

# HAVE MERCY



Dr Sahadeva dasa

**We Have Feelings Too**

# HAVE MERCY

## We Have Feelings Too

BY  
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Soul Science University Press

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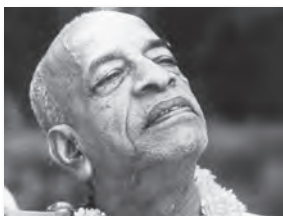
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*Dedicated to...*

His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



*Formerly when a person was attacked, many people would come to help him, asking, "Why is this man being attacked?" However, at the present moment if a man is attacked, passers-by will not care because they have lost their sympathy for others and their sense of mercy. Our neighbor may starve, but we don't care. Formerly, however, there was sympathy for other living entities, even for an ant. For instance, when Maharaja Pariksit was touring his kingdom and saw a man trying to kill a cow, he immediately drew his sword and said, "Who are you? Why are you killing a cow in my kingdom?" The government is supposed to give everyone protection; it is not that the government is meant to give protection only to human beings and not to animals. Because it is Kali-yuga, however, the government discriminates between two nationals. A national is one who has taken birth in a country. The trees, aquatics, flies, reptiles, snakes, birds, bees, human beings—everyone born in the land was formerly protected by the government. Why should the government give protection to one type of living entity and neglect others? This means that human beings have lost their sympathy for other living entities, and this is one of the characteristics of Kali-yuga. Before the advent of Kali-yuga, even an ant would not be killed unnecessarily. There was one instance of a hunter who killed many animals, but when he became a devotee, he was not prepared to kill even an ant.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Vyasa-Puja Day Address, 1974)*

By The Same Author

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*End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future*  
*To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization*  
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*The Author*



## *Preface*

Lack of empathy, guilt or remorse are the hallmark traits of the common man today. It means that they can do practically anything, and then act as if nothing as happened. Lack of empathy is the most telling narcissistic trait you can easily find in the people around you. According to a new research, young people today are significantly more narcissistic than during the 1980s and 1990s. We are in the middle of a narcissism epidemic.

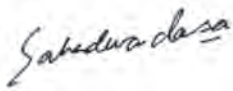
The narcissist lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others. “Narcissists do not consider the pain they inflict on others; nor do they give any credence to others’ perceptions,” says Dr. Les Carter in the book *Enough of You, Let’s Talk About Me*. “They simply do not care about thoughts and feelings that conflict with their own.” Do not expect them to listen, validate, understand, or support you.

Professor Twenge and Campbell analysed data from 15,000 American college students who responded to the Narcissistic Personality survey in 2006. They found that there was a relationship between the birth year of the people filling out the scale and their narcissism score, and those narcissism scores were significantly higher in the 2000s than they were in the 1980s and 1990s.

This state of mind gets reflected in our dealings, not only with each other, but with our natural world as well. We are we living in an increasingly violent society and violence against animals is on the rise. Animal abusers don't always stop there — they hurt people too

Horrific examples of cruelty to animals include a rabbit dying in agony after being microwaved and a cat who had been run over die after being kicked like a football by a passer-by instead of being helped.

Our society is headed for self destruction if we don't work on preserving its moral and ethical foundation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sahadeva dasa". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Sahadeva dasa  
21st August 2015  
Secunderabad, India



1.

## Do animals have emotions?

A three-month-old baby died in its mother's arms and for hours the mother, Gana, gently shook and stroked her son Claudio, apparently trying to restore movement to his lolling head and limp arms. People who watched were moved to tears — unfazed by the fact that Gana and Claudio were “only” gorillas in Münster zoo, northern Germany.

It wasn't just witnesses who were moved. A British woman who read about Gana's loss online posted this comment: “From one bereaved mother to another — Gana, you are in my thoughts. My baby boy died last June and you wouldn't wish it on any form of life.”



Some, to be fair, reacted differently. One newspaper writer asked bluntly whether we are “too quick to project human feelings onto animals”. However, Dr Bill Sellers, a primatologist at Manchester University, believes gorillas experience pain and loss in a similar way to humans, “but of course it’s extremely difficult to prove scientifically”.

As Einstein said: “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts.” Only a few years ago doctors did not give anaesthetics to tiny babies, believing they did not feel pain. By focusing narrowly on specifics — in this case, the emotional capacity of animals — scientists may fail to take account of what seems obvious and meaningful to the rest of us. *The scientific experience of the world must seem a bit like watching a football match at night, with a single spotlight instead of floodlights.*

Many of those who commented on Gana’s story online took a robustly anti-science line, asking angrily how “experts” could be so idiotic. “Have they not heard a cow calling for days when her calves are removed?” asked one. Others described how dogs and cats had become “depressed” by the death of their own kind — and indeed by the loss of human companions. These people would turn the sceptics’ question on its head: “Haven’t we been rather slow to recognise that animals have emotions?”

The question goes to the heart of our way of life. If animals have feelings, it is much harder to justify experimenting on them in laboratories, ogling them in zoos and farming them intensively — or, indeed, at all. The academics attempting to resolve this fall into two camps. Behaviourists accept only the results of tests, rejecting any unproven suggestion that animals think or feel or are even capable of emotion. Ethologists, on the other hand, are prepared to draw conclusions from studies and observation, anecdote and personal observation.

Ethologists, these days, are in the ascendant. One of the best known is Marc Bekoff, professor of biology at the University of

Colorado and co-founder with the primatologist Jane Goodall of the group Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Sceptical behaviourists often ask him, “How do you know dogs and elephants feel joy or jealousy or embarrassment?”

Bekoff replies: “One retort is to say: how do you know they don’t? There is continuity in evolution, so the differences between species are differences in degree rather than differences in kind. They’re shades of grey.

“If we feel jealousy, then dogs and wolves and elephants and chimpanzees feel jealousy. Animal emotions are not necessarily identical to ours but there’s no reason to think they should be. Their



hearts and stomachs and brains also differ from ours, but this doesn’t stop us from saying they have hearts, stomachs and brains. There’s dog joy and chimpanzee joy and pig joy, and dog grief, chimpanzee grief and pig grief.”

Although many people would feel comfortable associating emotions with large, charismatic mammals, hard evidence increasingly suggests that other animals are similarly capable. The neurobiologist Erich Jarvis of Duke University, North Carolina, argues that evolution has created more than one way to generate complex behaviour; and that they are comparable.

Some birds have evolved cognitive abilities far more complex than those of many mammals. Dr Nathan Emery, a neuropsychologist at Cambridge University's department of zoology, suggests that in their cognitive ability, corvids — the bird family that includes crows, ravens, rooks, jackdaws, jays and magpies — rival the great apes and might well be considered “feathered apes”.

Esther Woolfson, author of a new book, *Corvus: A Life with Birds*, has lived for years with a variety of these feathered apes. Woolfson doesn't believe that her birds understand every word she says — the claim beloved of pet owners everywhere — but she does believe they have emotions. “I have seen — or believe that I have seen — in birds, impatience, frustration, anxiety in the urge to impart news, affection, fear, amusement (the last being a difficult one, I admit, to prove, merely on the basis of watching the look on a magpie's face as its booby-trap was successful) and, particularly, joy.”



One bird, Spike, would balance an object — a pamphlet, a rubber glove, a matchbox — on top of a half-open cupboard door, then wait until it fell onto the head of the next person to open the cupboard.

Her birds also seemed to empathise: “To have a magpie, on seeing me weep, hover on top of the fridge, wings outstretched, tremble for a few moments then fly down to my knee to crouch, squeaking quietly, edging ever nearer until his body was close against mine, seemed to me at the time, (as it does now) an act of an unexpected tenderness that I can interpret only as empathy. There may be other explanations of their behaviour, but I can't think what they might be.”

Bekoff agrees that we can no longer associate emotion only with the charismatic mammals: “The fact is that fish show fear. Rodents

can empathise. This is hard science. With birds and mammals there is no doubt that they have a very rich ensemble of emotions.”

Satish Kumar, editor of *Resurgence* magazine, was for several years a Jain monk. The Jain respect for life is extreme: Kumar didn't wash his hair for years in case there were fleas in it. He gave up being a monk eventually, for other reasons, but still believes that all living beings should be respected.

“We are animals. And we have a kind of empathy with the animal kingdom. They're our kin. There is a slight difference between a cat and a dog and a chimp and a female human and a male one and a black human and a white one. These differences are very small: 98% of our DNA is the same as in other animals such as primates,” Kumar says.

“There used to be a time when people thought that animals had no soul, just as they thought that slaves or Africans or women had no soul. We realised a long time ago, as Jains, that animals have souls.

They do feel pain and joy. Mostly they feel what we feel. Animals have empathy and intelligence. We have to be humble and accept that we are only one kind of animal and these are others.”

Jains divide the living world into several categories. “Living things like trees and vegetation have only one sense — touch. Then you have two senses, touch and taste, the animals that eat. Then there are animals with a third sense, smell. Fourth are the ones that have sight, too. And then hearing. Intelligence is limited in these cases because they get their information through fewer senses than us,” says Kumar. “But look at people who are not literate. Literacy is a relatively new thing. Before that we had only an oral culture. That does not mean that people lacked intelligence; just techniques.

“So even mosquitos have something. Even viruses and fungi have intelligence. Nature is full of intelligence. That intelligence manifests in different ways. A tree knows how to bear fruit.”

Many people will reject this as sentimental nonsense, but scientific evidence is increasingly providing support for such ideas. Dodder, the parasitic plant, appears to “choose” which host plants



to parasitise on the basis of an initial evaluation of a potential host's nutritional status. Transplanted shoots are more likely to coil on ("accept") host plants of high nutritional status and grow away from ("reject") hosts of poor quality. Crucially, this acceptance or rejection occurs before any food has been taken from the host. We do not yet understand how the parasite evaluates the host's food value.

However, intelligence is not the same as emotion. Studies of intelligence and ability have been around for ever — a new one last week showed that elephants can do maths.



Evidence of emotional capacity, conceivably older in evolutionary terms than intelligence, has the greater potential to change the way we treat animals. You might put an animal into a circus if it did tricks, but if you knew that this upset the animal you would take it out again. (Unless you were a psychopath, many of whom have been shown to be cruel to animals as well as humans.)

### **The Eyes Say It All**

To Bekoff, the great distinction between living beings is whether they have eyes: "The eyes tell it all.

If we can stand it, we should look into the fear-filled eyes of animals who suffer at our hands, in horrible conditions of captivity, in slaughterhouses and research labs, fur farms, zoos, rodeos and

circuses. Dare to look into the sunken eyes of animals who are afraid or feeling all sorts of pain and then try to deny to yourself and to others that these individuals are feeling anything. I bet you can't."

Bekoff abandoned a promising career at medical school for this reason. "A very intelligent cat looked at me and asked, 'Why me?' I couldn't find the words to tell him why or how badly I felt for torturing and killing him."

Strict behaviourists might laugh at this, saying the animal's expression was merely a physical response to particular stimuli. But if they are consistent they must say the same about human emotions, too.

Marian Stamp Dawkins, professor of animal behaviour at Oxford University, points out that even in humans it is difficult to measure emotion: "There are three ways: we can listen to what people say they feel; measure body temperature and heart rate and



hormonal levels; and observe behaviour. Unfortunately, the three emotional systems do not necessarily correlate with each other. Sometimes, for example, strong subjective emotions occur with no obvious autonomic changes — as when someone experiences a rapid switch from excitement to fear on a roller coaster."

Ultimately, the minds and feelings of individuals other than ourselves are private. "Access is limited because we can't really get into the head or heart of another being — and that includes other people," says Bekoff.

#### Source

By John-Paul Flintoff, Published: 24 August 2008, The Sunday Times

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2.

Animals Show Empathy

## **Frantic Cat Saves Lamb**

### **From Drowning**

A lamb who escaped from his pasture in England was saved from drowning in a swimming pool by an alert cat.

Puss Puss, a black and white cat, discovered the lamb's predicament and frantically meowed, running back and forth between the pool and the garden where her owners were working, to alert them to his plight.

Puss Puss's owners, gardeners Adrian Bunton and Karen Lewis, had taken her along with them to work at the garden of Cotswold District Council chairman Tim Royle. He said, "She



was in a very, very agitated state, meowing and calling and crying and being an utter pest and dashing back and forward between them and the pool."

When Bunton and Lewis found the lamb he was under the swimming pool cover and his head was entangled in the pool cover straps, which actually were keeping him from drowning. Bunton

jumped into the pool to rescue the lamb while Lewis went to get help.

Puss Puss is “a real little superstar,” said Lewis. The actions of the quick-thinking feline are all the more remarkable because she is disabled. “As a kitten she had an accident and had to have her tail amputated,” Lewis explained. “She hasn’t grown properly, has arthritis and can’t curl up, jump or climb like other normal cats. But many times she has shown concern for others like this.”

Source

AR-News: (UK), Sherry Morse, Oct 21, 2003

Ananova

[pda.ananova.net/news/story/sm\\_826436.html?menu=news.story](http://pda.ananova.net/news/story/sm_826436.html?menu=news.story)

Gloucestershire Echo, 6 October 2003

3.

Animals Show Empathy

## Elephant Herd Rescues Antelope

A conservation team were left baffled when 11 elephants arrived at their camp in Empangeni, Zululand to rescue a herd of antelope who were being held in a boma enclosure (Boma is a livestock enclosure).

Conservationist Lawrence Anthony said that a private game capture company had been working on the Thula Thula Exclusive Private Game Reserve capturing antelope that were to be relocated for a breeding programme.



Shortly before relocation the antelope were being housed in a boma enclosure.

The team were settling in for the night when a herd of 11 elephants approached the boma, he said.

Onlookers realised this was not a mission for free food, but actually a rescue. The herd circled the enclosure while the capture team watched warily, thinking the herd were after lucerne feed being used to feed the antelope.

“This went on for quite a while until the herd seemed to back off from the boma perimeter fence.”

The herd’s matriarch, named Nana, approached the enclosure gates and began tampering with the metal latches holding the gates closed.

She carefully undid all the latches with her trunk, swung the gate open and stood back with her herd.

At this stage the onlookers realised this was not a mission for free food, but actually a rescue.

The herd watched the antelope leave the boma and dart off before they walked off into the night.

Thula Thula resident Ecologist Brendon Whittington-Jones said: “Elephant are naturally inquisitive, but this behaviour is certainly most unusual and cannot be explained in scientific terms”.

*A rooster has a great deal of pride, wants his own position of power and authority, and loves to be the “Cock of the Walk” in his circle of fellow chickens. The hens are more coy and use more intelligence for their own protection and that of their chicks. I’ve seen hens being chased by a strange rooster (not one who has already taken her into his own harem), run right into the circle of a mean, chained up dog, that hates chickens, and turn around and almost laugh out loud as the strange rooster slams on his brakes and runs from the danger of that mean dog! –*

*~ Tony L. Carter*

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Source

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Aug 31, 2015, Bliss Group Books

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4.

