

JUST LIKE CHILDREN

INNOCENT HELPLESS AND DEFENSELESS

DR. SAHADEVA
DASA



Just Like Children

Innocent Helpless And Defenseless

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Dedicated to...

His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



One who is in Kṛṣṇa consciousness understands that there is no difference between the animals and the innocent children in one's home. Even in ordinary life, it is our practical experience that a household dog or cat is regarded on the same level as one's children, without any envy. Like children, the unintelligent animals are also sons of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and therefore a Kṛṣṇa conscious person, even though a householder, should not discriminate between children and poor animals. Unfortunately, modern society has devised many means for killing animals in different forms of life. For example, in the agricultural fields there may be many mice, flies and other creatures that disturb production, and sometimes they are killed by pesticides. In this verse, however, such killing is forbidden. Every living entity should be nourished by the food given by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Human society should not consider itself the only enjoyer of all the properties of God; rather, men should understand that all the other animals also have a claim to God's property. In this verse even the snake is mentioned, indicating that a householder should not be envious even of a snake. If everyone is fully satisfied by eating food that is a gift from the Lord, why should there be envy between one living being and another?

~ Srimad Bhagavatam 7.14.9

By The Same Author

Oil-Final Countdown To A Global Crisis And Its Solutions
End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future
To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization
Cow And Humanity - Made For Each Other
Cows Are Cool - Love 'Em!
Let's Be Friends - A Curious, Calm Cow
Wondrous Glories of Vraja
We Feel Just Like You Do
Tsunami Of Diseases Headed Our Way - Know Your Food Before Time
Runs Out
Cow Killing And Beef Export - The Master Plan To Turn India Into A
Desert
Capitalism Communism And Cowism - A New Economics For The 21st
Century
Noble Cow - Munching Grass, Looking Curious And Just Hanging Around
World - Through The Eyes Of Scriptures
To Save Time Is To Lengthen Life
Life Is Nothing But Time - Time Is Life, Life Is Time
Lost Time Is Never Found Again
Spare Us Some Carcasses - An Appeal From The Vultures
An Inch of Time Can Not Be Bought With A Mile of Gold
Cow Dung For Food Security And Survival of Human Race
Cow Dung - A Down To Earth Solution To Global Warming And
Climate Change
Career Women - The Violence of Modern Jobs And The Lost Art of Home
Making
Working Moms And Rise of A Lost Generation
Glories of Thy Wondrous Name
India A World Leader in Cow Killing And Beef Export - An Italian
Did It In 10 Years
As Long As There Are Slaughterhouses, There Will Be Wars
Peak Soil - Industrial Civilization, On The Verge of Eating Itself
Corporatocracy : The New Gods - Greedy, Ruthless And Reckless
(More information on availability on DrDasa.com)

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The Author

Preface

Ancient Indian view on animals is succinctly presented in Srimad Bhagavatam, an ancient Vedic text. It is said therein:
*mrgostrā-khara-markakhu-
sarīsrp khaga-maksikah
atmanah putravat pasyet
tair esam antaram kiyat*

One should treat animals such as deer, camels, asses, monkeys, mice, snakes, birds and flies exactly like one's own son. How little difference there actually is between children and these innocent animals. (*Srimad Bhagavatam* - 7.14.9)

By this statement, one can imagine how broad minded the Vedic civilization was and how much it was concerned with the well-being of all living entities. This is the Vedic world view, commonly known as the peaceable kingdom. If we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect them, not to abuse them for our own ends. Our dominion over animals is exactly like the loving parents' dominion over their children.

"The baby is an animal," wrote one mid-nineteenth-century author, "and the child's devotion on the whole is to its body." It is normal for children to want to run, scream, and play, and in the words

of the parenting manual author George Akerly, “every effort to restrain them in their youthful gambols is as unnatural as it would be to confine the deer in the midst of the forest.”

This association of animals with children (and children with animals) is not new. Throughout the history, children were regarded as not culpable for crimes, a position later adopted by one and all. Today, in many countries like Canada and the United States, children below twelve are not held responsible for their actions. Only children twelve and older may be sent to special correctional institutions, such as juvenile hall. Children enjoy this privilege because they possess innocence. Animals also possess this very same attribute and it reflects in their eyes.

Today, animals are innocent sufferers in a hell of our making.

Sahadeva dasa

Dr. Sahadeva dasa
5th October 2014
Secunderabad, India

1.

Innocence

Reflects In The Eyes

Innocence Is Its Own Defense.

