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INNER LIVES OF ANIMALS

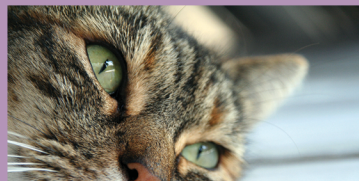
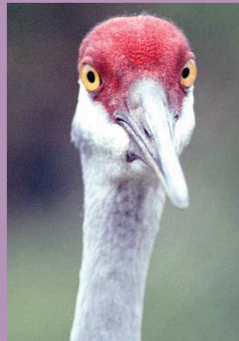
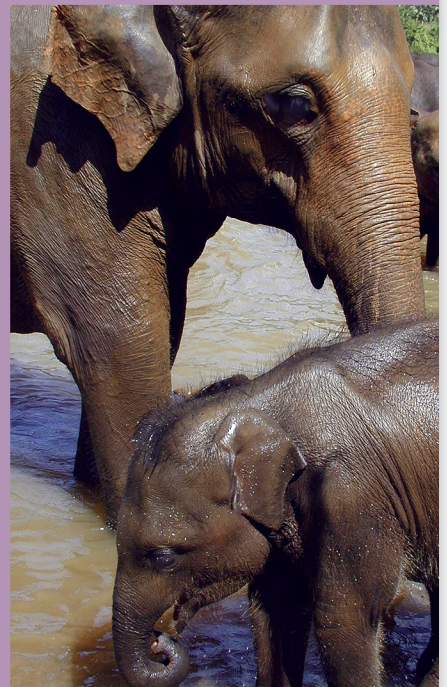
9/11/01: At 8:45 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 smashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center. Fifteen minutes later United Airlines Flight 175 shatters the south tower. Amid a frantic tangle of debris and rescuers, Salty leads Omar Rivera from the 71st floor to safety. On the 78th floor, Roselle steers Michael Hingson toward an emergency exit. Another dog shepherds his blind guardian down 70 flights of stairs, as glass fragments rain from the crash site.

If Roselle, Salty and roughly 300 other courageous canines at Ground Zero could speak, they might have explained: "It's our basic nature. Bravery? I don't know...How about a treat?"

Anyone who has witnessed an animal's selfless valor knows firsthand that nonhuman beings exhibit an elaborate range of psychological, perceptual, behavioral, personal and communal initiative. "It is clear that animals form lasting friendships, are frightened of being hunted, have a horror of dismemberment, wish they were back in the safety of their den, despair for their mates, look out for and protect their children whom they love," writes Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson in *When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals*. "They feel throughout their lives, just as we do."

Sometimes they organize. Consider the 30 monkeys who raided a police station in India to emancipate an orphaned relative. The baby, found clinging to a female langur shot with an airgun, continued to suckle his dead mother in captivity. Meanwhile monkeys atop the station's roof dispatched several liberators to claim the orphan. "It was as if the monkeys had made up their minds to take charge," Inspector Prabir Dutta said. "The monkeys impressed us with their show of solidarity. Humans have a lot to learn from them."

Scientists and philosophers have long debated the issue of consciousness in animals. Descartes viewed them as automated entities limited to



involuntary instinct. Voltaire argued that animals share our emotional fabric and experience fear, pleasure, rage, grief, anticipation, hope, and love. In 1872 Charles Darwin refuted the 19th-century code of human superiority over animals in his groundbreaking work, *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*. Darwin found that the ability to vocalize is merely one form of communication.

Some animals purposefully inflate hair, feathers, and other appendages when afraid or angry. To intimidate intruders, an apprehensive hen ruffles her feathers and reptiles puff their bodies into jumbo proportions. A dog's assorted ear angles articulate curiosity, surprise, or concentration.

Does body-talk prove animals speak and feel through myriad channels? Darwin searched for confirmation that animals weep, but found inconclusive evidence that elephants cry under great duress. Still, Masson contends, "tears aren't grief; they're only symbols of grief. We have to look at animal expressions of feeling on their own terms."

Grief and an awareness of loss are human trademarks. Yet when a mother witnessed the brutal drowning of her 3-week-old calf on the banks of the Elk River in Missouri, she guarded her dying child until authorities removed her. The traumatized cow grew paranoid around humans. "We may have to put her down if things don't change,"

A mother's love crosses the species barrier. Darwin recorded the unceasing calls of parents in search of lost or abducted young ones. "When a flock of sheep is scattered, the ewes bleat incessantly for their lambs, and their mutual pleasure at coming together is manifest."

Kinship brings comfort and joy. When ties are severed, humans feel sadness and a sense of mortality. So do chimps and elephants. In a PBS Nature series, *Inside the Animal Mind: Animal Consciousness*, both animals display grief when relatives die: "Elephants even linger over the bones of long-dead relatives, seeming to ponder the past and their own future."

If animals value interconnected lives, how do we reconcile their suffering and murder at a slaughterhouse, fur farm or research lab? Contemporary scholars are more inclined to embrace this conundrum than biologists. Plainly, a pig is terrified of his killer. He trembles beneath the blast of a stun gun and screams with human likeness when the knife enters his flesh. A pig's anguished squeal differs from his joyful grunt after a good meal or roll in the mud. He wants to live; "the only difference is [animals] cannot say so in words," Masson asserts.

In August 2000 a 6-month-old calf escaped from a Queens, New York slaughterhouse. After hundreds of pleas to save the bewildered fugitive, "Queenie" arrived safely at Farm Sanctuary, a nonprofit shelter in Upstate New York. Enterprising and decisive (a "tough broad"), Queenie had made an independent decision to flee a bleak situation.

The inner life of animals is astonishingly vast, an emotional landscape with perception and inclination. "The warmth of their families makes me feel warm," writes scientist Douglas Chadwick of his time among elephants. "Their capacity for delight gives me joy. If a person can't see these qualities, it can only be because he or she doesn't want to."