## **Our Well-Wisher**

### **Is Always Our Well-Wisher**

**A** true well-wisher always has our best interest in mind whether or not we understand his intentions. In this connection there is a beautiful story about Genghis Khan and his falcon, and it contains two important life lessons.

Even today we find Genghis Khan's legacy impressive. Wars are often motivated by the insatiable hunger for new territory and wealth as well as the cruel retaliation wreaked on those who refuse to accept another's rule. The wars Genghis Khan waged are no exception, and Genghis Khan certainly saw himself as a world ruler ("Genghis Khan" actually means "universal ruler" or "emperor of the universe"). He must have been an organizational and strategic genius, because he created one of the most highly disciplined and effective armies in history. He also managed to hold onto whatever territories he conquered throughout his life. And he conquered more land than Alexander the Great. His lands included



most of China; he brought Baghdad to its knees, conquered Poland, and threatened Vienna. Persia (present-day Iran) and Afghanistan fell into his hands, and even Moscow surrendered to the hardy Mongol riders who attacked with their bows and arrows on their small, quick horses. Genghis Khan must also have had a huge ego. But he was intelligent and educated enough to know how to rule effectively.

To unify his empire he introduced a sophisticated legal system, a cohesive system of written language, government reforms, and religious freedom. In his army he welcomed Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, and tribals. He granted women more rights than was usual at that time, and he severely punished thieves. By the time he died his empire stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Adriatic Sea.

Like people everywhere, Genghis Khan's subjects imagined themselves to be the centers of the universe, the greatest of people, favored by the gods. They justified their warlord's unrelenting conquest by claiming



that he had been chosen by the gods to unite the world's people.

But late during Genghis Khan's amazing career something happened that changed this perspective. Let us hear the legend as it is told even today around the fires of Kazakhstani herdsman.

Early one morning, Genghis Khan and some of his companions mounted their horses to go hunting. With him was his favorite falcon. Although Genghis Khan and his men were usually successful in their hunting, today they found no prey. Even the falcon, who could see further afield than its human master, could find no animals to hunt.

By evening the great Genghis Khan was so disappointed that he sent his companions back to camp; he did not wish to take his frustration out on them. As his men departed, Genghis Khan decided to continue into the forest. He was exceedingly thirsty; throughout that long, fruitless hunt he had drunk only the little water he had carried in his flask. Now he hoped to find a river.

But before he had gone too far he came across a large rock from which water was dripping. Overwhelmed now by his thirst he took out the silver cup he always carried and held it under the flow. When the cup was a little more than half full he brought it to his lips, but before he could drink the falcon, who had been circling overhead, suddenly dove, hitting the cup and spilling the water.

Genghis Khan was annoyed. He yelled a command at the falcon and then turned to fill his cup again. But as he raised his cup for the second time the falcon again attacked. Each time he tried to drink, his falcon would fall from the sky and knock his cup to the forest floor.



Genghis Khan flew into a rage. He cursed at the falcon, and even told it that although it was a beloved pet he would kill it if it attacked again. And aside from the anger he felt at the falcon's attacks, in the back of his mind the great warlord worried that his men would see him unable to control his bird and find him weak.

The next time Genghis Khan held his silver cup under the dripping water he drew his sword. As soon as the falcon swooped Genghis Khan reached upward and skewered the bird. The falcon died instantly. When Genghis Khan turned his attention back to the rock—he had yet again spilled his water—he saw that the water was no longer dripping.

Angry, the emperor took his cup and climbed the rock, seeking the spring from which the water had come. How surprised he was when he saw the spring filled with poisonous snakes. If Genghis Khan had drunk the contaminated water he would have died immediately. The falcon had proven his well-wisher and saved his life.

Realizing this, Genghis Khan began to cry. He returned to the rock and found the dead falcon. Lifting it to his chest, he kissed it and carried it back to camp. Later, he ordered his goldsmiths to cast the falcon's image in gold with its wings spread. On one of the wings Genghis Khan had the following line engraved: "Whatever is done out of anger leads only to ruin." On the second, "A well-wisher is always a well-wisher—even when we don't see how his deeds are in our interest."

No one knows how much this experience changed Genghis Khan's policies, but it is said that he became wiser toward the end of his life.

Source

By Sacinandana Swami, December 2007

Saranagati, Issue No. 31, 09/5/13

5.

## Why Animal Rights?

Almost all of us grew up eating meat, wearing leather, and going to circuses and zoos. Many of us bought our beloved “pets” at pet shops, had guinea pigs, and kept beautiful birds in cages. We wore wool and silk, ate McDonald’s burgers, and fished. We never considered the impact of these actions on the animals involved. For whatever reason, you are now asking the question: Why should animals have rights?

In his book *Animal Liberation*, Peter Singer states that *the basic principle of equality does not require equal or identical treatment; it requires equal consideration*. This is an important distinction when



talking about animal rights. People often ask if animals should have rights, and quite simply, the answer is “Yes!” Animals surely deserve to live their lives free from suffering and exploitation. Jeremy Bentham, the founder of the reforming utilitarian school of moral philosophy, stated that when deciding on a being’s rights, “The question is not ‘Can they reason?’ nor ‘Can they talk?’ but ‘Can they suffer?’”

In that passage, Bentham points to the capacity for suffering as the vital characteristic that gives a being the right to equal consideration.

The capacity for suffering is not just another characteristic like the capacity for language or higher mathematics. All animals have the ability to suffer in the same way and to the same degree that humans do. They feel pain, pleasure, fear, frustration, loneliness, and motherly love. Whenever we consider doing something that would interfere with their needs, we are morally obligated to take them into account.



Supporters of animal rights believe that animals have an inherent worth—a value completely separate from their usefulness to humans. We believe that every creature with a will to live has a right to live free from pain and suffering. Animal rights is not just a philosophy—it is a social movement that challenges society’s traditional view that all nonhuman animals exist solely for human use. As PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk has said, “When it comes to pain, love, joy, loneliness, and fear, a rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. Each one values his or her life and fights the knife.”

Only prejudice allows us to deny others the rights that we expect to have for ourselves. Whether it’s based on race, gender, sexual

orientation, or species, prejudice is morally unacceptable. If you wouldn't eat a dog, why eat a pig? Dogs and pigs have the same capacity to feel pain, but it is prejudice based on species that allows us to think of one animal as a companion and the other as dinner.

Source

Ingrid E. Newkirk, PETA.org

William Bronson, Issue Position: Animal Rights, Jan. 1, 2014

Darlene Reyes, Animal Rights, 18 December 2013

6.

Empathy In Animals

### **Feeling A Little Peckish Are We?**

## **Generous Woodpecker Feeds Baby Sparrow**

**T**his is the adorable moment a generous woodpecker turns surrogate mother to share its food with a tiny sparrow whose mother had flown off leaving it cheeping in distress.

Spotted in the back garden of photographer Ekaterina Lashkova, 40, in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the two species were snapped happily feeding their offspring, side-by-side.

But in a bizarre turn of events the woodpecker decided there was plenty of food to go around and is seen placing nuts and seed





inside the beak of a baby sparrow. The unusual behaviour occurred when the youngster's mother flew away and in a desperate panic, the startled sparrow began tweeting loudly for its parent to return.

Luckily, the considerate creature couldn't bear to see the chick in a flap and the took time out from its own offspring to feed its mini feathered friend.



Ekaterina said: 'I have been bird watching for many years but I have never seen this type of behaviour before, it was amazing!'

*Here's Why PETA Wanted to Put Up a Tombstone for Some Chickens  
A poultry truck overturned in Georgia, and the animal rights group  
suggested a memorial for the birds that died.*

*These chickens weren't crossing—well, driving down—the road for any  
reason they would have been thrilled about: The birds were headed for  
slaughter last month when the truck transporting them overturned on U.S.  
Route 129 outside Gainesville, Ga.*

*While neither of the drivers involved in the accident was injured, a  
number of the chickens died in the crash. To honor their deaths, People  
for the Ethical Treatment of Animals asked the Georgia Department of  
Transportation to erect a 10-foot-tall gravestone along the side of the  
highway. The proposed memorial, which GDOT shot down, would have  
read, "In memory of the dozens of terrified chickens who died as a result  
of a truck crash."*

*"Chickens suffer from the time they're babies, when they have their  
sensitive beaks cut off with a searing-hot blade. Our proposed statue would  
bring this suffering to the public's attention and would encourage people to  
stop eating chickens," Lindsay Rajt, PETA's associate director of campaigns,  
said in a statement. "At the very least, it would remind motorists to be more  
alert and help prevent future terrifying crashes."*

*~ Willy Blackmore, February 07, 2014*

'As soon as the mother left, the little sparrow cried and cried for it to return.

'It was only away for a few minutes but it was chirping loudly, suddenly the mother-woodpecker turned towards the sparrow and began to feed it seed from the table.

'The funny thing was the baby woodpecker began pecking its mother as soon as it noticed and seemed very jealous of all the attention the sparrow was getting.

'I'm not sure why it decided to feed the baby, I believe it couldn't resist its motherly instincts, either that or it just couldn't stand to listen to the racket any longer!'

Source

Daily Mail Reporter, 21 January 2014

Caters News Agency, 22 January 2014

Komsomolskaya Pravda, Jan 20, 2014

*Everyone has an obligation to feed whoever is hungry -- even if it is a tiger. Once a certain spiritual teacher was living in the jungle. His disciples knew, "The tigers will never come and disturb us, because our teacher keeps some milk a little distance from the asrama, and the tigers come and drink and go away."*

*The teacher would call, "You! Tiger! You can come and take your milk here!" [Laughter.] And they would come and take the milk and go away. And they would never attack any members of the asrama. The teacher would say, "They are my men -- don't harm them."*

*—SriLa Prabhupada (Journey of Self-Discovery 6.5)*

7.

## **Elephants Have Long Memories**

### **Particularly When It Comes To Danger**

**E**lephants are more clever than we thought -- they have long memories, particularly when it comes to danger, says a new study. Researchers have carried out the study and found that older elephants are the best at making crucial decisions about predators as they have experienced similar peril before.

In the study, when families were played male or female lion roars from a loudspeaker -- simulating their presence -- those with older



matriarchs correctly focused their defensive reactions on male lions that are the more adept killers.

Dr Karen McComb of the University of Sussex, who led the study, says the ability to make this subtle distinction highlights the importance of age in leadership and advantage of longevity in large-brained, social mammals.

Elephants live in multi-generational families of up to 12 members that feed, rest, and move as one unit. Together they defend each other, search for food and also care for offspring.

During 72 playbacks of lion roars among 39 family groups in Boseli National Park in Kenya over more than two years, the oldest matriarchs listened intently for longer periods and led their group into more defensive positions when it was a male roar.

The researchers said: “Our work provides the first direct experimental evidence that older matriarchs are in fact able to make better decisions when faced with ecological challenges in this case, the presence of dangerous predators.”

They added: “The findings demonstrate how the accumulated knowledge of the oldest individuals may have an overriding influence on the effectiveness of anti-predator decisions made by the social group as a whole, and highlight the vital role of such individuals in natural populations.”

The findings have been published in the ‘Proceedings of the Royal Society B’ journal.

Source

The Times of India, PTI, Mar 17, 2011

Deccan Herald, 16 March, 2011

Odishatv Bureau on March 16, 2011

David Derbyshire, The Daily Mail, 8 March 2011

8.

## **Cat Burglar**

### **Steals Toys From His Neighbours' Homes**

**A** real-life cat burglar has left his owner feeling less than purr-fect - by swiping dozens of cuddly toys from nearby homes. Frankie the tom cat has got his claws into 35 teddies and soft toys in the last year.

Owner Julie Bishop believes the two-year-old feline is sneaking into her neighbours' homes.

He drags each one of his finds through the catflap before depositing them on the same spot in the living room.

Julie, 52, said: 'Frankie looks very pleased with himself when he comes in with these presents.'



'He's been going out of the house and coming back with all these toys for pretty much as long as he's been allowed out.

'They're all soft toys for cats I think. About 15 of them are all the same leopard. He doesn't really play with them. He dumps them down and goes out looking for something else.'

In the past year alone Frankie's haul has included teddy bears, leopards and a giant squeaky beefburger.

Now Julie has plastered her home town of Swindon with posters to try and trace the rightful owners. Julie got Frankie from a Wiltshire farm in 2006.



*Take, for example, in your country the law is "Keep to the left" while you drive your car. That is the order of the state.*

*But if you do not obey the state order, instead of driving on the left side, if you drive on the right side, you immediately become a criminal, punishable. But the same "right" and "left" consideration, if a dog or a cat or a cow violates -- instead of going on the left side, if he passes -- he has no fault. He's animal. He's animal. Or a child, if he violates law. If I take anything without your permission, that is called stealing. If I enter your house without your permission, that is trespassing. So these are laws, and it is applicable to the grown-up man, intelligent man, civilized man. It must be. If you want to enter somebody's house, and if you see the signboard, "No admission without permission," you'll never go there, because you are civilized. But a cat and dog will enter. A child will enter.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, "What is Religion?" -- August 23, 1973, London)*

She said: 'I'd be interested to find out what's happening when he goes out.

'Frankie is quite independent and comes in and out of the cat flap all through the day and night.

'He's quite a friendly cat and likes to sleep on your shoulder, although he lets you know if he wants to be on his own.'

Two weeks ago Frankie stole two green witch's heads, which must have come from a recent Halloween party.

He has also swiped a range of old socks, nappy sacks, half-eaten beefburgers and chips - as well as the traditional dead mice and birds.

Source

Daily Mail Reporter

9 December 2008

Lauren Johnston, Daily News, December 10, 2008

John Coles, The Sun, 11 Dec 2008

IGN Boards, Dec 10, 2008

9.

## Drunkard Animals

### Drinking Not An Exclusive Human Domain

A herd of wild elephants with a taste for local liquor are on the rampage in India's northeastern Assam state, crashing through fields and smashing down village huts to look for their favourite rice-brew tippie.

Forest officials said they had received reports of destruction by the elephants in many parts of northern Assam, especially in the tea garden areas where people traditionally brew copious volumes of rice beer.



“Elephant herds have taken a fancy to drinking rice beer after entering tea garden labour colonies. In the process, they are smashing down many mud and thatch-roofed huts,” a wildlife ranger said.

He said the runs were equally devastating before and after the drunken bouts.

“Most of the villagers, apprehending trouble from the elephant herds, stay huddled together at night. Thankfully, nobody has been trampled to death,” the official said.



The herd of 200 elephants are believed to have crossed over into Assam from the neighbouring state of Arunachal Pradesh, looking for food and water.

Their drunken exploration has again highlighted the issue of how a depleting forest cover in the region was leading to more elephant encroachments of human settlements.