Innocence is a term used to indicate a lack of guilt, with respect to any kind of crime, or wrongdoing.

People who lack the mental capacity to understand the nature of their acts may be regarded as innocent regardless of their behavior. From this meaning comes the term innocent to refer to a child under the age of reason, or a person, of any age, who is mentally disabled.

The lamb is a commonly used symbol of innocence's nature. In Christianity, for example, Jesus is referred to as the "Lamb of God", thus emphasizing his sinless nature.

A child is innocent because he does not see cruel and selfish intentions on the ones he looks up to or in himself. The world is black and white, he is on the side of the angels, and the world is fair and benevolent.¹

A State of Being

Innocence is our purest state of being. It is the way each one of us is intrinsically created. Our essence is unblemished purity, with clear hearts and minds. In short, the soul is innocence personified. Children and animals attract us irresistibly because of the innocence that reflects from their eyes. The innocence with which tiny

fledglings look at you, as you discover their hidden nest in the attic, mysteriously tug at your heart, and arouse the protector in you.

The innocent have no judgement since they have very little mind activity to overcast the clear crystal of the soul. A little baby wrapped in the arms of the mother peers out innocently at the world. He has no sense of getting hurt since he has only known protection.

Innocence is power. All spirituality is about rediscovering the purity and the innocence we were born with, and which we lost in the trauma of growing up.²



It Appeals

What is it that is most appealing about children? Is it simply their physical beauty? Is it their openness to loving and being loved? Their playfulness, their innate humour? Beyond these things, in my view, children are beautiful because they possess something that we have all lost – the quality of innocence.³

Innocence is not merely lovely, it is heartbreaking because it represents the “happy highways where I went/and cannot come again”.³

Animals, like small children, do what they do. They are innocent even in their cruelty because they have no concept of morality. Morality is the territory of humans. We have the knowledge of good and evil, and we can choose between the two. Similar is the case with young children. Even if they accidentally shoot some one, they are not arrested.⁴

Dominion

God gave us dominion over animals in the same way that he gave parents’ dominion over their children: not to harm, abuse, or torture them; but to love, cherish, and care for them. Animals,

like children, are the innocent of this world, and it is our charge as humane beings to insure their safety and well being.

Because animals are innocent like children and depend on us, we have a duty to protect those innocents that cannot protect themselves.

Our Job As Stewards

Sometimes children and animals are taken for granted and mistreated without reservation, continually, frequently, until their spirits are broken, their hearts and lives shattered. Hurts that occur during childhood can last a lifetime. Those who perpetrate crimes and hurtful deeds against the innocent may not fully understand this or, may choose to ignore this.

It goes without saying that every child needs to be nurtured with loving kindness, tenderness, calm and consistent teaching and discipline without any undue fear and suffering. Same holds true for an animal.

All living creatures, great and small, are endowed with abilities to feel pleasure, pain, joy, love, sorrow, sadness. If they could not experience such things, they would have been inanimate objects like a chair or sofa.

As much as some would like to believe that children and animals do not “feel” as acutely as adult



humans, they are mistaken. Anyone who has ever had a pet, would most likely acknowledge that, indeed, their pet has “feelings.”

It is our job as stewards of this planet, that we be fair and just, that we respect all life and that we accept Truth. The Truth is this; cruelty and harm against the most innocent is a violation of all

decency, honor, dignity and inherent nobility of spirit within us all. We must strive to nourish and maintain the best within us. Our children are our future. The animals are a gift, a blessing to us, and without them, life would be unimaginably barren. Without them the complex web of life on this planet would not be able to survive.

Source

1. Caio Camargo
 2. By Shivi Verma, October 2014
 3. Tim Lott, 10 May 2013, The Guardian
 4. Barrett Duke, Jan 5, 2015
- Wendy Butler, Jamestown, NC
David D

Daya means mercy. What is daya? Who is, I mean to say, less strong, weaker than you, you show him mercy. Just like animals, birds, beast, you should be very merciful. Just like children: you should be very merciful to children. According to Vedic injunctions, children, woman, brahmanas, old men, and cows, they are always protected and shown mercy.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 12.2.1 -- March 18, 1968, San Francisco)

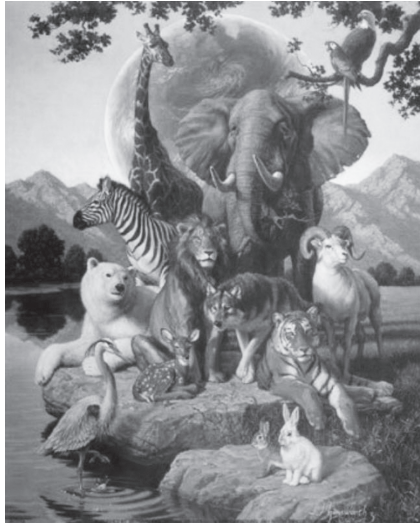
2.

