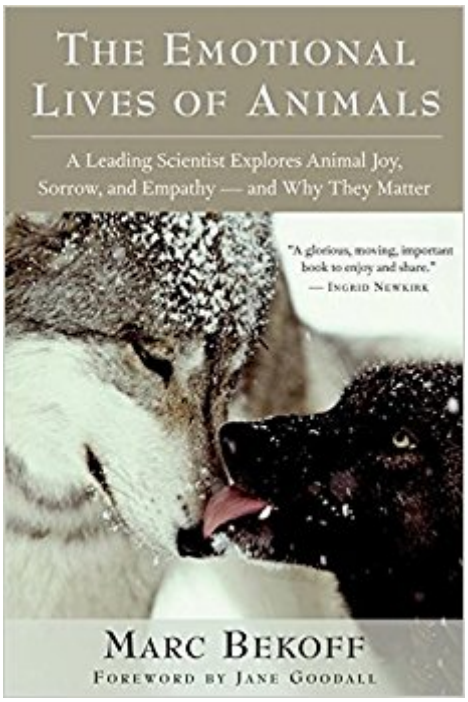
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The Emotional Lives Of Animals: A Leading Scientist Explores Animal Joy, Sorrow, And Empathy — And Why They Matter



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Synopsis

Based on award-winning scientist Marc BekoffÃ¢â ¬â„¢s years studying social communication in a wide range of species, this important book shows that animals have rich emotional lives. Bekoff skillfully blends extraordinary stories of animal joy, empathy, grief, embarrassment, anger, and love with the latest scientific research confirming the existence of emotions that common sense and experience have long implied. Filled with BekoffÃ¢â ¬â„¢s light humor and touching stories, The Emotional Lives of Animals is a clarion call for reassessing both how we view animals and how we treat them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If the onus on Emotional Lives of Animals author Marc Bekoff was simply to prove that nonhuman creatures exhibit Charles Darwin’s six universal emotions (anger, happiness, sadness, disgust, fear, and surprise), then his book would be very brief. As anyone who has ever had a pet dog, cat, rabbit, or even bird can attest, animals not only possess such emotions but broadcast them clearly and often. Bekoff’s goal, however, is much grander: To show that wild and domestic species have a kaleidoscopic range of feelings, from embarrassment to awe, and that we dismiss them not only at their peril but our own. And if an endorsement squib by PETA president Ingrid Newkirk and Foreword by renowned animal scientist Jane Goodall doesn’t give it away, then readers quickly learn that Bekoff also has an agenda: showing that using animals for scientific experiments, amusement, food, and the like is reprehensible and unconscionable. Not that The Emotional Lives

of Animals is a polemic. By turns funny, anecdotal, and deeply researched, the book is all the more persuasive because it’s so compelling. As Bekoff (professor emeritus of biology at the University of Colorado) points out, "It’s bad biology to argue against the existence of animal emotions. Scientific research in evolutionary biology, cognitive ethology, and social neuroscience supports the view that numerous and diverse animals have rich and deep emotional lives. Emotions have evolved as adaptations in numerous species, and they serve as a social glue to bond animals with one another." And with us, as Bekoff argues in this absorbing and important book. -- Kim Hughes --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Any dog owner knows that her own pet has feelings, but what evidence exists beyond the anecdotal, and what does this evidence teach us? Bekoff, professor emeritus of biology at the University of Colorado, pores through decades of animal research-behavioral, neurochemical, psychological and environmental-to answer that question, compelling readers to accept both the existence and significance of animal emotions. Seated in the most primitive structures of the brain (pleasure receptors, for example, are biologically correlative in all mammals), emotions have a long evolutionary history. Indeed, as vertebrates became more complex, they developed ever more complex emotional and social lives, "setting rules" that permit group living-a far better survival strategy than going solo. Along the way, Bekoff forces the reader to re-examine the nature of human beings; our species could not have persevered through the past 100,000 years without the evolution of strong and cohesive social relationships cemented with emotions, a conclusion contrary to contemporary pop sociology notions that prioritize individualism and competition. He also explores, painfully but honestly, the abuse animals regularly withstand in factory farms, research centers and elsewhere, and calls on fellow scientists to practice their discipline with "heart." Demonstrating the far-reaching implications for readers’ relationships with any number of living beings, Bekoff’s book is profound, thought-provoking and even touching. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This is a wonderful book, very well written and engaging.