Last year, more than 100 people were trampled to death by the pachyderms in Assam alone.

“More and more elephants are now straying out of the forests and making their way to villages and even cities due to loss of forest cover,” said Kushal Konwar Sharma, a noted elephant expert.

“This is indeed very disturbing behaviour as the animals generally get highly agitated once they are detached from the herd.”

Source

News24, 2002-06-04

BBC, 17 December, 2002

CNN, Reuters, December 17, 2002

The Assam Tribune, June 5, 2002

10.

## The Bears Who Like To Get High

**Russian Animals Are So Addicted To Aviation Fuel They Sniff It Until They Pass Out**

**T**hese brown bears are keen to play with discarded barrels - because they have developed a nose for aviation fuel.

The creatures sniff kerosene and gasoline from containers left in the Kronotsky Nature Reserve in the far east of Russia.

They take deep breaths for minutes at a time before digging a shallow hole and lying in a 'nirvana' position.

The fuel is used for power generators and helicopters used by nature reserve workers.



*A bear lies back in the 'nirvana' position in the snow after sniffing aviation fuel*

Photographer Igor Shpilenok, 52, spent seven months with the community of bears.

He said some of the addicted predators even stalked helicopters, waiting for take off and drops of fuel to leak onto the hard soil for them to Hoover up.

He added: 'In another case a helicopter brought a few barrels of gasoline.

'Workers of the nature reserve didn't take them in time and a female bear named Suzemka - who is apparently fascinated by the smell of fuel - used the opportunity.

'She seems to be one of the addicts.'

The Kronotsky Nature Reserve, in South Kamchatka, is home to more than 700 brown bears.

They are thought to be the largest brown bears in the world, weighing up to 1,200lb.

The sanctuary covers 225,000 hectares of land and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The climate ranges between extremely hot and cold - earning it the label 'land of fire and ice'.

Source

Helen Lawson, The Daily Mail, 17 March 2013

Elite Daily, April 3, 2013, Chet Williams, Thought Catalog, July 03, 2014

Marina Galperina, Animal Newyork, April 9, 2013

Mirror, Ben Rankin, 18 Mar 2013

The Huffington Post Canada, 03/18/2013



11.

## **Pit Bull Saves Two Women From Deadly Cobra**

### **Dies Wagging His Tail**

**T**he children in the Fronteras household referred to their dog as Kuya ("big brother"), and he certainly proved it on the day he sacrificed his life to protect the family.

On day at around 2 p.m., "Chief", an American Pit Bull Terrier, rescued Liberata la Victoria, 87, and her granddaughter Maria Victoria Fronteras from a deadly cobra which had entered their house through an opening in the kitchen.

Liberata la Victoria and Chief had been watching TV on the sofa when suddenly Chief jumped up and alerted her to the presence of a cobra less than 10 feet away. Maria Victoria rushed in and pulled her grandmother into a separate room, hoping the snake would leave.



But when Maria Victoria later emerged from the room, she was terrified to find the cobra poised about two feet away. Equally

startled, the cobra expanded its hood and appeared to be spitting venom as it prepared to strike.

"The snake was in front of us, maneuvering a deadly attack," says Maria Victoria. "I screamed out loud to ask for help."

That's when from "out of nowhere", Chief dashed between the cobra and the two women, using himself as a shield against the cobra's attacks. Chief then seized the cobra by the neck and slammed it into the floor, killing it.

But for Chief it was a pyrrhic victory. In the struggle, he sustained a fatal bite to the jaw, and moments later he began gasping for breath and collapsed.

The family sought the help of a veterinarian, but they were told that nothing could be done. According to the vet, the bite was too close to Chief's brain, and the venom had already spread. Maria Victoria called her husband Marlon who, stunned by the news, rushed home immediately.

*Canakya Pandita has said,*

*sarpah krurah khalah krurah  
sarpah kruratarah khalah  
mantrausadhi-vasah sarpah  
khalah kena nivaryate*

*"There are two envious living entities. One is a snake, black snake, and one is a human being with the quality of black snake." He cannot see any good thing. Sarpah krurah. The snake is envious. Without any fault he bites. A snake is there on the street, and if you happen to pass by him he becomes so angry, immediately he bites. So this is the snake's nature. Similarly, there are persons like the snake. Without any fault they will accuse you. They are also snake. So Canakya Pandita says that "This black snake is less harmful than the man snake." Why? "Now, this black snake, by chanting some mantra or by some herb can bring him under your control. But this man snake you cannot. It is not possible."*

*— Srila Prabbupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.9.8, Mayapur, February 28, 1977)*

Ian de la Rama, a friend of the family, says it was less than 30 minutes from the time Chief had been bitten that he "went wobbly and lost control of his organs," urinating and defecating uncontrollably. Yet he still kept clinging to life.

It wasn't until Marlone arrived that Chief finally let go. Ian de la Rama describes, "Chief gave his two deep breaths and died. He was fighting and saving his last ounces of breath to see a glimpse of his master for the last two seconds of his life."

Ian adds that the last thing Chief did as he gazed up at Marlone was wag his tail.

Source

From DogsInTheNews.com

<http://www.all-creatures.org/stories/a-pitcobra.html>

The Damien Zone, March 5, 2012

Ted Teodoro, On Loving Animals, November 18, 2007

Brookelynn, Ohio.Com, October 27, 2009

12.

## **The Pigeon Who Saved The Lost Battalion**

### **Fly Cher Ami Fly**

The ability to communicate is essential to soldiers in the field. Without communications to their commanders or support units in the rear area, soldiers on the front line can't send messages about their progress, request needed supplies, or call for help when things reach their worst.

During World War I, messages were sometimes transmitted by wire (telegraph or field phone), but two-way radio communications had not yet become available. Sometimes a unit was ordered to attack over a broad and often difficult terrain, making it impossible to string the wire necessary for communications. In these situations, a field commander often carried with him several carrier pigeons.



Pigeons served many purposes during the war, racing through the skies with airplanes, or even being fitted with cameras to take pictures of enemy positions. But one of the most important roles they served it was as messengers. An important message could be

written on a piece of paper, then that paper neatly folded and secured in a small canister attached to a pigeon's leg. Once the pigeon was released, it would try to fly to its home back behind the lines, where the message would be read and transmitted to the proper military planners.



When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Army Signal Corps was given 600 pigeons for the purpose of passing messages when it couldn't be done by signal flag or field phone. The pigeons were donated by bird breeders in Great Britain, then trained for their jobs by American soldiers.

During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the 2-month battle that finally ended World War I, 442 pigeons were used in the area of Verdun to carry hundreds of messages. This is how the system worked:

When a commander in the field needed to send a message, he first wrote it out on paper, trying to be both brief and yet as detailed as possible. Then he called for one of his Signal Corps officers, who would bring one of the pigeons that went with the soldiers into battle. The message would be put in the capsule on the bird's leg, and then the bird would be tossed high in the air to fly home.

The carrier pigeon would fly back to his home coop behind the lines. When he landed, the wires in the coop would sound a bell or buzzer, and another soldier of the Signal Corps would know a message had arrived. He would go to the coop, remove the message from the canister, and then send it by telegraph, field phone or personal messenger, to the right persons.

Carrier pigeons did an important job. It was also very dangerous. If the enemy soldiers were nearby when a pigeon was released, they knew that the bird would be carrying important messages, and tried their best to shoot the pigeon down so the message couldn't be delivered.



Some of these pigeons became quite famous among the infantrymen they worked for. One pigeon named “The Mocker”, flew 52 missions before he was wounded. Another was named “President Wilson”. He was injured in the last week of the war and it seemed impossible for him to reach his destination. Though he lost his foot, the message got through to save a large group of surrounded American infantrymen.

### **Cher Ami**

Probably the most famous of all the carrier pigeons was one named Cher Ami, two French words meaning “Dear Friend.” Cher Ami several months on the front lines during the Fall of 1918. He flew 12 important missions to deliver messages. Perhaps the most important was the message he carried on October 4, 1918.

Mr. Charles Whittlesey was a lawyer in New York, but when the United States called for soldiers to help France regain its freedom, Whittlesey joined the Army and went to Europe to help. He was made the commander of a battalion of soldiers in the 77th Infantry Division, known as “The Liberty Division”.

On October 3, 1918 Major Whittlesey and more than 500 men were trapped in a small depression on the side of the hill. Surrounded by enemy soldiers, many were killed and wounded in the first day. By the second day only a little more than 200 men were still alive or unwounded.

Major Whittlesey sent out several pigeons to tell his commanders where he was, and how bad the trap was. The next afternoon he had only one pigeon left, Cher Ami.

During the afternoon the American Artillery tried to send some protection by firing hundreds of big artillery rounds into the ravine where the Germans surrounded Major Whittlesey and his men.



Unfortunately, the American commanders didn't know exactly where the American soldiers were, and started dropping the big shells right on top of them. It was a horrible situation that might have resulted in Major Whittlesey and all his men getting killed--by their own army.

Major Whittlesey called for his last pigeon, Cher Ami. He wrote a quick and simple note, telling the men who directed the artillery guns where the Americans were located and asking them to stop. The note that was put in the canister on Cher Ami's left leg simply said:

We are along the road parallel to 276.4.

Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us.

For heaven's sake, stop it.

As Cher Ami tried to fly back home, the Germans saw him rising out of the brush and opened fire. For several minutes, bullets zipped through the air all around him. For a minute it looked like the little pigeon was going to fall, that he wasn't going to make



it. The doomed American infantrymen were crushed, their last hope was plummeting to earth against a very heavy attack from German bullets.

Somehow Cher Ami managed to spread his wings and start climbing again, higher and higher beyond the range of the enemy guns. The little bird flew 25 miles in only 25 minutes to deliver his message. The shelling stopped, and more than 200 American lives were saved...all because the little bird would never quit trying.

On his last mission, Cher Ami was badly wounded. When he finally reached his coop, he could fly no longer, and the soldier that answered the sound of the bell found the little bird laying on his back, covered in blood. He had been blinded in one eye, and a bullet had hit his breastbone, making a hole the size of a quarter. From that awful hole, hanging by just a few tendons, was the almost

severed leg of the brave little bird. Attached to that leg was a silver canister, with the all-important message. Once again, Cher Ami wouldn't quit until he had finished his job.

Cher Ami became the hero of the 77th Infantry Division, and the medics worked long and hard to patch him up. When the French soldiers that the Americans were fighting to help learned they story of Cher Ami's bravery and determination, they gave him one of their own country's great honors. Cher Ami, the brave carrier pigeon was presented a medal called the French Croix de guerre with a palm leaf.

Though the dedicated medics saved Cher Ami's life, they couldn't save his leg. The men of the Division were careful to take care of the little bird that had saved 200 of their friends, and even carved a small wooden leg for him. When Cher Ami was well enough to travel, the little one-legged hero was put on a boat to the United States. The commander of all of the United States Army, the great General John J. Pershing, personally saw Cher Ami off as he departed France.

Back in the United States the story of Cher Ami was told again and again. The little bird was in the newspapers, magazines, and it seemed that everyone knew his name. He became one of the most famous heroes of World War I. Years after the war a man named Harry Webb Farrington decided to put together a book of poems and short stories about the men and heroes of World War I. When his book was published, it contained a special poem dedicated to Cher Ami.

Cher Ami died of his multiple war wounds on June 13, 1919--less than a year after he had completed his service to the United States Army Signal Corps. Upon his death a taxidermist preserved the small pigeon for future generations, a bird with a story that became an inspiration to millions over the years.

Today, visitors to the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. can still see Cher Ami, preserved for history alongside the French Croix de Guerre with palm that was awarded to him by the French government.

Sources

“Cher Ami “Dear Friend” WWI”. Flickr.

“The ‘Stop It’ Telegram”. [www.lettersofnote.com](http://www.lettersofnote.com).

Jim Greelis. “Pigeons in Military History”. World of Wings. National Pigeon Day.  
“History of Cher Ami”.

“Cher Ami - World War I Carrier Pigeon”. Smithsonian Institution.

“A History of Army Communications and Electronics at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey  
1917 - 2007”. Defense Dept., Army, Fort Monmouth Historical Office.

“Cher ami: The Movie”.

13.

## Homesick Cat Returns Home

### After 40 Days And 100 Kilometers

A heartbroken Chinese cat, originally from Beijing, was given away by its owner. The homesick cat returned home after having walked 40 days and 100 km.

The 3-year-old cat ran away from its new owner to find its way back home. It took the determined cat 40 days to get back to her hometown.

The new owners who live in the country had received the cat from a friend from Beijing, the capital of China. The female owner, Zhu, was flabbergasted when her pet cat turned up on her doorstep.



The cat lost over 1.5 kg during its adventurous trip. “It must have suffered a lot since its weight has fallen from 2.5 kilograms to less than 1 kg.”, Zhu said.

Zhu promised she will never give her cat away again.

Source

Paul van der Maas, 06 Mar 2004

The China Daily, March3, 2004

14.

## Parrot Saves Choking Toddler

A parrot whose cries of alarm alerted his owner when a little girl choked on her breakfast has been honored as a hero.

Willie, a Quaker parrot, has been given the local Red Cross chapter's Animal Lifesaver Award.

In November, Willie's owner, Megan Howard, was baby-sitting for a toddler. Howard left the room and the little girl, Hannah, started to choke on her breakfast.

Willie repeatedly yelled "Mama, baby" and flapped his wings,



obviously not "parroting" pre-learned phrases! Howard returned in time to find the girl already turning blue.

Howard saved Hannah by performing the Heimlich maneuver but said Willie "is the real hero."

"The part where she turned blue is always when my heart drops no matter how many times I've heard it," Hannah's mother, Samantha Kuusk, told KCNC-TV. "My heart drops in my stomach and I get all teary eyed."

## Have Mercy - We Have Feelings Too

Source

Robert Ellwood and Benjamin Urrutia in *Vegetarian Friends*

By Mail Foreign Service, 24 March 2009

Associated Press, 3/24/2009

15.

## **Anjana The Chimp And Her Tigers**

### **An Interspecies Friendship**

**W**hen hurricane Hannah separated two white baby tigers from their mother, Anjana the chimp came to the rescue.

Anjana, at TIGERS Sanctuary in South Carolina, became surrogate mom and playmate to the cubs, even helping with bottle feeding. But here's the truly amazing part... Anjana does this all the time, having raised leopard and lion cubs in the past.

An interspecies friendship is a bond that is formed between animals of different species. An atypical phenomenon in biology, numerous cases have been reported among wild and domesticated animals and documented with photography and video.

Interspecies friendships have been reported and recorded between numerous varieties of animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and combinations of these. In many cases, the pairs of animals include those not known to get along, and sometimes, one is of a





species that ordinarily predate on the other in nature.

Reasons for interspecies friendships include a mutually beneficial exchange between the pair, the need for



social bonding or a need for protection. To love and be loved is the innate necessity of every living being.