Animal Gospel

Christian Faith As If Animals Mattered

Animal Theology argues that there is something Christ-like about the innocent suffering of animals which should compel a response of Christ-like generosity.

Linzey shows that many of the justifications for inflicting animal suffering in fact provide grounds for protecting them. Because animals, the argument goes, lack reason or souls or language, harming them is not an offence. Linzey suggests that just the opposite is true, that the inability of animals to give or withhold consent, their inability to represent their interests, their moral innocence, and their relative defencelessness all compel us not to harm them. Linzey pioneers a new theory about why animal suffering matters, maintaining that sentient animals, like children, should be accorded a special moral status.



Empathy is clearly a factor. The ability/capacity to appreciate and understand what another person is experiencing, “putting yourself in someone else’s shoes”, is undoubtedly crucial in grasping and reacting to the suffering of others. The human brain is surprisingly good at doing this, reading the cues of another person and assessing how they’re feeling, but it does have something of an



egocentric bias; the emotions you’re experiencing at any given time are invariably projected onto the other person you’re assessing. There’s a region of the brain, the right supramarginal gyrus, which is seemingly dedicated to detecting and overcoming this egocentric bias.

Source

Hodder and Stoughton, London,1999.

Why Animal Suffering Matters: Philosophy, Theology and Practical Ethics

New York: Oxford University Press, 2009

There is no need of this artificial United Nations. We are united by nature. God is the center. Why artificially spend so much money? We are united not only in the human society, but we are united in all living societies, all living entities. Why we should treat the animals as different? Because there is no Krsna consciousness. I have got my consciousness that "The human beings in America are my brothers, or my countrymen. They should be given all protection." And why not cows? They are also born in America. Why they are being sent to slaughterhouse? Because there is no Krsna consciousness. There is no Krsna consciousness. Therefore this partiality, that "Only human being is my brother, and the cows and the other animals, they are not my brother," this is lack of knowledge.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture -- March 23, 1969, Hawaii)

3.

Animals Emotion Is Simple And Pure

Similarities Between Animal, Children And Autistic Emotion

The main difference between animal emotions and human emotions is that animals don't have mixed emotions the way normal people do. Animals aren't ambivalent; they don't have love-hate relationships with each other or with people. That's one of the reasons humans love animals so much; animals are loyal. If an animal loves you he loves you no matter what. He doesn't care what you look like or how much money you make.

This is another connection between children and animals: children have mostly simple emotions, too. That's why normal people



describe them as innocent. Children's feelings are direct and open, just like animal feelings. They don't hide their feelings, and they aren't ambivalent. They don't know what it is like to have feelings of love and hate for the same person.

Children don't have to deal with all the emotional craziness going around them. One fantastic student flunked out of school because she broke up with her boyfriend. There's so much psychodrama in normal people's lives. Animals never have psychodrama.

Children don't, either. Emotionally, children are more like animals and autistic people, because children's frontal lobes are still growing and don't mature until sometime in early adulthood. Frontal lobes are one big association cortex, tying everything together, including emotions like love and hate that would probably be better off staying separate. That's another reason why a dog can be like a person's child: children's emotions are straightforward and loyal like a dog's. A seven-year-old boy or girl will race through the house to greet Dad when he comes from work the same way a dog will. I think animals, children, and autistic people have simpler emotions because their brains have less ability to make connections, so their emotions stay more separate and compartmentalized.



When the different parts of the brain are relatively separate from each other and don't communicate well, you end up with simple, clear emotions due to compartmentalization. A child can be furious at his mom or dad one second, then completely forget about it the next, because being mad and being happy are separate states. A child hops from one to the other depending on the situation.

You see the exact same thing with animals. Strong emotions in animals are usually like a sudden thunderstorm, They blow in and then blow back out. Two dogs who live together in the same house can be snarling one second, then go back to being best friends the next. Normal people need a lot more time to get over an angry emotion, and even when a normal adult does get over a bad emotion he's made a lasting connection between the angry emotion and the person or situation that made him angry. When a normal person gets furiously angry with a person he loves, his brain hooks up anger and love and remembers it. Thanks to his highly developed frontal lobes, which connect everything up with everything else, his brain learns to have mixed emotions about that person or situation.