It’s a very good book.

A very good book.

Scientific research in Evolutionary biology, cognitive ethology, and social neuroscience supports the view that numerous and diverse animals have rich and deep emotional lives. Charles Darwin, was the first scientist to study the emotions of animals. He recognized 6 universal animal emotions: anger happiness, sadness, disgust, fear and suprise. He later expanded the list to include: anxiety, grief, dejection, despair, joy, love, devotion, ill-temper, sulkiness, determination, hatred, anger, distain, contempt, disgust, guilt, pride, helplessness, patience, suprise, astonishment, fear, horror, shame, shyness and modesty. In short, all the same emotions that humans have. Primary emotions are hard wired into the brain's evolutionary old limbic system, especially the amygdala, dating from far into the distant past. they are possessed by fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Other brain structures are tied into emotions. These structures are similar in humans and other animals. This is why mice respond to Prozac. To those who own a dog, this is called "common wisdom". And explanations aren't needed. To scientists and others who abuse and mistreat animals, it is merely inconvenient that they feel anything at all.In the USA animals are protected from abuse to some extent by the Animal Welfare Act, however, mice, rats and birds are not protected. Evidently they weren't considered to be animals.The primate researcher Jane Goodall believes that not only do primates like gorillas and chimpanzees possess emotions, but that they also possess the precursors to religious ritual and recognize the gods of the elements like fire, waterfalls, thunder and lightning.Marc Bekoff believes that there is considerable evidence that animals expierience the gamut of the varieties of love. More than 90% of bird species mate for life. Animals possess morality too.Some scientists say we should not attribute human characteristics to nonhuman animals (anthropomorphism) yet some of these same scientists possess pets of their own, yet utilize a duel system of judgement, attributing feelings only to their own pets and not those in the lab.In his book, The Emotional Lives of Animals, Marc Bekoff uses science plus anecdotes to illustrate the diverse emotional life of the creatures we share the earth with. It is his intent, as a scientist, to change the way we as humans use and abuse these animals for the benefit of mankind. He believes that animals were not placed here for our use, but that we were placed here together to live in harmony with all of nature. We humans are animals too. I concur.

One of the powerful things about Mark Bekoff's books is his professional status as card-carrying scientific researcher. It's easy for the unsympathetic or cynical to dismiss the "When Elephants Weep" genre as sentimental and unscientific. Bekoff can't be dismissed, and he doesn't go quietly. indicates the book is 240 pages long. True, but the text stops on page 168, and the rest, nearly a third of the book, is notes and bibliography. His sources range from youTube videos to the most

obscure technical journals, and his "anecdotal evidence" comes with the authority of a trained observer consulting a community of colleagues.I would have preferred a longer book, but that is to miss the purpose of this one. The reader looking for in-depth discussion of the information and ideas Bekoff covers can consult the daunting bibliography. "The Emotional Lives of Animals" is for the semi-casual reader, not the researcher. Its purpose is to sway public opinion, not introduce the study of animal sentience.

Enjoying this read greatly. Although the binding of this book needs to improve. Reading on the go folding the pages back has caused pages to come loose.

Didn’t tell me anything I didn’t already know about the emotional issues of animals, and maybe it’s because I have had pets all my life and have observed them closely. I did enjoy it, but I expected it to be a little more scientific. Animals are my passion and if I can understand mine even just a little bit more, I am happy. It was upsetting to hear how so many zoos are not what they purport to be in their humane treatment of animals. All told, it was a good read.

An insightful read about the animals that inhabit planet Earth with us! This is one step closer to being able to "talk with the animals!"

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