In Koko's Own Words

When Koko's cherished companion Michael succumbed to cardiovascular disease last year, the grieving 230-pound great ape clung to her dead friend's blanket and signed: "sorry, cry." Michael and Koko shared a unique bond. Their use of words to impart wit, empathy, ingenuity, and a vast range of human emotions has been the theme of Dr. Penny Patterson's Project Koko since

Dr. Patterson teaches lowland gorillas American Sign Language. Koko uses over 1000 words. At age 3, she eagerly signed "you, me, cookie" or "hurry, drink." By 6, she challenged authority by referring to others as "you nut." At 10, she vocalized basic sentences with an Auditory Language keyboard connected to a voice synthesizer.

Koko watched TV footage of the 2001 terrorist strike and detected tension in her humans. Every time she heard a siren or low-flying plane, she grew anxious and signed "trouble." Koko and her new friend Ndume now occupy a more native environment in west Maui, Hawaii, where construction is underway for a gorilla preserve.

A Crane's Compassion

Sometimes a crane's mouth is bigger than his eyes. In Tony Crisp's "Animals are amazing, and these true stories prove they are not so dumb as some people make out," a crane had plucked an oversize fish from a Florida lake and ferried the catch ashore for lunch. Cranes swallow food whole – an daunting task for this crane in possession of an enormous fish. Frustrated and hungry, the crane forfeited his meal and wandered away. Then the bird stopped, seemingly to reflect, before he returned to the dying fish. The crane pecked the fish to assess the situation. When the fish flopped in response, the crane swept his former lunch up in his bill and shuttled the fish back to the lake. The crane "dropped [the fish] into the shallows," Crisp writes, "and then pushed [the fish] out into the deeper water – to safety."

Unlikely In Love

Unaware that felines usually ambush mice, 7-year old female cat Auan lovingly licked the face of Jeena, a 3-year old male mouse. The unusual couple, who reside at a farmer's house in a province near Bangkok, became media sweethearts after their guardian released photos of The Kiss. Auan has been Jeena's feline angel for three years – even shielding mouse from dog on occasion.

Meanwhile, in Fonfria de Alba, Spain a sad mama dog adopted four piglets to offset the loss of her litter that died after birth. "Linda" enthusiastically nursed the tiny piglets as if were her own children.

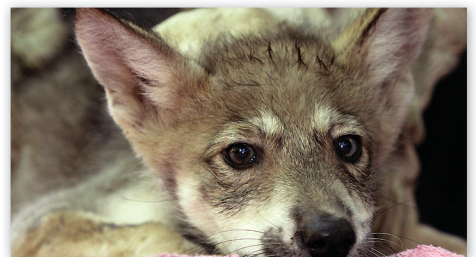
Hamster Hits The Road

In London, British detectives were on the case of a runaway hamster seen driving a toy car along a promenade at a northern seaside resort. "Speedy" was spotted as he coasted through Cleveleys in a tiny, treadmill-powered car. Constable Quentin Allen told Daily Express: "It is a model hotrod racing car with large wheels at the back and small ones at the front. In the center is a typical hamster wheel bought at any pet shop... As the hamster went round and round it powered the car along at high speed." After several efforts to drive off the officers' front desk, Speedy was removed from his vehicle and delivered to a sanctuary. Detectives have asked Speedy's guardians to step

Rats To The Rescue?

Rats have a bad rap. Notorious for inhabiting sewers, cellars and trashcans, these vagabonds of the animal kingdom are seldom known for their loyalty and courage. Then there is Gerd, the companion rat of Birgit Steich's son in Stuttgart, Germany. When armed burglars invaded the Steich's home, the wee warrior waged an attack from his bookcase stronghold, sinking all four feet and teeth into the face of a crook. Gerd then darted up the pant leg of a second thief, landing upon a tender portion of his anatomy. "The would-be burglars turned out to be suspects in a series of robberies and murders, but thanks to hero rat Gerd, the Steich family were not among their victims," Dorothy Hoffman writes in *Heroic Rats*.

Fido, the Gumbley's 8-month-old rat, saved his family from fire inside their Devon, England home. At 2 a.m., smoke fumes from an electric heater roused the sleeping rat. Fido fled his unlocked cage, but rather than scamper to safety the righteous rodent climbed a stairway to scratch out an SOS to his family. Fido awoke Megan, 9, who alerted her family to the blazing carpet and furniture below. Thanks to Fido, everyone evacuated safely.



The Bravery Of Wolves

Author Tony Crisp tells a tale about Lyman Jackes and a ranger on tour inside a U.S. park. The men encountered many spooked deer and soon found their panic source: 11 at the treacherous landing of a nearby swamp. Assigned to "manage" wolves with his rifle, the ranger fired his last five bullets into the pack. Five bodies crumpled and remaining wolves dispersed. Armed with wooden clubs, the men descended the hill to inspect their kill. A female wolf, intuitively sensing an absence of ammunition, intercepted the men with exposed fangs. She halted 20 feet from them, guarding the swamp with her intimidating growls. A standoff ensued for half an hour before the wolf abruptly dashed across the swamp's floating islands. Later, the men found no trace of the other wolves. This fearless wolf had given her peers an opportunity to retreat. Or, perhaps she gave them a chance to die with dignity rather than under the clubs of approaching men. "If [the wolf] had been human," Crisp writes, she "would have been called 'quick thinking...an act of bravery and intelligence.'"

Wise Deer

A no-kill policy prevails in Algonquin Park reserve in Ontario, Canada. When November deer hunts begin, local deer mass migrate to the more secure confines of Algonquin Park. Wise deer. Dumb hunters.