Source

Excerpts, Chapter 3, 'Animals in Translation', Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson

4.

Children Are Innocent

Like 'Ducks In A Pond or A Herd of Cows'

On Monday, January 29, 1979, 16-year-old Brenda Ann Spencer used a rifle to wound eight children and one police officer at Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego, and to kill Principal Burton Wragg and custodian Mike Suchar. The school was across the street from her house. She used the rifle she had recently been given for Christmas by her father. When the six-hour incident ended and the pretty teenager was asked why she had committed the crime, she shrugged and replied, "I don't like Mondays. This livens up the day." She also said: "I had no reason for it, and it was just a lot of fun." "It was just like shooting ducks in a pond." and "The children looked like a herd of cows standing around; it was really easy pickings."



Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child, as it is to the caterpillar".

~ Bradley Miller: "

5.

Children And Animals

Birds of A Feather

Why Are Kids So Crazy About Animals?

Yeah, zoos are fun. So are cartoons. And we certainly see the appeal of a teddy bear.

But why are kids so over-the-top crazy about animals? I am especially struck by the fact that some of the most popular cartoon and children's-book animals are among the least appealing animals in real life. Mice, for instance. And pigs and rats and bears and fish.

It's really surprising to see how devoted kids are to animals, even if that devotion doesn't seem to last into adulthood for many of us.



Can anyone explain it?

Here are some rough thoughts:

1. Animals are simply cute and cuddly — at least in the abstract, and in cartoons.

2. Animals seem vulnerable, and kids want to take care of them — or, conversely:

3. Animals seem vulnerable, and kids want to control them.

4. Animals are a sort of proxy for kids in that kids are relatively powerless compared to adults whereas animals are relatively powerless compared to people.

Source

Stephen J. Dubner, Freakonomics

04/30/2008

6.

Learning To Care And Relate

Children have a natural urge to pat animals, feed them, and talk to them. It's a fascination that runs much deeper than simple curiosity.

A group of preschoolers, trying their hardest to be quiet while on a nature walk, are treated to the antics of a family of ducks swimming in a small pond. The ducks, expecting bread crumbs from the children, waddle onto the shore and start approaching the group.

Anna: (screams of excitement) They're coming up to us! They're coming up to us!

Maria: Look, they have babies! Aw, they're so cute and so fuzzy!

Dionne, who has never been this close to "wild animals" before, scrambles to hide behind teacher's legs.

Charlie: (In a whisper) They want food! They want us to feed them!

Luis: No, they want to say hi! I'm going to catch one! I'm going to get a baby one!

The children's teacher gently urges Luis to "stay in one spot so the ducks can say hi to us"—but clearly it's all Luis can do to keep himself from running after the ducks. Dionne continues to hide, while Anna, Charlie, and the others continue to make observations and squeal with excitement at the ducks' behavior.

~ Patty Born Selly

Another reason why children are so interested in animals is that children have a natural urge to make sense of the world. They constantly try to sort, categorise, and organise the things they see.

Children are innocent and loving of all things; that is a child's nature, until they are either treated wrongly, abused; no matter which abuse, are unloved and/or all of the other terrible things in this universe that can happen to a child.

Children are naturally attracted to animals, whether they're cartoons, stuffed animals or the real deal. Adults should nurture that animal attraction even as we supervise it for safety. No infant or young child should be left alone with a pet, and all children need to be taught how to pet and hold an animal — and when to leave the family pets alone. Adults should focus on teaching what's "right," not what's "wrong." Children should be taught to respect animals but not fear them.

As children grow older, many of them want to help animals — and we should let them. This is just another way to allow animals to assist in teaching life's most important lessons: compassion and generosity.



Source

Effect of Storytelling on Child's Behavior, Fatima Karim, Academia.edu

A visit to the Zoo, Rajeev Minocha, Feb 18, 2013

My favourite friend: why kids love animals, October 19, 2012

We are all born animals. Abodha-jata. Abodha. Abodha means one who has no knowledge. The animals, children, they have no knowledge. Just like we see the behavior of small children and household cats and dogs, their behavior is almost the same, no distinction. Because in that stage everyone is abodha-jata, born fools. But the animals, there is no chance of educating them, whereas human children, there is chance of educating them.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.10.3 -- June 18, 1973, Mayapur)

7.