Source

Chelsea Marshall (30 September 2013). "The 21 Most Touching Interspecies Friendships You Never Thought Possible". BuzzFeed.

Laura Moss (1 July 2011). "16 unlikely animal friendships". Mother Nature Network.

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16.

## Mice Love and Mourn, Too

by Annie Newman

When my white mouse Baby Two passed away, Baby One was amazing. She ran around the tank looking for something. She was digging and tunneling frantically. Then all of a sudden after about 5 minutes she went in the house they shared and started to groom Baby Two's body from head to toes. Then she cleaned herself and arranged their blanket and went to sleep with her head leaning on the body.



She didn't let me remove the body for an hour or so. I had to put her in a clean tank to separate them. She was perfectly normal then! While one mouse is ill, the others take care of him or her, going as far as drinking water and then giving it to the sick mouse almost like a French kiss. Every time they have a member getting sick they keep him or her clean, make a nest, make sure he or she



Have Mercy - We Have Feelings Too

gets food and then when the death arrives they grieve. It's most wonderful and sad to see all this rolled into one!

If only humans acted with half the love and care as mice.

17.

## Rat Culture

Culture and tradition are two seemingly unlikely words to use when talking about rat behaviour but that is exactly what we are going to do in this chapter.

Regarding them as vermin, we wage war on them every day. This persecution has provided a surprising opportunity for another fascinating insight into the lives of sentient animals.

Animals in a group may learn from each other and pass this information on from one generation to the next – scientists call this ‘cultural transmission’. However, the behaviour they learn may not necessarily be picked up by a different group of the same species. There are many examples of rats doing just that!



We try to exterminate rats using poisons such as warfarin which makes them bleed to death. But, you can't fool a rat! In some parts of the world, rats became impossible to exterminate even with new sophisticated poisons because they learn what is safe to eat by picking up cues from other rats and the environment.

Rats use each other as taste testers, eating food that familiar rats have eaten and avoiding foods that made them sick. They must know another rat very well and spend time with them to learn that food should be avoided. If a stranger rat is severely ill, a rat will still eat the food because they don't know them and so can't pick up on their subtle cues.

In one experiment on a group of wild rats, scientists first observed the rats regularly eating two types of food (X and Y). They then poisoned food X with a solution that made the rats temporarily ill but did not kill them. The entire colony gave up eating food X even when it was no longer poisoned and this behaviour continued for many generations, long after the rats who were originally poisoned were gone. It is this ability to learn from each other and pass this knowledge on to young rats which keeps them alive and thriving in the face of our numerous attempts at 'pest' control.



In another example of cultural transmission in rats, Joseph Terkel found a unique group of rats in Israel who only ate pine cone seeds and he wanted to see if this behaviour was culturally transmitted. The rats were very skilled at stripping the pine cones of their seeds with a "no fuss, no waste" technique.

When he bred some of these rats, he found that those who had never been shown the special technique of opening pine cones were unable to survive on them because they used too much energy opening them up. He knew that this behaviour wasn't genetic because rat pups born to mothers who could strip pine cones effectively were swapped with the pups of mothers who couldn't. He found that only the pups that were raised by a mother who knew the pine cone stripping technique learned how to do it. So the pine

cone eating technique was culturally passed from one generation to the next, just as in human society.

Sources:

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2. Dawkins, M.S. (1998) *Through Our Eyes Only*. Oxford University Press. Pp 43-52.

18.

## Do Rats Laugh?

**D**o rats laugh?  
As it turns out, yes, they do!

A neuroscientist at Washington State University by the name of Jaak Panksepp noticed that when young rats in his laboratory were grouped together, the instruments he uses to hear high frequency rat sounds picked up lots of little chirping noises.

Young rats make these same chirping sounds when they play together, and given the choice, they prefer to spend time with other rats who chirp at the same 50 kHz frequency. The chirps seem to be indicators of rat happiness – they make the same sound when



dopamine circuits in the brain are stimulated. In addition, the high-frequency ultrasonic chirps are distinct from other sounds rats make.

Dr. Panksepp wanted to find out whether the rat chirps he was hearing were, in fact, the sounds of laughter. So he decided to conduct a highly sophisticated scientific experiment – he set out to tickle some rats.

Panksepp discovered the rats' chirping increased dramatically when they were tickled. And the more they were tickled, the fonder the rats grew of the researcher doing the tickling. Scientists have also discovered rats will run mazes and press levers if tickling is their reward.

### **Rats Bond with Their Ticklers**

Humor and laughter in animals other than humans has not been the subject of much study. According to the magazine *Scientific American*:<sup>1</sup>

“Aside from anecdotes, we know very little about nonhuman primate laughter and humor, but some of the most significant findings to emerge in comparative science over the past decade have involved the unexpected discovery that rats – particularly juvenile rats – laugh. That’s right: rats laugh. At least, that’s the unflinching argument being made by researcher Jaak Panksepp, who published a remarkable, and rather heated, position paper on the subject in *Behavioural Brain Research*.”<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Panksepp and his research assistants have conducted many studies on rat laughter in recent years, and they’ve discovered similarities between the chirping in young rats and laughter in young children.



Rats are especially ticklish in the nape area, which is also the area young rats tend to target when they play together. Panksepp discovered the most ticklish rats are also the most playful. Even more interesting, the rats appear to bond



with their ticklers – the animals seek out specific human hands that had tickled them previously.

**“Young Rats Have A Marvelous Sense Of Fun.”**

Some scientists aren't convinced the sounds rats make when tickled qualify as laughter, but Dr. Panksepp has been busy gathering evidence of the similarities between the chirps of young rats and human laughter.

In a paper<sup>3</sup> published in Science magazine a few years ago, Panksepp made this observation:

“Although no one has investigated the possibility of rat humor, if it exists, it is likely to be heavily laced with slapstick. Even if adult rodents have no well-developed cognitive sense of humor, young rats have a marvelous sense of fun. We have already bred rats that exhibit playful chirping, and thereby hope to track down some of the genes for joy. Perhaps we will even stumble on new molecules to alleviate depression as well as some excessive-exuberance disorders.”

Source and References

Dr. Becker, August 27, 2012

Discovery News June 22, 2012

1 Scientific American, July 2012

2 Behavioural Brain Research 182 (2007) 231-244

3 Science, 1 April 2005:Vol. 308 no. 5718 pp. 62-63

19.

## **Clever As A ...**

### **Rat!**

**R**ats are probably a lot more intelligent than we think. A number of rats were trained to tell the difference between a short and a long burst of noise. They then had to tell the researchers whether it was a long or short noise by pressing a lever.

If they got the answer right, they would get a larger reward of treats. If their answer was wrong, they did not get any reward. If they chose not to answer, they got a small number of treats.



They were usually able to choose correctly. When it was too difficult to classify the noise as “short” or “long”, because it was in between the two, the rats chose not to answer, showing that they understood they might give the wrong answer.

Previously, scientists thought that only humans and other members of the primate family were capable of this type of understanding. This shows us again that many other animals have unsuspected depths and abilities.

Sources

Formation of a place learning-set by the rat: A new paradigm for neurobehavioral studies

Ian Q. Whishaw, *Physiology & Behavior*

Volume 35, Issue 1, July 1985

A closed-field intelligence test for rats.

Rabinovitch, M. S.; Rosvold, H. E.

*Canadian Journal of Psychology/Revue canadienne de psychologie*, Vol 5(3), Sep 1951, 122-128.

20.

## The Cat and the Grizzly

### Love Knows No Size And Species

By Dave Siddon

“Another box of kittens dumped over the fence, Dave” one of our volunteers greeted me one summer morning. I groaned inside. As the founder of Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Center, I had more than enough to do to keep up with the wild animals in our care. But somehow, local people who didn’t have the heart to take their unwanted kittens to the pound often dumped them over our fence. They knew we’d try to live-trap them, spay or neuter them, and place them thought our network of approximately 100 volunteers.

That day’s brood contained four kittens. We managed to trap three of them, but somehow one little rascal got away. In twenty-four acres of park, there wasn’t much we could do once the kitten disappeared—and many other animals required our attention. It wasn’t long before I forgot completely about the lost kitten as I went about my daily routine.

A week or so later, I was spending time with one of my favorite “guests”— a giant grizzly bear named Griz.

*Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.*

*~ Joseph Wood Kruth*

This grizzly bear had come to us as an orphaned cub six years ago, after being struck by a train in Montana. He'd been rescued by a Blackfoot Indian, had lain unconscious for six days in a Montana hospital's intensive care unit, and ended up with neurological damage and a blind right eye. As he recovered, it was clear he was too habituated to humans and too mentally impaired to go back to the wild, so he came to live with us as a permanent resident.



Grizzly bears are not generally social creatures. Except for when they mate or raise cubs, they're loners. But this grizzly liked people. I enjoyed spending time with Griz, giving him personal attention on a regular basis. Even this required care, since a 560-pound creature could do a lot of damage to a human unintentionally.

That July afternoon, I approached his cage for our daily visit. He'd just been served his normal meal—a mix of vegetables, fruit, dog kibble, fish and chicken. Griz was lying down with the bucket between his forepaws, eating, when I noticed a little spot of orange coming out of the blackberry brambles inside the grizzly's pen.

It was the missing kitten. Now probably six weeks old, it couldn't have weighed more than ten ounces at most. Normally, I would have been concerned that the poor little thing was going to starve to death. But this kitten had taken a serious wrong turn and might not even last that long.

What should I do? I was afraid that if I ran into the pen to try to rescue it, the kitten would panic and run straight for Griz. So I just stood back and watched, praying that it wouldn't get too close to the huge grizzly.

But it did. The tiny kitten approached the enormous bear and let out a purr and a mew. I winced. With any normal bear, that cat would be dessert. Griz looked over at him. I cringed as I watched

him raise his forepaw toward the cat and braced myself for the fatal blow.

But Griz stuck his paw into his food pail, where he grabbed a piece of chicken out of the bucket and threw it toward the starving kitten.

The little cat pounced on it and carried it quickly into the bushes to eat. I breathed a sigh of relief. That cat was one lucky animal! He'd approached the one bear of the sixteen we housed that would tolerate him—and the one in a million who'd share lunch.

A couple of weeks later, I saw the cat feeding with Griz again. This time, he rubbed and purred against the bear, and Griz reached down and picked him up by the scruff of his neck. After that, the friendship blossomed. We named the kitten Cat.

These days, Cat eats with Griz all the time. He rubs up against

the bear, bats him on the nose, ambushes him, even sleeps with him. And although Griz is a gentle bear, a bear's gentleness is not all that gentle. Once Griz accidentally stepped on Cat. He looked horrified



when he realized what he's done. And sometimes when Griz tries to pick up Cat by the scruff of the cat's neck, he winds up grabbing Cat's whole head. But Cat doesn't seem to mind.

Their love for each other is so pure and simple; it goes beyond size and species. Both animals have managed to successfully survive their rough beginnings. But even more than that, they each seem so happy to have found a friend.

Source

Los Angeles Times, December 16, 1995, From Associated Press

Dave Siddon, <http://www.wildlifeimages.org/>

21.

## **The Princess and the Toad**

### **A Tender Loving Tale Of True Friendship**

*By Joan G. Sutula*

Some years ago, our family expanded to include a one-year-old Siberian husky named Princess Misha. Like all Siberian huskies, Misha had an innate love of the outdoors, and of course, the cooler the better. She would lie curled up in a ball on top of a snowdrift on the coldest of winter days with her tail flicked over her only vulnerable spot -- her nose. When fresh snow fell, she would lay so still that she soon disappeared under a blanket of snow and became a part of the landscape. Every so often, she stood up, shook off, turned in a few circles, and then laid back down to keep watch over her domain.

On warm summer days, she found the coolest corner in the house and spent her days napping. Then after her nightly walk, she'd spend the rest of the evening stretched out on the cool cement of the front patio. All through the hot summers and into the fall, this was her nightly ritual.

One summer evening, as we sat out on the front patio relishing a late-evening breeze, we saw a small toad hop out of the grass, then down the sidewalk to a few feet away from where Misha was lying. Suddenly Misha stood up, walked over to the toad, picked it up in

her mouth and then walked back to her resting place and lay back down. She then put her chin down on the walk, opened her mouth and let the toad hop out while we watched in astonishment. The toad sat there in front of Misha's eyes, the two seeming to stare at one another for some time. Then the toad hopped down the walk and back into the grass.

On other nights that summer, we noticed this same ritual. We commented on the fact that Misha seemed to have a fondness for toads. We worried because some toads can be poisonous, but since she never experienced any ill effect and never hurt them, we didn't interfere. If she spotted a toad in the street on one of her walks, she would actually run over to it and nudge it with her nose till it had safely hopped off the street and back on to the grass, out of



harm's way.

The following summer was the same. Misha enjoyed cooling off by lying out on the front patio after nightfall. Many times, we noticed a toad within inches of her face. At other times, we watched as she walked into the grass and came back to her resting spot with a toad in her mouth, only to release it. The toads always stayed near her for some time before hopping off into the night. The only



difference from the previous summer was that she spent more nights in this manner, and the toads were bigger. A toad always seemed to be close at hand.

One night early in the third summer, after letting Misha out, we watched as a large toad hopped out of the grass and over to her, stopping inches in front of her. Misha gently laid her head down so that her nose almost touched the toad. That was when it finally dawned on us -- perhaps there was just one toad! Could Misha have shared the past three summers with the same toad? We called a local wildlife expert who told us that toads can live three to six years, so it was entirely possible. Somehow these two unlikely companions had formed a bond. At first it seemed so strange to us. But then we realized we were very different from Misha too, but the love between us seemed completely natural. *If she could love us, we marveled, why not a toad?*

### **Missing You!**

I have to share this, it's lovely.

Misha had a minor operation that summer, and we kept her indoors for a while afterwards to recuperate. Each night she went to the front door and asked to be let out, but we didn't let her. Instead, leash in hand, we took her for short walks. One evening a few days later, I went to the front door to turn on the porch light for guests we were expecting. When the light came on illuminating the front stoop, there, to my utter amazement, sat Toad (as we came to call him), staring up at me through the screen door! He had hopped up the three steps from the patio, and we supposed he was looking for Misha. Such devotion could not be denied. We let Misha out to be with her pal. She immediately picked the toad up in her mouth and took it down the steps where she and Toad stayed nose to nose until we brought her in for the night. After that, if Misha didn't come out soon enough, Toad frequently came to the door to get her. We made sure that the porch light was turned on before dark and posted a big sign on the porch, "Please don't step on the toad!"

We often laughed about the incongruous friendship -- they did make a comical sight, gazing into each other's eyes. But their devotion sometimes made me wonder if I should regard them so lightly. Maybe it was more than just friendship. Maybe in her stalwart toad, Princess Misha had found her Prince Charming.

