

16. Lennie yearns to tend rabbits so that he can pet and protect them. His childlike character is shown by the fact that he wants different-coloured ones. (_______)

17. Steinbeck again likens Lennie to a bear with paws during the confrontation with Curley. Here, Lennie shows only an animal's sense of self-protection. He is not aggressive though it is interesting to note that Curley is compared to a rat. (_______)
18. The importance of rabbits to Lennie, the killing of Curley’s wife and the muddle in his brain about being in trouble all join at the end of the novel to make him hallucinate a giant rabbit. (_____) 

19. The fact that the dog is near the end of its life suggests the same idea about Candy. (_____) 

20. Slim is a jerkline skinner who controls the mules with a skill that makes him respected and admired on the ranch. (_____) 

**TASK B - Now find a quotation from the novel for each of the 25 points.** Write it in the space below each point. 

**P. Q. C.** 
If you were to have an essay on Steinbeck’s use of animals and creatures in *Of Mice and Men*, you would now be able to shape this material into five paragraphs. These five paragraphs are represented by the five bubbles on the spider diagram. In each of those paragraphs, you would have a good selection of P. Q. C.
ANIMALS AND CREATURES IN OF MICE AND MEN

Point and Quote and Comment

ANIMLAS AND CREATURES

PINK
Lennie’s relationships with animals

YELLOW
By the pool - the brush

ORANGE
Working animals on the ranch

GREEN
Descriptions of Lennie comparing him to animals

BLUE
Candy’s dog

rabbits

mice

pup

Slim’s dog and pups

mules

horses in barn

novel’s opening paragraph

final chapter

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