Honoring A Biological Connection

Most folks who work with children know that children are drawn to animals of all kinds. There is definitely something special about children's interest in animals. Research shows that humans' innate interest in animals is biological: we are drawn to species that are "other" than human and in many cases have an instinct to want to care for or nurture creatures that are small and vulnerable.

In 1984 E.O. Wilson, a biologist, introduced the idea of "biophilia"-that innate affinity we humans have for other living



things. In recent years, many early educators have recognized this affinity in young children and have embraced a philosophy that includes lots of living natural materials in the classroom (such as plants and flowers), nature-based play areas with landscape features that include lots of vegetation, and providing plenty of outdoor time for children. Children can truly thrive when allowed extended periods of time in natural settings that are full of life. A “biocentric” approach to early care and education means more than just providing opportunities for nature play however. It can—and should—include opportunities for children to connect with living animals.

Unlike adults who tend to value animals for what they can provide (food, leather, wool), or how they can serve us (as companions), children tend to value animals simply because they are. They recognize the intrinsic value of animals—that simply because they are living creatures, they are important.

Source

Patty Born Selly, Natural Start Alliance, November 2014

Even linguists have long been aware of this attraction between children (or even babies) and animals. Turns out that more than a third of the average baby's earliest words are names for animals with “cat,” “dog,” “duck,” and “bunny” leading the pack. What's more, we see a similar trend among signs.

But why do children find animals fascinating? Is it because so many children's books feature animals, thereby inspiring the preference? Or, to turn this theory on its ear, do so many books feature animals because the preference already exists? It seems clear to me that the latter is the case. I simply can't imagine that inundating a young child with books about pieces of furniture instead of animals would create a passion for chairs and tables that could rival that for animals!

~ Linda Acredolo, Ph.D.

8.

Building Connection, Empathy, and Stewardship

There is something about fuzzy, warm, wet-nosed animals that appeals to children. A growing body of research shows that children who are supported in their love for animals tend to generalize that love to other living things, such as plants and nature. Research also shows that when children are encouraged to care for animals, they tend to be more sensitive and caring toward other people as well. So by supporting children's love for animals, you're helping nurture those all-important feelings of connection and stewardship as well.



Supporting children in their growing awareness and interest in animals can lead to deeper feelings of empathy in young children, more positive classroom relationships, and social-emotional development. As children have experiences with animals, they learn about differences and similarities, needs (such as for food, shelter, water and space), and compassion and empathy can grow and deepen.

Source

Patty Born Selly, Harp For Animals

9.

Compassion Toward Animals

The Most Important Lesson of All

Teaching kids to have compassion and empathy for their furry, feathered, and finned friends is vital for preventing cruelty to animals as well as in raising them to respect and treat those who are different from them with kindness. According to the National PTA Congress, “Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind, and considerate in their relations to each other. Character training along these lines will result in men and women of broader sympathies; more humane, more law abiding, in every respect more valuable citizens.”

Live by and teach the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Since young children naturally identify with animals, and because animals are living beings like us, we can use our interactions with animals to teach children how to behave toward other people. Teaching our kids to respect and protect even the smallest and most despised among us is one of the most important life lessons that we can pass along to them. It helps them learn to value one another—and it prevents violence.

Empathy Training Prevents Violence

Decades of evidence show that a child's attitude toward animals can predict future behavior. According to published reports, in every highly publicized school shooting, one warning sign appeared consistently: All the young killers abused or killed animals before turning on their classmates.

According to FBI profilers, psychiatric professionals, law-enforcement officials, and child advocacy organizations, people who hurt animals may eventually direct violence toward humans. Cruelty to animals is considered one of three symptoms that predict the development of a psychopath, and it is included as a criterion for a conduct disorder in children by the American Psychiatric Association.

People who are capable of such acts have a severely underdeveloped sense of empathy—they lack the ability to comprehend or care about the distress or agony that they are causing. Without empathy, it is easy to think of others as unfeeling machines. Teaching kindness and respect for animals is the first step in teaching children empathy.



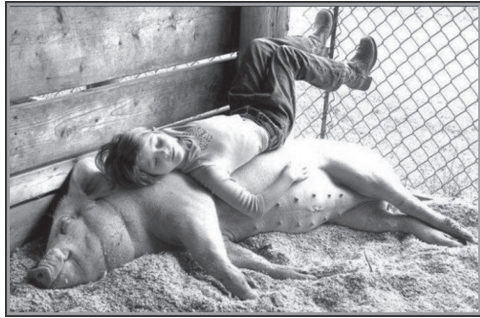
Teach Kindness by Example

Incorporating simple concepts of kindness and respect into kids' daily lives is simple and fun! The easiest and most important way to teach your little ones empathy is to lead by example.