Source

By Joan G. Sutula © 1999

Originally published in "Chicken Soup for the Cat and Dog Lover's Soul" in 1999.

22.

## **Please! That's Enough Photos**

### **Camera Shy Bear Makes It Clear He's Had It**

**I**t's been a hard day in front of the camera... and this young bear has clearly had enough of posing.

The bear, weary after a day of being photographed fishing and eating, simply closed his eyes and covered his face.

He was pictured in remote Kamchatka, in Russia's far east, by wildlife photographer Yury Sorokin, who got within a few feet of the animal.

The 33-year-old, from Moscow, was just a couple of metres away when the camera shy bear decided he'd had enough and closed his eyes before covering his face with his paw.

Mr Sorokin said: "The bear was fishing for red salmon in the lake and after eating a substantial dinner decided to have a rest in the sun.



"I think it was at that point that he decided enough was enough.

'He'd hardly paid any attention to me all day but once he'd exhausted himself and filled his belly I guess he just wanted to relax on his own without me taking pictures.

'I was overwhelmed with different emotions at the time, when I first spotted him I feared for my life but by the end of the day we had become quite close.

'All of the time I was looking through my viewfinder because I didn't want to miss a shot.

'I guess he just got tired of posing in the end.'



Source

Daily Mail Reporter

22 March 2013

Amar Ujala, 22 March, 2013

23.

## **So Who's A Pretty Warm Boy, Then?**

### **Rescued Parrot Gets A Woolly Jumper After He Ate His Own Feathers**

**T**he woolly jumper brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'parrot fashion'.

But Charlie isn't merely trying to stand out from the flock. He was given the outfit to help him recover after he was starved for so long that he resorted to plucking his own feathers and eating them.

Still he liked the bespoke jumper so much that new owner Rebecca Blagg knitted him four more in different colours.

And like a true fashionista, the green Eclectus parrot throws a tantrum if he is



forced to change - stamping his feet, flapping his wings and squawking.

'He goes mad. He gets very, very agitated,' she said.

'The first summer after we had him it was red hot and I thought he was going to melt with his woolly on. I took it off and he started to go bonkers. I put it back on and he just calmed down straight away!

'He went in a real grump, so after a while we just gave up trying. It's like his comfort blanket.'

Mrs Blagg, 47, who is an area co-ordinator for the Safe Haven parrot rescue centre, took Charlie into her home after hearing about his poor health when rescued.



His condition was so weak that he couldn't sit on his perch without falling off.

At first, she waited for his feathers to grow back, but decided in the meantime to knit him five woollen cardigans - one blue, green, white and yellow - to keep him warm.

Mrs Blagg, who lives in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, said his favourite cardigan is the yellow one.

She added: 'I am quite tough but when I saw him I burst into tears. It was so sad. The worse abuse case I've seen.'

'He had plucked himself. He had been eating his feathers to survive. He was at death's door. I just wanted to give him a chance.'

'He was extremely shut down. He was very depressed. He wouldn't move or do anything, he just sat there.'

'We had to feed him with a spoon because he couldn't eat on his own and he couldn't even perch because he was too weak. He just fell off. He was black and blue from falling off with his previous owner.'

Mrs Blagg finds homes for parrots across the country and currently has 16 in her home and 100 in the garden.

## Have Mercy - We Have Feelings Too

### Source

Ryan Kiesel, The Daily Mail, 12 March 2013

Alex Wynick, 13 Mar 2013, The Mirror

Ripley&Heanor News, 19 March 2013

24.

## **Parrot On Antidepressant**

### **After Owner Dies**

**F**red, an African Grey parrot, was owned by George Dance, who had raised him from a chick.

After Mr Dance died in early 2008, Fred became depressed and bit off all of his neck feathers. He also began to bob his head up and down all day as a result of his low mood.

The bird has now been prescribed a twice-daily liquid dose of a bird-friendly version of Prozac, called Clomicalm.



George's widow Helen, from Somerset, told *The Sun*: "He has been in quite a state since my husband died.

"Fred was very close to George and became depressed."

According to experts, tropical birds are extremely emotional and the number who require anti-depressants is growing.

Late last year, a collie-Labrador cross called Winnie was given Clomicalm after it began to cry and pace nervously.



Have Mercy - We Have Feelings Too

An animal behaviourist diagnosed Winnie with canine separation anxiety, and the mood-altering drug now helps her to cope.

Source

Charlotte Bailey, 20 Nov 2008, The Telegraph

Huffington Post, November 21, 2008

25.

## **A Heart Touching Tale Of The Animal Odd Couple**

**F**or nearly a decade, Tarra the elephant had been best friends with a dog named Bella, a mutt who wandered onto the sanctuary grounds and into the heart of the gentle giant. Tarra the elephant clearly loved her little dog and Bella the dog obviously bonded right back.

From the moment they met, they were inseparable.

The Elephant Sanctuary south of Nashville is more than 2,000 acres of freedom for elephants. But for a resident named Tarra,



there's not enough room in Tennessee to escape the bad news she got in October 2011.

"Certainly her whole demeanor changed," says Rob Atkinson, the sanctuary's CEO. "She became more reserved, quieter, she was depressed."

Tarra displayed all the symptoms you'd expect to see in someone who lost a good friend - which is exactly what happened.

They were so close, in fact, that when Bella the dog got injured a few years ago and had to spend three weeks recuperating in the sanctuary office, guess who held vigil the entire time?



Twenty-two hundred acres to roam free, and Tarra the elephant just stood in the corner waiting. A video of their reunion shows how inseparable they'd become and remained, right to the end.

In October 2011, sanctuary workers found Bella the dog's body. By all indications she'd been attacked by coyotes. Whether Tarra the elephant witnessed it, tried to intervene or was too late - no one knows. All they do know is that where they found Bella is not where she was attacked.

"When I looked around and saw there was no signs of an attack here. No blood, no tufts of hair, nothing," said director of elephant husbandry, Steve Smith. "And Tarra the elephant, on the underside of her trunk, had blood - as if she picked up the body.

"Tarra moved her," Smith said.

Steve's theory is Tarra the elephant carried Bella the dog possibly a mile or more to bring her home.

Whether it really happened that way or not, no one doubts Tarra the elephant was that devoted.

"There's nothing we can do to take away her pain," said Atkinson. "The only ones who can help now are the elephants. And that is already happening."

Atkinson said the elephants are "stepping in and stepping up." He said they're spending more time with Tarra and being extra nice - making gestures like giving her a portion of their food.

Of course, anyone who's lost a close friend knows you can't eat your way out of the grief - as much we might try -- but still nice to know at least Tarra the elephant is not alone in this.

It's also nice to see that compassion is much more than just human.



Source

Steve Hartman CBS News November 4, 2011

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Ileana Llorens, The Huffington Post, 11/04/2011

Lorraine Murray, Britannica Advocacy For Animals, February 27, 2012

*Every living entity has the propensity to love someone. We can see that if someone has no object of love, he generally directs his love to a pet animal like a cat or a dog. Thus the eternal propensity for love in all living entities is always searching for a place to reside.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 3.25.38)*

26.

## **The Altruistic Elephant**

### **Elephants Consciously Choose Compassion And Forgiveness Over Recrimination And Retaliation**

Elephants are a continuous revelation, a litany of noble qualities that inspire the human heart. Take for example, the quality of altruism. Altruism is a sense of selflessness, an unselfish and wholehearted concern for the welfare of others. It is a broadening of perspective beyond me, myself and I. Compassion is the offspring of Altruism. When individuation is transcended and interdependence is perceived, compassion takes root. Elephants emanate altruism. Those who know elephants recognize that their lives revolve around the care and concern for others, not only for their family, bond group and clan but those beyond species boundaries. As Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick reflects, “They have a sense of compassion that projects beyond their own kind and can extend to other species in distress.”

In India an elephant was following a truck and, upon command, was pulling logs out of it to place in pre-dug holes in preparation for a ceremony. The elephant continued to follow commands until they reached one hole where the elephant would not lower the log into the hole but held it in mid-air above the hole. When the mahout approached the hole to investigate, he found a dog sleeping

at the bottom; only after chasing the dog away would the elephant lower the post into the hole (J. Shoshani, *Elephants: Majestic Creatures of the Wild*, 1992).

In 2003 at Thula Thula Private Reserve, home of the late Lawrence Anthony, Anthony witnessed 11 elephants come to the rescue of a herd of antelope who were being held in a boma enclosure. “A private game capture company were capturing antelope that were to be relocated for a breeding programme. The team were settling in for the night when a herd of 11 elephants approached the boma enclosure, he said.

“The herd circled the enclosure while the capture team watched warily, thinking the herd were after lucerne being used to feed the antelope. This went on for quite a while until the herd seemed to back off from the boma perimeter fence.” The herd’s matriarch, named Nana, approached the enclosure gates and began tampering with the metal latches holding the gates closed. She carefully undid all the latches with her trunk, swung the gate open and stood back with her herd.



At this stage the onlookers realized this was not a mission for free food, but actually a rescue,” said Lawrence. The herd watched the antelope leave the boma and dart off before the elephants walked off into the night.

Cynthia Moss elephant ethologist and co-founder of the Amboseli Trust for Elephants has seen elephants going out of their way to avoid hurting or killing a human, even when it was difficult for them, she reflects, “During every single incident I have witnessed

(and over the years there have been many), Tuskless and the others went out of their way to avoid hurting a person. At times it was actually difficult not to step on or run over someone but they always swerved or backed quickly to avoid doing so. One day Tania lost her temper and came charging at a hapless woman tourist who ran back toward the lodge, but fell halfway across the lawn. Tania, only a few feet behind her, skidded to a halt and towered above her. She backed up, turned and ambled across the rocks to rejoin her family. She could have easily killed the woman, but for whatever reason she did not want to and had to use a substantial amount of energy to avoid doing so. (She left deep skid marks in the ground).”

Dr. Joyce Poole recalls a moving incident told to her by Colin Francombe, manager at Kuki Gallman’s Laikipia Ranch in Kenya. One of the ranch herders was out with the camels when he came upon a family



of elephants. The matriarch charged and struck him to the ground with her trunk, breaking one of his legs. When the camels returned to their boma enclosure that evening without their herder, the alarm was raised. Early the next morning a team of trackers was sent out to search for the man. They found him propped up against a tree, a lone female elephant standing over him. The search party tried to frighten the female away, but she charged the men and chased them off. The trackers returned to the ranch headquarters to get a vehicle and assistance. Returning with them, Colin tried to force the elephant away with the vehicle, but again she charged repeatedly. Assuming that she was extremely dangerous, Colin reluctantly prepared to shoot her. As he raised his rifle to fire, the injured

man shouted for him to stop. Colin resorted to shooting over the elephant's head, finally driving her far enough away for the vehicle to approach and collect the injured man. The herder related that, after the elephant had struck him, she "realized" that he could not walk and, using her trunk and front feet, had gently moved him several meters and propped him up under the shade of the tree. There she stood guard over him through the afternoon through the night and into the next day. Her family left her behind, but she stayed on, occasionally touching him with her trunk."

What is so poignant about these accounts, and thousands of others like them, is despite mankind's tragic history with elephants, including millennia of ruthless and unmitigated slaughter of their families and kin, elephants continue to display an inherent concern and altruism toward humans. More often than not, elephants consciously choose compassion and forgiveness over recrimination and retaliation. Add one more honorable and symbiotic quality this highly intelligent, self-aware and discerning species exhibits that humankind must cultivate and practice if we are to keep from self-destructing.

Source

Elephant Advocacy

Carrington, Richard (1958). *Elephants: A Short Account of their Natural History, Evolution and Influence on Mankind*. Chatto & Windus.

Williams, Heathcote (1989). *Sacred Elephant*. New York: Harmony Books. ISBN 0-517-57320-2.

Shoshani, J., ed. (2000). *Elephants: Majestic Creatures of the Wild*. Checkmark Books.



27.

## **The Town That Hanged An Elephant**

### **A Chilling, Macabre Story Of Murder And Revenge**

Trooping into the tatty Big Top to the accompaniment of a drunken four-piece band, the elephants in Charlie Sparks's travelling circus did their best to entertain the audience on that cold afternoon in February 1916.

They sat on their haunches, stood on their heads, and formed an elephantine train as they placed their forelegs on each other's backs and trumpeted around the ring.

In short, they performed every trick they had been tortured into learning, but they could not make up for the absence of the real star of the show, a five-ton Asian elephant named Mary.

Mary's talents included picking out 25 tunes on musical horns, which she tooted with her trunk. She was also the champion pitcher on the circus's baseball team.

But on that tragic day, she had been stripped of her red-and-gold saddle and head-dress of artificial blue feathers and stood tethered in disgrace outside the tent.

Waiting there in the drizzling rain, it was said that she trembled fearfully, as if aware of the awful fate about to befall her.

And well she might have done, for ‘Murderous Mary’, as she became known, had not only killed a man but had made the mistake of doing so near Erwin, Tennessee.

This newly booming American railroad town had pretensions to civilisation, boasting its own post office, theatre and courthouse.

It also had a jail, but the sheriff’s authority counted for little in a part of the world where mob rule still prevailed.

Between 1882 and 1930, there were 214 victims of lynchings in Tennessee. Most were black men, summarily found guilty of such crimes as ‘fighting a white man’ and having ‘bad character’.

But soon their tragic ranks would be joined by Mary, surely the only elephant in history ever to have been hanged.

And it seems particularly pertinent to remember her in the week that Prince Charles hosted a much-heralded international conference to address the illegal trade in wildlife parts.

Elephants were among the species highlighted as most at risk, but the supposedly enlightened Western world has not always been so concerned about the welfare of these majestic creatures, as we are reminded by the barbarity of Mary’s death.



Her fate was sealed the day before the hanging, when Charlie Sparks’s circus train arrived in the small town of Kingsport, about 40 miles from Erwin.

As always, it advertised its presence with a parade along the main street, during which Mary was ridden by 38-year-old Walter Eldridge, nicknamed Red because of his rusty-coloured hair.

A drifter who had been with the circus only a day, he had no experience of handling elephants, but the only qualification required

was the ability to wield an ‘elephant stick’ — a rod with a sharp spear at one end.

A clue as to why this held such fear for the animals comes from an account of how a baby elephant named Mademoiselle Djek was tamed for a short stint on the London stage in 1829.

While critics marvelled at her docility, Charles Reade, a novelist of the time, described how her keeper first gained mastery over her by stabbing her in the trunk with a pitchfork, at which she ‘wheeled round, ran her head into a corner, stuck out her great buttocks and trembled all over like a leaf’.

He then jabbed her with all his force for half an hour until ‘the blood poured out of every square foot of her huge body’ and he had ‘filled her as full of holes as a cloved orange’.

Similar techniques would have been used to break Mary. But



although the elephant-stick usually kept her in line, she was suffering from a painfully abscessed tooth that day.