- Never hit animals.

- Show that you value animals' lives by being patient with them, giving them plenty of clean water and food, and providing regular veterinary care.

- Include your animals in your life. Allow them to live inside with the family, and spend time with



- your animal companions daily, brushing them, playing with them, and walking them.

- Sometimes tiny creatures wander into our homes—help them find their way out nonviolently.

- Avoid statements that demean animals—even those made in jest—such as “I hate cats” or “Chickens are stupid.”

- Remember that toys influence children. Don't buy toys that even hint at animal exploitation, such as video games that allow children to kill animals or model zoos or circus trains.

Caring Activities

Show your kids that it's cool to care by regularly engaging them in these and other fun empathy-building activities:

- Go to your local animal shelter and volunteer with your child to help care for homeless animals.

- Plant flowers and shrubbery for butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in your back yard.

- During a walk at the beach, in the woods, or by a stream, pick up plastic rings, bottles, and other trash that can kill birds, turtles, dolphins, and other animals.

- Watch animal-friendly shows and documentaries.
- Read your children books that show animals as feeling individuals.

Source

PETA Kids

Rollin, Bernard E. Animal Rights and Human Morality. Prometheus Books.

“A little respect for our friends”, *New Scientist*, January 20, 1990

Frank R. Ascione, Phil Arkow Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal abuse: linking the circles of compassion for prevention and intervention ISBN 1-55753-142-0

Randall Lockwood, Frank R. Ascione. Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence. Purdue University Press 1998

10.

See The World

Through A Child's Eye

Be Kind To Animals

There's something truly unique about the bond shared between children and animals. When children look at an animal, they don't see 'livestock,' or 'game,' or 'pest,' or 'meat.' They see only 'friend'. And if we allow ourselves to see the world through a child's eyes, we can catch a glimpse into a kinder world.

These kids are proof that a kinder world for animals lies ahead

These 6 friendships between children and animals show us how beautiful the world is when one simply looks upon it with kindness

Noah And Penguin The Magpie

When 11 year old Noah brought home an abandoned magpie chick, the Bloom family didn't expect that they'd be welcoming a beloved new member into the family.

Penguin has since grown into a healthy magpie and is free to fly, but she chooses to stay close by when the Bloom's are at home.

“She's here at 3:30pm usually when the kids get home from school. She sings when they come up the driveway. I never thought she'd become as much a part of the family as she has. They (the kids) love her like a dog, but better,” says their mother.

In the eyes of a child, you will see the world as it should be.

~ Unknown



Maya And The Fawn

When a tiny fawn stumbled into Maya's yard, the connection between girl and deer was instantaneous. Maya knew that what the



fawn needed most was his/her mother. She gently led the deer to a safe place in the woods and Maya's dad said they later saw the

fawn and mother together in their backyard, safely reunited. Maya knows a simple truth that we too often forget as we get older ... to truly show our love for animals we should let them live their lives with their own species and loved ones.

Libby And Pearl The Pig

From dressing in matching bows to dancing to Taylor Swift, two year old Libby and her best friend Pearl the pig are practically



inseparable. Pearl has quickly become a much loved member of the family.

'I really think that Pearl thinks she's a puppy doggy,' feels Libby's mum, Lindsay.

Pearl's family is not alone in realising that pigs and dogs have quite a lot in common. Much like dogs, pigs wag their tails when they're happy, will respond to their name when called and can be very loving companions.

Jonny And Nibbles The Duck

Nibbles quacks excitedly the moment he sees Jonny get off the school bus. When Nibbles' mother died, Jonny cared for her egg,

which Nibbles hatched from. Nibbles and Jonny have shared a very special friendship ever since. The pair swim, play and watch TV



together, just like best buds should.

There are few of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know a duck like Jonny has. Ducks, like all animals, have their own unique personalities and a desire to live and enjoy life. We reckon that if it was up to Jonny and Nibbles, duck shooting would be a thing of the past. Sadly, it's still a reality in many parts of the world.



'Bean' And Izzy The Calf

5 year old Bean sneaks Izzy into the house, and a beautiful moment ensues.

Little 'Bean' loves Izzy the calf so much that she snuck her into the house for a cuddle. When asked to explain how Izzy got inside, Bean is a little lost for words, but luckily she and Izzy have adorableness on their side and nobody gets into trouble.

The bond shared between Bean and Izzy is so beautiful that while filming the two of them together, Bean's mother questions her own choice to eat these gentle and affectionate animals.

Jonny And Rescue Dog Xena

Jonny and Xena are the very best of friends.

Having been diagnosed with autism, Jonny has always had a hard



time making friends ... until Xena. When his parents adopted rescue dog Xena, she and Jonny formed an instant connection.

'He is non-stop chatter now! He is the happiest child that I've ever seen him be in eight years,' says Jonny's mother, Linda

Together, Jonny and Xena help raise awareness for autism and the prevention of cruelty to animals.

One Sees Clearly Only With The Heart

Perhaps the secret is that children see not with the eyes but with the heart. The child in each of us knows that we are all equal in our desire to live and be loved. Will you let your inner child shine through and guide the way to a kinder world? Take the first steps towards a compassionate life today.

It's no surprise that when children learn that the animals on their plate are just like the ones in their storybooks, it can come as quite a shock. In a popular Youtube video, you can watch the incredibly moving moment when a 5 year old realises who her food once was.

Source

Animals Australia, Cruelty Free Living, 26 August 2015

Only the Animals, Ceridwen Dovey, Atlantic Books Ltd.

Loving Animals: Toward a New Animal Advocacy, Kathy Rudy, University of Minnesota Press, 2011

Self Love and the Healing of Our Animal Friends, Betsy Adams, BalboaPress.

11.

Just Like Children, Their Eyes Say It All

How Can Anyone Not Believe That Animals Have A Soul?

By a look we can tell if our animal friend is scared, happy, playful, sleepy, sick/feeling blue or pleading for a treat!

Dogs communicate with their eyes; pet owners know they do it all the time. A dog is able to communicate simply with his eyes by looking at the kitchen counter and then back at us. By doing so he is telling us that the counter holds something positively tantalizing for him, which he wishes to levitate right to his mouth.^[1]

Eyes are organs that give the power of vision to animals. An important function, for sure. But in humans and other animals, eyes are used for more than vision! Eyes are used to



convey messages. We admonish folks to make eye contact when speaking in order to improve communication. On the other hand, we avoid eye contact when we don't want to send an incorrect message to a stranger.^[2]

Eye Contact

Eye contact occurs when “two people look at each other's eyes at the same time.”^[3]

In human beings, eye contact is a form of nonverbal communication and is thought to have a large influence on social behavior. Coined in the early to mid-1960s, the term came from the West to often define the act as a meaningful and important sign of confidence, respect, and social communication.^[4] The customs and significance of eye contact vary between societies, with religious and social differences often altering its meaning greatly.



The study of eye contact is sometimes known as oculusics.^[5]

Social Meanings

Eye contact and facial expressions provide important social and emotional information. People, perhaps without consciously doing

*“An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language.”
~Martin Buber*

so, search other's eyes and faces for positive or negative mood signs. In some contexts, the meeting of eyes arouses strong emotions.

Eye contact is also an important element in flirting, where it may serve to establish and gauge the other's interest in some situations.

Mutual eye contact that signals attraction initially begins as a brief glance and progresses into a repeated volleying of eye contact.^[6]

Parent-child

A 1985 study suggested that "3-month-old infants are comparatively insensitive to being the object of another's visual regard".^[7] A 1996 Canadian study with 3 to 6 month old infants found that smiling in infants decreased when adult eye contact was removed.^[8] A recent British study in the Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience found that face recognition by infants was facilitated by direct gaze.^[9] Other recent research has confirmed that the direct gaze of adults influences the direct gaze of infants.^{[10][11]} Within their first year, infants learn rapidly that the looking behaviors of others conveys significant information. Infants prefer to look at faces that engage them in mutual gaze and that, from an early age, healthy babies show enhanced neural processing of direct gaze.^[12]

A person's direction of gaze may indicate to others where his/her attention lies.

Facilitating Learning

In the 2000s, studies suggest that eye contact has a positive impact on the retention and recall of information and may promote more efficient learning.^{[13][14][15]}

Maternal Sensitivity

In a 2001 study conducted in Germany examining German infants during their first 12 weeks of life, researchers studied the

Recently, three men near my hometown of Boulder tried to save a young mountain lion who'd been hit by a car. They told the reporters that the lion's eyes begged them to do so - saying, "Help me." - Marc Bekoff

relationship between eye contact, maternal sensitivity and infant crying to attempt to determine if eye contact and maternal sensitivity were stable over time. In this correlational study, they began by categorizing the mother's sensitivity placing them into one of four behavioral categories: inhibited/intense behavior, distortion of infant signals, over and understimulational, and aggressive behavioral. Next, the observer video-taped the mother and infant's free-play interactions on a weekly basis for 12 weeks. When watching the videos, they measured the mutual eye contact between the mother and the infant by looking at the overlap in time when the mothers looked at their infant's face and when the infants looked at their mother's face. The mothers were also asked to record their infant's crying in a diary.