When she stopped during the parade to nibble on a piece of discarded watermelon rind, Red Eldridge jabbed her to keep her moving and inadvertently hit the tender spot. Her reaction was swift and deadly.

Reaching up with her trunk, she dashed him to the ground then stamped on his head.

'Blood and brains and stuff just squirted all over the street,' recalled one witness.

As the terrified spectators screamed and fled, a local blacksmith shot Mary with a pistol, unloading five rounds of ammunition into her thick hide to little effect.

She stood still, suddenly calm again and seemingly oblivious both to the bullets and the commotion as the townsfolk encircled her with chants of 'Kill the elephant, kill the elephant.'

Fearing that his dates in other towns would be cancelled if they heard that his circus was home to a homicidal pachyderm, Charlie Sparks had no choice but to give in to these demands for vengeance.

The only question was how Mary should meet her end. Bullets had already proved ineffective and neither was poison likely to work, since elephants have some half a million sense receptors in their trunks and can easily detect noxious substances.

Some people advocated crushing Mary slowly between two opposing railway engines. Others called for her head to be tied to one locomotive and her legs to another so that she would be dismembered alive as they set off in opposite directions.

### **Death By Electrocutation**

Another option was electrocution — there was a horrific precedent for this thanks to Thomas Edison, inventor of the first commercially viable electric light bulb.

At a time when America was choosing which of the two main forms of electricity to adopt, direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC), he had patents for many devices using the former and stood to profit hugely if it was chosen over its rival.

Claiming that DC was the safer of the two, he spread false stories about fatal accidents supposedly involving AC.

He also staged various demonstrations in which animals were publicly electrocuted with AC, the most spectacular of which came

about in 1903 when a new amusement park opened on New York's Coney Island.

One of the attractions was an elephant named Topsy, but it was claimed that she had become violent and uncooperative and the owners sought publicity for their new venture by executing her with Edison's help.

A huge crowd saw Topsy place her feet obediently into specially designed wooden sandals, lined with copper wiring and linked to an AC power supply.

When the switch was thrown, smoke billowed up from her feet and within a minute or two it was all over.

One newspaper reported the public's morbid delight in watching her demise, even though it caused 'an unpleasant smell to mingle with the scent of roasted peanuts, sold at two cents a bag'.

Later it was said that Topsy's 'riding the lightning' had briefly caused bulbs to dull all over the region, as if in commemoration of her, but her death proved in vain, because Edison's plot failed and America eventually went with AC as its standard electricity current.

This had reached rural Tennessee by 1916, but not with sufficient power to dispatch an elephant, so Charlie Sparks came up with the equally sensational idea of hanging Mary.

The next day the circus visited Erwin, which had a 100-ton crane used to lift railway carriages on and off the tracks.

This was strong enough to support an elephant, and the matinee-goers disappointed by not seeing Mary in the ring that afternoon were mollified by the news that they could see her being hanged shortly afterwards, at no additional charge.

### **Macabre Dance Of Death And A Gruesome End**

As she was led to the railway yard, Mary was followed by the circus's other four elephants, each entwining their trunk in the tail of the animal in front just as they had done on countless parades.

Charlie Sparks hoped that their presence would keep her compliant but, as a chain was placed around her neck at the 'gallows',

they trumpeted mournfully to her and he feared that she might try to run away.

To stop this happening, one of her legs was tethered to a rail. No one thought to release it as the crane whirred into action and, as she was hoisted into the air, there was an awful cracking noise, the sound of her bones and ligaments snapping under the strain.

She had been raised no more than five feet when the chain around her neck broke, dropping her to the ground and breaking her hip.

‘It made a right smart little racket,’ recalled one of the crowd which was some 3,000-strong and included most of the town’s children.

The onlookers panicked and ran for cover, but Mary simply sat there dazed and in terrible pain.

Meanwhile, one of the circus hands ran up her back — as if climbing a small hill rather than a living creature — and attached a stronger chain.

The winch was powered up again and this time Mary was raised high in the air, her thick legs thrashing and her agonised shrieks and grunts audible even over the laughter and cheers of those watching below.

Finally she fell silent and hung there for half an hour before a local vet declared her dead.

Her gruesome end is recorded in a photograph so horrifically surreal that some have suggested it must be a fake — but, all too



sadly, its authenticity has been confirmed by other photographs taken at the time.

That night the circus went ahead as usual, but after the show one of the remaining elephants broke away from the herd and began running towards the railway yard.

Since wild elephants are thought to return to the bones of fallen family members for many years, he perhaps went in search of Mary. But he was quickly recaptured and returned to the life of captive misery from which he had escaped.

*So you try to love God and you'll see that you're loving even an ant. There are many examples I can cite in the history, how a man became universal lover. I have told you many times the story of a hunter. The hunter was taking pleasure by killing animals half, and when the same hunter became a devotee, he was not prepared to kill even an ant. So this is love of Godhead. This is the science. The same hunter who was killing every day so many animals, when he became a great devotee of Lord, he was not willing -- because he becomes vastly learned. To become lover of God means fully enlightened in consciousness. He sees that "Here is an ant. This living entity, a small living entity, is also part and parcel. By his own work, he has got this insignificant body as an ant. I have got this human form of body, but that does not make any difference between the soul and the soul." Panditah sama-darsinah [Bg. 5.18]. When it becomes actually... When a man becomes actually learned, he's sama-darsi. He sees everyone on the equal level. I was seeing just this evening the Ten Commandments. Now, in the Ten Commandments, the one commandment is that "Thou shall not kill." But I am sorry to feel that killing propensity is so great in the Christian world. Why? Because there is lack of love of God. "Thou shall not kill." Now there is organized killing process. So I do not know how they are following the Christian principles. It is clearly stated, "Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not tease your neighbor." So why should I tease an animal neighbor? These defects are due to lack of love of God.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.2.5 -- December 2, 1968, Los Angeles)*

Knowing that Mary no longer had to endure this cruel and unnatural existence is perhaps the only consolation to be drawn from this awful tale.

Today she still lies interred in a huge grave which was dug for her using a steam shovel.

Some said the hole was 'as big as a barn', but no one knows exactly where it is, or seems much inclined to find it.

Tellingly, there remains no monument to her in Erwin, the town which hanged an elephant and apparently remains ashamed of having done so to this very day.

Source

David Leafe

14 February 2014, The Daily Mail

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28.

## **Elephants Have A Call That Means “Human”**

**Which Means “Nasty Humans Coming, Run”.**

**W**ith elephant populations in drastic decline in most of their range it is not surprising humans are not their favorite creatures. It turns out they have a call that means “human” and judging by the reaction it may actually mean “nasty humans coming, run”.

Dr Lucy King of Oxford University recorded the voices of Samburu people from North Kenya and played them to resting elephants. She reports that the elephants came to attention and ran around trumpeting and emitting a low rumble.

Moreover, when Lucy recorded this rumble (which sounds rather like the mood noises at the danger point of a science fiction film) and played it to a different group of elephants they reacted the same way. Differences in the rumble reflect the intensity of the danger, and attract proportional responses.

So far the findings were not surprising. Lucy showed in 2007 that elephants reacted similarly to the sound of disturbed bees,



whose sting can be damaging around the eyes, trunk and behind the ears, or to newborn elephants. However, she has now revealed this was not a common “danger” call, such as many social animals are known to use.

The rumble in response to humans was acoustically different to that responding to bees. “Elephants appear to be able to manipulate their vocal tract (mouth, tongue, trunk and so on) to shape the sounds of their rumbles to make different alarm calls,” says Lucy. The difference between the bee and human sound was like the variation



in human words with the same consonants but different vowels. The paper notes that elephants have been shown “to exhibit vocal flexibility and vocal learning, by vocally imitating environmental sounds and the vocalizations of other species, including different elephant species and humans.”

The bee rumble prompted elephants to shake their heads, presumably to dislodge bees, which they did not do on getting word of humans.

“We concede the possibility that these alarm calls are simply a by-product of elephants running away, that is, just an emotional response to the threat that other elephants pick up on,” Lucy says,

“On the other hand, we think it is also possible that the rumble alarms are akin to words in human language, and that elephants voluntarily and purposefully make those alarm calls to warn others about specific threats. Our research results here show that African elephant alarm calls can differentiate between two types of threat and reflect the level of urgency of that threat.”

Bees have been used as a sort of barrier to reduce conflict between humans and elephants, with beehives preventing elephants from straying into villages, while the farmers gain the additional benefit of honey. However, King has shown that where establishing hives is not appropriate, sound recordings can be used instead.

Learning more about how elephants react to threats such as bees and humans will help us design strategies to reduce human-elephant conflict and protect people and elephants.

Source

Stephen Luntz, March 8, 2014, IFL Science

Earthsky, Via University of Oxford, Mar 17, 2014

Russell Mclendon, Mother Nature, Network, March 11, 2014

Molly Woodstock, One Green Planet, March 11, 2014

Sicence Daily, University of Oxford, March 16, 2014

29.

## **Nooooooo!**

### **A Squirrel's Reaction on Losing Her Nut**

**H**er eyes bulging and his mouth wide with panic, a starving squirrel stretches out a despairing arm as her nut falls irretrievably to the ground.

There's not a human being alive that doesn't know that desperate feeling of losing something of great personal value.



And, as this picture shows, animals lose things too...but it never gets any easier.

The photograph was taken by keen amateur photographer Ajeet Vikram, 27, outside his home in Dehardun, northern India.

The squirrel was scurrying up and down an electrical pole outside his house before settling on its top to tuck in to breakfast.

But as she opened her mouth to eat, she fumbled, sending the treat plummeting to earth.

30.

## **I Love My Pets, But Still Eat Meat.**

### **What's Wrong with That?**

**W**hen some one asks the following question: “I love my pets, but still eat meat. What’s wrong with that?” He can be offered the following response, breaking it down into five key points:

#### **1. Superiority Complex**

The question itself already implies that humans are entitled to dominate other species — a sense of “privilege” ingrained in us since childhood. So to understand the answer, you must first be willing to question your most basic assumptions about animals, namely the belief in dominionism (the belief that animals are here to serve our own ends).



## 2. Sentience

Regardless of what emotion we feel toward an animal — whether it be love or hate or indifference — that animal is a sentient being, that is, able to sense physical and psychological states of pain and pleasure, in the same way we do. The fact is, an individual animal cares about what happens to him or her, regardless of what we think of him or her.

## 3. Objectification

Referring to an animal as “meat” divorces the animal from any identity except as a product for consumption. “Meat” is the language of objectification — an attempt to turn a *someone* into a *something*. But this is inaccurate. Animals are not inanimate objects; they are sentient beings with specific interests, desires and subjective awareness. Referring



to animals as “meat” disconnects us from the reality of the animal

*Stomp! In the back pasture of the refuge I operate, Lurch, my 11-month-old African Watusi calf, turned sideways and blocked my path. I couldn't understand it. Was he being stubborn? I grasped his horns and pushed by him. As I was about to take a step, he tossed his head, throwing me off balance. A copperhead snake lay coiled right where my foot would have landed. As my dogs rushed over to check it out, the snake attacked and bit one of them. Lurch stomped on the snake until it was dead. Copperhead venom isn't usually fatal to adults, but with me it could have been. I'm very sensitive to insect bites and had just been hospitalized for a lung condition. Lurch was only doing what he thought best. Today he's a full-grown steer, and just as full of himself!*

*~ Janice Wolf, Gassville, Arkansas*

and thus disconnects us from the reality that certain food choices exploit and harm animals.

#### **4. Justice**

When we bestow upon some animals love and empathy and other animals disdain or indifference, it reveals more about our own prejudices than about the intrinsic worth of the species we are judging. Laws prevent us from discriminating against our fellow humans based on race, color, religion, sexual preference, or gender, but there are no laws protecting animals from our discrimination against them. The only reason we get away with such speciesism is because it is socially and culturally acceptable. But that does not make it right or just or rational. Speciesism is inconsistent with the value we place in the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated. Therefore, eating animals disconnects us from our core values.

#### **5. Might Does Not Make Right**

Eating “meat” is a symbol of human power over vulnerable sentient beings. “Meat”-eating feeds our ego. We do not eat “meat” today out of necessity, but rather out of self-indulgence (and, in some cases, from mistaken beliefs about nutrition). So, if you say you care about animals, then you cannot morally defend causing them suffering and death to satiate your frivolous pleasures. Instead, you would acknowledge their basic right to sovereignty over their own bodies, and you would protect them from being exploited by

*To be nonviolent to human beings and to be a killer or enemy of the poor animals is Satan's philosophy. In this age there is enmity toward poor animals, and therefore the poor creatures are always anxious. The reaction of the poor animals is being forced on human society, and therefore there is always the strain of cold or hot war between men, individually, collectively or nationally.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada Srimad Bhagavatam 1.10.6*

humans for trivial reasons, particularly when those trivial reasons are, for them, a matter of life and death.

Source

Robert Grillo | November 10, 2012

Free From Harm



31.

## **Hero Dog Carries Tiny Baby To Safety After Finding Her In A Rubbish Dump**

**A** dog has been hailed a hero for saving the life of a newborn girl who had been slung into a rubbish dump.

The animal, a Thai Bangkaew called Pui, discovered the child inside a plastic bag at the roadside tip in Bangkok.

He carried the bag in his mouth to his owner Gummerd Thongmak's house and barked loudly to get his attention.



Mr Gumnerd's niece, Sudarat, 12, then opened the bag and found the tiny baby inside and she was rushed to hospital.

Doctors said the child was born prematurely and only weighed four pounds.

Her parents are still being tracked down by authorities, while medical staff continue to care for her. She is said to be in good condition.

'It's lucky that Little Pui found the baby. It was a surprise to us, since Little Pui never brought



anything home, only barking at strangers when he's out and about,' said Poomrat Thongmak, Sudarat's mother.

As of this morning, there are five families that have contacted authorities in hopes of adopting the baby. All families happen to be dog owners.

Residents of the area said Pui regularly roams the neighborhood and is a bit of a community watchdog.

The heroic actions of the dog saw him awarded a leather collar and a medal from the Tha Rua district Red Cross.

Mr Gumnerd was given the equivalent of about £200 in cash for his pet's actions.

Source

Daily Mail Reporter

8 June 2013

Nairaland Forum, 14 December 2015

Jews News, Jun 10, 2013

32.

No Act of Kindness Is Too Small

## **Two Fire Engines, Nine Crew And A Police Car... To Rescue Three Pigeons That Were Stuck On A Roof**

As the traffic tailed down the high street, the residents of Spennymoor in UK were asking the same question – what was all the flap about?

And when they spotted two fire engines, nine crew and a police car, many feared the worst.

But the cause of all that commotion? Three troublesome pigeons that found themselves stuck on a roof.

The emergency services decided to swing into action after the hapless birds' feet became tangled in some netting.



First to arrive on the scene was the RSPCA, which had been contacted by a concerned member of the public.

Unable to access the shop roof, they called for some assistance from the local fire service.

But after sending out one vehicle, the firemen decided it would be safer if specialised equipment was used to rise to the birds' aid.

Another fire engine was immediately mobilised to Spennymoor in County Durham.

But the bulky cherry picker blocked the road, forcing a police car to get involved and help control the traffic building up on the high street.

And after all that, the highly trained personnel ended up using just their bare hands and some canvas bags to bring the birds down to safety.

Some of the town's residents (who appear to be not so animal friendly) questioned whether the response to the pigeons' plight that afternoon had been entirely proportionate.

Jeweller John Welsh, 63, said: 'I was shocked.

'At first I thought that there was a major fire.

'Two fire engines and a police car? For three pigeons?

'I am an animal lover to a certain degree, but pigeons are actually classed as vermin. Would you rescue a rat?'

Lynette Mackenzie added: 'I thought it was a joke. They are only vermin.

'I would have shot them. There weren't as many fire engines here when the pub was on fire.'



And Neil Savage said: 'It was disgraceful for three pigeons. The bus timetables were disrupted and the RSPCA were attending. It must have cost a fortune.'

A spokesman for County Durham and Darlington Fire Service claimed the crews responded to stop members of the public trying to rescue the birds themselves.

And the RSPCA confirmed that the pigeons were all 'unhurt and released straight away'.

The fire service has already revealed it spent a total of £3.5million in three years on animal-related call-outs.

Emergency workers managed to rescue more than 17,000 animals, including seven dolphins, two iguanas – and a snail.



" I'M BORED. LET'S  
CALL THE POLICE AND  
PRETEND WE'RE STUCK ON  
THE ROOF AGAIN "

Source

Luke Salkeld, The Daily Mail, 2 July 2013

Catherine Priestley, (Sedgefield), The Northern Echo, 3 July 2013

Alan Travis, The Guardian, July 3, 2013

Radhika Sanghani, The Telegraph, 03 Jul 2013

*The word praja refers to one who takes birth. Therefore Prthu Maharaja guaranteed protection for prajanam -- all living entities who took birth in his kingdom. Praja refers not only to human beings but also to animals, trees and every other living entity. It is the duty of the king to give all living entities protection and food. The fools and rascals of modern society have no knowledge of the extent of the responsibility of the government. Animals are also citizens of the land in which they happen to be born, and they also have the right to continue their existence at the cost of the Supreme Lord. The disturbance of the animal population by wholesale slaughter produces a catastrophic future reaction for the butcher, his land and his government.*

*~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 4.21.22)*

33.

No Act of Kindness Is Too Small

## **Cat's One Hell Of An Emergency**

### **Seven Firefighters, A Police Car And An RSPCA Officer To Rescue A Cat From A Tree**

**T**his was like a crisis scene in UK when a cat got stuck up a tree prompting a road closure involving seven firefighters, the police and RSPCA.

Emergency services were called when the ginger and white cat had been marooned up the tree for more than 48 hours.

A fire engine and a hydraulic platform were sent to the scene in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, along with a police car and an RSPCA inspector for the rescue operation lasting two hours.

When the fire brigade decided to deploy their hydraulic lift, the police car blocked the street to enforce a one-hour road closure.



Jane Hawkes, who lives in the road, said: "The RSPCA had been called first and they called the fire brigade.

‘They were worried the cat would fall so were there with tarpaulin ready to catch it.

‘But every time they tried to get close, the cat would go further up the tree.’

Miss Hawkes’s husband Keith said: ‘At first a member of the RSPCA was lifted with a member of the fire brigade to release the cat but this simply drove it further up the tree.

‘After several manoeuvres of the platform an additional member of the fire brigade climbed a ladder into the centre of the tree.

‘He managed to encourage the cat to the higher branches by the platform.

‘It was then unceremoniously grasped from the tree by the RSPCA member and deposited safely into a cat basket.

‘A few minutes later the cat was reunited with its owners and taken home for some privacy and essential nourishment.’ Geoff Sallis, Gloucestershire’s deputy chief fire officer, said: ‘There is an



*Animal Warning: Sri Lankan officials are looking to use animals in an early warning system for earthquakes and tsunamis, hoping to take advantage of the instincts that allowed wildlife to escape last month's giant waves. Gamewardeners at Sri Lanka's biggest national park believe animals fled before the tsunami hit because no animal carcasses have been found there. Experts say beasts in Yala national park fled because keen senses such as hearing allowed them to detect the tsunami's approach long before humans could. (Melbourne Herald Sun, January 19, 2005)*

agreement with the RSPCA that Fire and Rescue Services will assist with animal rescue high above ground.

'In this case, the RSPCA called us to help them retrieve the cat that had been stuck at a considerable height for three days, was becoming very distressed and dehydrated, and couldn't get down by itself.

'Thankfully all ended well and the cat was reunited with its relieved owners.'

Source

Daily Mail Reporter

26 July 2013

Liz Walker, Chronicle Live, 28 July 2013

Tom Edwards, The Sun, 26 Jul 2013

Daily Echo, July 29, 2013



34.

No Act Of Kindness Is Too Small

## Say Awwww!

### The Dentist Who Travels Around The World To Fix Animals' Teeth

From Deadly Hippos To An Adorable Little Hedgehog

Being a dentist is not always an easy job. Performing painful surgery on grumpy patients can test the patience - and nerves - of even the most experienced.

But when that patient is a six-tonne elephant needing root canal or a lion with toothache, it makes the task all the more trickier.



However, for Dr. Gerhard Steenkamp, it is all in a days work. The South African is one of the world's top vet dentists, operating on some of the wilds most ferocious predators.

Dr Steenkamp's work has seen him travel to China, Egypt, the UAE, and across Africa - performing around 500 surgeries a year.

The dentist, from Pretoria, said: 'I've been really blessed in my career so far to work on a variety of animals.

'I've operated on everything from a small bat right up to a six tonne elephant.

'There's been plenty of carnivores too - lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs.

'But the most hair raising experiences have been with the hippos and elephants.

'I've had elephants wake up on me in the middle of a surgery, and that can be because they are upset.

'The majority of the big animals like buffalo, hippo, rhino, elephants, they're just so big and enormous it can be tricky.

'Their size makes it difficult to work with them, you cannot just quickly move then around or turn them on their other side, it has to be meticulously planned beforehand.'

Dr Steenkamp, a trained dentist and maxillofacial surgeon, performs a host of procedures including root canals, extracting teeth and scaling and polishing teeth.

The most common complaints from his animal patents are fractures of teeth, infections and abscesses.



As well as an anaesthetic, Dr Steenkamp has developed a special set of tools to help him operate.

And after 15 years experience working with some of nature's most ferocious predators, there isn't much that fazes Dr Steenkamp - except grumpy hippos.

The father-of-two said: 'The first time I worked on a hippopotamus was at Pretoria Zoo - that was quite an interesting experience to say the least.

'Anaesthesia in these animals is quite difficult. This particular animal halfway through the procedure decided to wake up and get to his feet unexpectedly.

'In a confined space with a 1.8 tonne animal, it can be rather hair raising.'

Thankfully, despite the wild nature of the majority of his patients, Dr Steenkamp has largely avoided injury.

He added: 'I've been fortunate that often these animals are anaesthetised, so I'm not usually the first person to come into contact



*Elephant Saves a Girl From 2004 Tsunami*

*Eight-year-old Amber Mason was saved by a four-year-old elephant during the 2004 Thai tsunami. Just as the wave struck, the elephant took Amber on its back and ran for higher ground. As the wave crashed around them, the elephant even turned its back to the water, creating a protective wall from the impact. "If she had been on the beach on her own or with us on the beach, she would never have lived," Amber's mother recalled. "The elephant took the pounding of the wave."*

with them when they are in pain and wide awake. This is when they are most capable of injuring people.

'We have had some difficult situations as some of these animals are very huge, so you need to keep your distance.

'We try and make sure that everybody will be safe, including the animal, before, during and after the procedure.



We spend a lot of time on safety and are very meticulous about that side of things.'

For Dr Steenkamp, the most satisfying part of the job is making a difference.

He said: 'I'm very blessed, I love my job. The amount of satisfaction I get out of working with these animals and being able to change their lives is great.

'With a lot of cases where you can repair something, you can instantly see them wake up and eat again free from pain. That is just really special to me.'

Source

Anthony Bond

14 June 2013, The Daily Mail

Dr Adrian Tordiffe, National Research Foundation, NZG, Feb 2013

Joe White, The Young Dentist, August 28, 2014

35.

## **Man Transforms From "Heart Of Stone" To Compassionate Animal Rescuer**

*By Michael Sowders*

I went from having a heart of stone to a heart of love. From a cold, emotionless state to one of warmth and compassion. Because of the vivid change that God has made in my life, I am compelled to share my story. I hope it may inspire others to open their hearts.

Growing up under a constant barrage of verbal, sexual and emotional abuse left me feeling empty inside. At some point, my despair led me to make a choice to not feel anything -- for anyone. As a young man, I moved to the mountains of north Idaho, hoping to find - or create - my true self.

One day at my cabin "in the middle of nowhere," a little tabby cat showed up on my doorstep. Having no interest in animals, I shoved him away. For three months he persisted, visiting frequently, undaunted by my lack of welcome. Finally, I gave in and fed him. A month later, I invited the little cat in the house, named him Jake, and an amazing relationship was born. Within a few days, Jake was curling up on my bed at night, his soft fur and contented purr bringing a comforting presence I hadn't known I needed. Over the next two years, he became my closest friend, a wonderful companion

who accepted me as I was and loved me unconditionally. When he died from crushing snow that fell from the rooftop, it was the first time in years that I felt real pain again.

My anguish was too much to take -- I couldn't handle such strong feelings of loss. So I medicated the pain, over-using prescription drugs to dull my senses and avoid having to feel.

A year passed before I had the strength to visit the shelter and adopt two cats: Buffie and Woofers. Buffie died of liver failure 2-years later. Though I knew I did everything I could to help him, still I grieved over his loss for over a year.

But something remarkable was happening to me. As I felt love and sadness for these animals, I sensed another presence in my softened heart: God's love. I realized in amazement that He was using the grief process to help strip me of layers of emotional callousness, indifference and detachment. I had worked so hard over the years to build this tough, protective shell, yet with each beat of my aching heart was



another crack, and another layer slipped away, exposing me -- revealing my true self. And healing the pain. God was healing me, and using the giftings of animals to get to my stony heart. Through God and His messengers Jake, Buffie and Woofers, I was learning the values of mutual respect, companionship, acceptance, courtesy, tolerance, validation and true friendship. A level of wholeness was filling my soul and enhancing my life.

Feeling called to help the creatures that God had brought into my life, I sold my mountain home and relocated to land better suited to my plans. With a little research, I learned that millions of animals die from disease, starvation, accidents, freezing and human cruelty. I knew what to do: I founded Lifetime Friends Animal Sanctuary (LTFAS).

I believe that rescuing stray, abused and abandoned animals and providing them with a safe, loving, nurturing environment through The sanctuary is truly a parallel of what God's interactive love has done for me. I was the abused, abandoned stray, but now, in His hands, my life is a miracle in progress.

God befriends the animals through me -- through us all. And this is what the Sanctuary is all about. I've learned to see animals through my Heavenly Father's eyes. They are not objects to be tossed away; rather, they are living beings with hearts and feelings.

At the Sanctuary, I have finally made the choice to stop burying my feelings. When, despite all of our efforts to save him or her, a rescuee dies, I no longer run from the pain. I feel the hurt, I cry the tears, I mourn the loss. And I pray. I pray that God's angels will gently carry that precious soul home to Him.

And there have been so many other wonderful, life-affirming changes in me! God has freed me from several afflictions which I had developed as a consequence of childhood abuse, including addictions to sex, pornography, TV, videos, alcohol, prescription drugs and emotional turmoil.

So, just opening my heart, my soul -- my life -- to these hurting creatures of God has enriched my life immeasurably. Founding and continuing The sanctuary has unleashed the power of compassion in me, and healing benefits are far-reaching. I've learned that manhood is not about being feeling-less, but being of strong mind and tender heart. I've chosen mercy and compassion and a gentle way of being. I now have the ability to communicate and connect with a being outside of myself. I cherish the sweet bonds that develop with each new animal companion that comes into my life. I, and this organization, have the purpose and passion to responsibly provide a home for stray, abandoned and abused animals.

I believe that being in the right relationship with God allows me to be emotionally capable of enjoying healthy relationships with myself and others. The quote I wrote to place on the sanctuary literature sums up this belief: "Love for an animal companion

becomes something transforming that gave this man back feelings that were lost or buried, thus unexpectedly, immeasurably enriching his life."

Source

Michael Sowers

Submitted by Olivia Rue, [all-creatures.org](http://all-creatures.org), 18 March 2005



36.

No Act Of Kindness Is Too Small

## **Chilly Chickens Strut Their Stuff**

**In Made-To-Measure Jackets To Keep Them Warm**

**W**hen Margot and Valerie were rescued from a battery farm things started to look up.

No longer stuck in cramped cages, they were suddenly free to roam around the garden to their hearts' content.

But it seems their new-found freedom wasn't all it was cracked up to be. The chickens weren't used to being outside and found it a bit chilly for their liking.

So their owners, Trevor and Samantha Stickle, put their heads together and came up with a solution – two chicken-sized fleeces.

The couple from

Bournemouth took the pair to a tailor's shop where the birds had their inside drumsticks and chicken breasts measured for two fleece jackets.

The garments slip over the hens' heads and cover their crowns, although there is enough room for them to flap their wings.



One of the jackets is lined with leopard print and has a wishbone design on the front and the other has a red trim and a heart logo on.

The 18-month-old Rhode Island Red hens will wear the coats throughout the winter until they are more used to the chilly temperatures.

Trevor, 47, a taxi driver from Bournemouth, said: 'We rescued the chickens from a battery hen place and this is their first winter out of the environment they're used to.

'Battery hens don't see day light and they aren't used to the cold weather or changes.

'Someone explained to us that they might suffer from the cold in their first season, so we looked on the internet for a way around this.

'We took Margot and Valerie to a local tailors and they have fitted them with these two lovely jackets.



*A one-year-old boy was found living rough on the streets of Argentina after being kept alive by cats. Police discovered the baby surrounded by eight wild cats at the bottom of a gutter in the city of Misiones in December 2008. The animals had been keeping him warm while he slept by huddling around him and had brought him scraps of food to eat. The boy's homeless father had lost him while out collecting cardboard to sell several days before.*

*Traian Caldarar spent three years being cared for by wolves in Romanian forests after running away from home at the age of four. He was discovered barely alive in a cardboard box by a Shepherd in 2002. Then seven years old, he was the size of a three-year-old, was suffering from malnutrition and rickets and had forgotten how to speak. He was later reunited with his mother.*

'Our family and friends think that it's brilliant we managed to find somewhere who would happily measure and fit coats for two chickens.'

A spokeswoman from the Zip Yard, the tailors behind the quirky jackets, said: 'We were very surprised to have an enquiry about a pair of chickens.'

'We have never worked with animals before and it was the weirdest request we have received but we were happy to help.'

'They were our most bizarre customers but they very well behaved.'

Source

Lizzie Edmonds, The Daily Mail, 4 October 2013

Darren Slade, Daily Echo, 9 October 2013

The Huffington Post, Nov 20, 2013

Jasper Copping, The Telegraph, 19 Oct 2013

37.

## **The Difference Between**

## **The Civilized And The Bestial Existence**

Consider for a moment the plight of the carnivorous beast. Skulking about the forest brush, sniffing and listening with intense concentration, hunger gnawing at his belly and burning in his eyes, he searches for prey. His meditation is single-pointed in hopes of a kill. But his task is difficult: to find his prey inattentive and unwary. He must be ready -- for whenever the opportunity comes -- and his attack must be swift, fearless, and lethal. And at last it does come -- the kill: the fearful eyes of the victim, the screams of pain and terror, and the stench of fresh blood. For us this would certainly be a repulsive task simply for the business of eating. And this sort of act -- this barbarity, this furtive slaughter -- marks the difference between civilized and bestial existence.

For animals, however, this gross violence is acceptable, without any consideration of right or wrong. The anguish and suffering of hapless prey is hardly the concern of predators in the animal kingdom. And, of course, the killer incurs no sin. For us human beings, however, even to witness such brutal killing is painful, because we are endowed with the quality of compassion. If necessity suddenly forced us to prowl the jungle for creatures to leap on, kill, and devour, most of us would starve. Our bodies, when pitted against the prowess of the animal kingdom, are frail. Our

intelligence facilitates devising other means of nourishment, and our philosophical vision and capacity for empathy lead us to regard the feelings of others.

Nevertheless, our so-called civilized society promotes the slaughter of animals as a necessary element of modern living. We may not have to see the brutality behind those neatly wrapped and ordered packages of red meat displayed under lights in our local supermarkets, but the savage slaughter was there as surely as in the jungle. Although our modern approach to getting food may appear civilized, in essence it is inhuman. Thanks to our superior intelligence, our approach is more sophisticated and controlled, and we feel sufficiently removed from the ghastly carnage by the intervention of industry and commerce. Most of us will never see the throngs of cows herded into the slaughterhouse, or hear their pitiful cries, or witness their anguish.



Indeed, what we often see of the meatpacking industry is cartoons of smiling cows, chickens, and pigs dancing across the TV screen, inviting us to relish their tasty flesh. Our language buffers us from

*The executive head must always be alert to the safety of the prajas, both man and animal, and inquire whether a particular living being is harassed at any place by another living being. The harassing living being must at once be caught and put to death, as shown by Maharaja Pariksit.*

*The people's government, or government by the people, should not allow killing of innocent animals by the sweet will of foolish government men. They must know the codes of God, as mentioned in the revealed scriptures.*  
— Srila Prabbhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.17.10-11)

any suspicions about the origin of our prized sirloin steaks, as we regularly eye slabs of rotting carcasses and refer to them as “cuts of meat,” or “tender aged beef.” Mothers encourage their little ones to eat their hot dogs, which are stuffed with toxins and intestinal wastes, and smiling waitresses serve hamburger patties comprised of the most repulsive organs of the cow and often containing such substances as earthworms and decayed rodents. Yet most of us are somehow convinced that our daily quota of meat is not only safe but necessary for our nutritional well-being, a conviction we maintain even when confronted with the most gruesome details of animal slaughter and meat-eating.



Recent investigations into the practices of a meat-packing plant in the western United States provide a strong challenge to such false security regarding the sanctity of our red-blooded American diet. Rudolph “Butch” Stanko, owner of the Colorado-based Cattle King Packing Company, is presently facing charges for alleged discrepancies in the cleanliness and purity standards at his plant. The company was a big supplier of meat to the U.S. Defense Department,

*At present, despite impressive progress in science and technology, the world is faced with a crisis of unrelenting violence in the shape of wars, terrorism, murder, vandalism, child abuse, and abortion. More than 140 wars have been fought since the United Nations was formed in 1945 and in America alone, 20,000 people are murdered each year. With social and political solutions conspicuously failing, perhaps it's time to analyze the problem from a different perspective—the law of karma. The callous and brutal slaughter of countless helpless animals must be considered as a powerful causative factor in this wave of uncheckable violence.*

*~ The Higher Taste (The Cause of Violence)*

to fast-food restaurants, and to local supermarkets. Larry Andrews, a former employee, testifies, "He told us not to throw away anything, to use every bit and piece, even the blood clots." The company was accused of regularly bringing in already dead animals and animals known to be diseased to mix in with the ground meat products. In defense against the charges, Cattle King's attorney acknowledged, "Yes, these things happened -- like they do at every other plant in the United States."

Certainly these statements suggest a nasty business full of cheating at the expense of the customer, and you may find yourself viewing your next hamburger with a new wariness. But even without these horrid details, if we think about it objectively, where is the consideration of any real cleanliness or purity when dealing with carcasses? The meat that people are purchasing for their families' dinners is nothing more glorious than contaminated slices of flesh, slashed from animals ruthlessly killed after their brief, miserable, disease-ridden existence, which ended in violence and terror. To ignore the suffering of the animal from whose very body your steak or cutlet has been obtained and to romanticize the business of animal slaughter as healthy, sanitary, and necessary is a kind of madness. What you're getting is simply a package of decaying flesh, toxins, and wastes, and in exchange you implicate yourself in the most horrible kind of violence imaginable.

Human beings possess a higher intelligence and a finer sensitivity that allows for moral judgments. To witness the death of an animal such as a cow, therefore, would be very painful for us. That's our natural human compassion. And yet we eat the flesh of the cow without any qualms of conscience. The heinous act of slaughter may be out of sight and out of mind, but by eating the flesh we become implicated in sin.

According to the strict laws of karma, every human being is responsible for his actions. These actions create reactions, which propel each of us into particular circumstances of happiness or distress. In the case of animal slaughter, a grievously sinful act for

one with human discretionary resources, the reaction is that the offender is forced to accept an animal body in his next birth and to suffer the same horrible life and death.

Our meat-eating isn't as bloody as that of the animals hunting in the forest, but in light of our superior capacity for understanding suffering and death, it's far more horrible. We don't need to eat the flesh of animals to survive, and to remove this violence from our lives would create an immediate improvements in consciousness. Being vegetarian may not be the perfection of human life, but it is one of the first steps on the path of perfection.

by Dvarakadhisa-devi dasi



38.

## **We Cannot Remain In Tiger Consciousness**

*A conversation with His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada*

**Guest:** If man didn't eat animals, they'd probably just die of starvation or something.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Why are you so anxious about the animals' dying of starvation? You take care of yourself. Don't be altruistic—"Oh, they will starve. Let me eat them." What is this altruism? Krishna is supplying food. If an animal dies of starvation, it is Krishna's responsibility. Nobody dies of starvation. That is a false theory. Have you seen any animal dying of starvation? Have you got any experience? Have you seen any bird dying of starvation? There is no question of starvation in the kingdom of God. We are manufacturing these theories for our own sense satisfaction.... There are millions of elephants in the African jungle and Indian jungle. They require one hundred pounds at a time to eat. Who is supplying food? So there is no question of starvation in the kingdom of God. Starvation is for the so-called civilized man.

**Guest:** If man wasn't meant to eat meat, why in nature do the other animals kill meat?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Are you "another animal"?

**Guest:** Well, we're all animals.

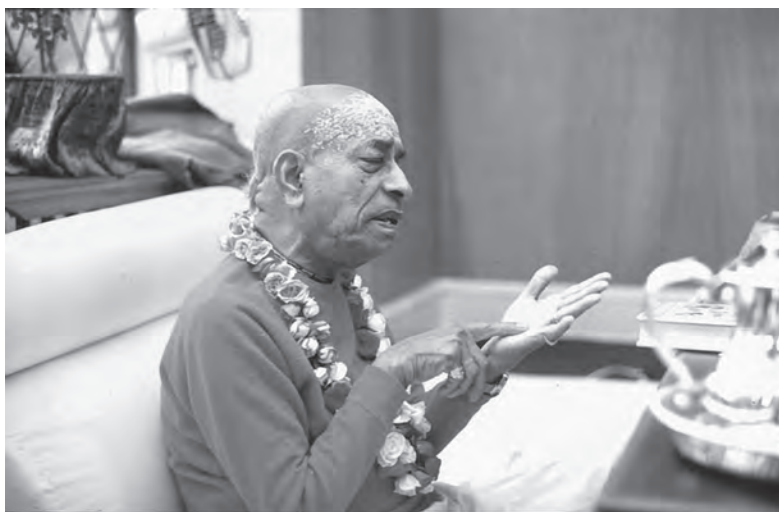
**Srila Prabhupada:** You count yourself among the animals? You classify yourself with the animals?

**Guest:** Well, we're all animals ...

**Srila Prabhupada:** No, not all. You may be, but we are not. Do you like to be classified with the animals?

**Guest:** I don't feel that I am better than the animals. I have respect for all God's creatures.

**Srila Prabhupada:** You have respect for all, and you kill animals?



**Guest:** Well, why is it—if man is not meant to eat meat—that in nature the animals eat each other?

**Srila Prabhupada:** When animals eat meat, they are following nature's law. When you eat meat, you are breaking nature's law.

**Guest:** What?

**Srila Prabhupada:** For instance, a tiger will never come to claim the grain—"Oh, you've got so much grain—give me some." No. Even if there are hundreds of bags of grain, he doesn't care. But he'll pounce upon an animal. That is his natural instinct. But why do you take grain, fruit, milk, meat, and whatever you get? What is this? You are neither animal nor human being. You are misusing your humanity! You should think, "What is eatable for me?" A tiger may eat meat—he is a tiger. But I am not a tiger; I am a human. If

I've got enough grain, fruit, vegetables, and other things God has given, why should I go to kill a poor animal? This is humanity.

You are animal plus human. If you forget your humanity, then you are an animal. [A brief silence.] So we are not simply animals. We are animal plus human. If we increase our quality of humanity, then our life is perfect. But if we remain in animality, then our life is imperfect. So we have to increase our human consciousness—that is Krishna consciousness. If you can live very peacefully, very nicely, in good health by eating so many varieties of foodstuffs given by Krishna, why should you kill an animal?

Besides that, scientifically, your teeth are meant for eating vegetables. The tiger has teeth for eating meat. Nature has made it like that. He has to kill another animal; therefore he has nails, he has teeth, he has strength. But you have no such strength. You cannot kill a cow like that—pouncing like a tiger. You have to make a slaughterhouse and sit down at your home.... If somebody else slaughters the cow, you can eat very nicely.... What is this? Do like the tiger! Pounce upon a cow and eat! ... You cannot do that.

**Guest:** So you don't believe in nature's law. I believe nature's law applies equally to everybody.

**Srila Prabhupada:** The tiger is made by nature's law in that way, so therefore he can do that. You cannot do it—your nature is different.

*How they will be happy? It is not possible. Most sinful activities. You produce your food. The bull will help you. And the cows will supply you milk. They are considered to be father and mother. Just like father earns money for feeding the children, similarly, the bulls help producing, plowing, producing food grains, and the cow gives milk, mother. And what is this civilization, killing father and mother? This is not good civilization. It will not stay. There will be catastrophe, waiting. Many times it has happened, and it will happen because transgressing the law of nature, or laws of God, is most sinful.*

~Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Bhagavad-gita 13.35, Geneva, June 6, 1974)

You have discrimination, you have conscience, you are claiming to be a civilized human being—so you should utilize all this. That is Krishna consciousness, perfect consciousness. Human life is meant for raising oneself to the perfection of consciousness, and that is Krishna consciousness. We cannot remain in tiger consciousness. That is not humanity.

**Another Guest:** Have we fallen from higher to lower, or have we come up from plants and animals?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes, naturally you have fallen from higher to lower—from the spiritual world to this material world, and then down to the lower species. Then you make progress, and you again come to this human form. If you utilize your higher consciousness, then you go still higher: you go to God. But if you don't use your higher consciousness, you again go down. So don't be misguided. Take to God consciousness, Krishna consciousness, and that will be proper use of this human form of life. Otherwise, if we indulge in meat-eating, like a tiger, we may get the body of tiger in our next life, but what is the use? Suppose I become a very strong tiger my next life. Is that a very good promotion? Do you know the life of a tiger? They cannot even eat daily. They pounce upon one animal and keep it secretly, and for a month they eat the decomposed flesh—because they don't always get the chance to kill an animal. God will not give that chance. It is natural: in the jungle wherever there is a tiger the other animals flee. Self-defense. So on rare occasions, when the tiger is too hungry, then God gives him a chance to pounce upon another animal. A tiger cannot get so many palatable dishes daily. It is in the human form of life that we have all these facilities. But if we misuse them, then ... go to the tiger life. Be very strong, with full pouncing capacity.

## THE AUTHOR

Dr. Sahadeva dasa (Sanjay Shah) is a monk in vaisnava tradition. His areas of work include research in Vedic and contemporary thought, Corporate and educational training, social work and counselling, travelling, writing books and of course, practicing spiritual life and spreading awareness about the same.

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Lack of empathy, guilt or remorse are the hallmark traits of the common man today. It means that they can do practically anything, and then act as if nothing as happened. Lack of empathy is the most telling narcissistic trait you can easily find in the people around you. According to a new research, young people today are significantly more narcissistic than during the 1980s and 1990s. We are in the middle of a narcissism epidemic.

The narcissist lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others. "Narcissists do not consider the pain they inflict on others; nor do they give any credence to others' perceptions," says Dr. Les Carter in the book *Enough of You, Let's Talk About Me*. "They simply do not care about thoughts and feelings that conflict with their own." Do not expect them to listen, validate, understand, or support you.

Professor Twenge and Campbell analysed data from 15,000 American college students who responded to the Narcissistic Personality survey in 2006. They found that there was a relationship between the birth year of the people filling out the scale and their narcissism score, and those narcissism scores were significantly higher in the 2000s than they were in the 1980s and 1990s.

This state of mind gets reflected in our dealings, not only with each other, but with our natural world as well. We are living in an increasingly violent society and violence against animals is on the rise. Animal abusers don't always stop there – they hurt people too

Horrible examples of cruelty to animals include a rabbit dying in agony after being microwaved and a cat who had been run over die after being kicked like a football by a passer-by instead of being helped.

Our society is headed for self destruction if we don't work on preserving its moral and ethical foundation.

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