The study found that the amount of eye contact between the study's German mothers and infants increased continuously over the first 12 weeks. The mother who held eye contact with her child early on (week 1-4) was described as sensitive to her infant whereas if she did not hold eye contact, her behavior was described as insensitive. They also found a negative relationship between eye contact and the duration of crying of the infants; as eye contact increases, crying decreases. Maternal sensitivity was also shown to be stable over time. According to the study, these findings may potentially be based on the assumption that sensitive mothers are more likely to notice their child's behavioral problems than non-sensitive mothers.^[16]

Between Species

Eye contact can also be a significant factor in interactions between non-human animals, and between humans and non-human animals.

Animals of many species, including dogs, often perceive eye contact as a threat. Many programs to prevent dog bites recommend avoiding direct eye contact with an unknown dog.^[17] According to a report in *The New Zealand Medical Journal*,^[18] maintaining eye contact is one reason young children may be more likely to fall victim to dog attacks.

Similarly, hikers are commonly advised to avoid direct eye contact if they have surprised a bear, since the bear may interpret the eye contact as a threat,^[19] although some sources suggest maintaining eye contact.^[20] Likewise, chimpanzees use eye contact to signal aggression in hostile encounters, and staring at them in a zoo can induce agitated behavior.^[21]

On the other hand, extended eye contact between a dog and its owner modulates the excretion of oxytocin, a neuromodulator that is known for its role in maternal-infant bonding.^[22]

Wolves Communicate With Their Eyes

By Jenna Iacurci,

Wolves and dogs possess certain ocular characteristics that allow them to communicate with other members of their species using their eyes alone, suggests a new study published in the journal PLOS ONE, giving new meaning to the common phrase “puppy-dog eyes.”

The color of the face around the eye, the eye’s shape and the color and shape of both the iris and the pupil are all part of the complex eye-based communication system, according to the research, which could apply to humans as well.



Sayoko Ueda of the Tokyo Institute of Technology at Kyoto University led the study, comparing 25 different types of canines. The researchers broke the studied species down into three groups based on their facial coloration and gaze:

A-type means both the pupil position in the eye outline and eye position in the face are clear; B-type indicates only the eye position is clear; and C-type is when both the pupil and eye position are unclear.

Researchers noted that those canines that had clear pupil and eye positioning (such as wolves) tended to live in group environments, whereas those with unclear pupil and/or eye positioning (such as foxes) tended to be solitary.

“A-type faces tended to be observed in species living in family groups all year-round, whereas B-type faces tended to be seen in solo/pair-living species,” Ueda and colleagues wrote.

Ueda and his team thereby deduced that these were all adaptive traits which enabled the canines that hunt in packs and live in groups to communicate with one another via gaze signal.

Animals like foxes, which exemplify the B-type, however, only rely on their eyes some of the time to exchange information.

And then for the C-type, seen in animals like bush dogs, their all-dark eyes blend in with their faces. This makes it difficult to predict their behavior, given that you cannot see where their gaze is. The researchers point out that “various predators camouflage their eyes to increase their hunting success.”

Researchers also suspect that the white of the eye - called the sclera - even evolved to offset the darker hues of the iris and pupil in members of the A-type group. This includes wolves, dogs as well as humans.

Since humans fall into the same category as these ever-watchful canines, it's possible that these findings reveal something about the way we communicate with each other as well.

Cow's Eyes Reveal How They Are Feeling, Study Says

By Helen S. Proctor, Gemma Carder

Look into the eye of a cow and it might reveal how relaxed the animal is according to a new study

The study looked at whether the amount of eye white you can see in cows' eyes can convey how they are feeling. The research team hopes to highlight how the findings provide a way of assessing positive emotions.

Previous studies found that cows show an increase in eye white when they are scared or frustrated. In this study of 13 cows, scientists found the opposite to be the case when they are relaxed and calm. Results show the cow's eye white to reduce when they are stroked,



compared with before and afterwards.

The study involved observing cows for nearly 400 separate 15 minute periods. They filmed the cow's eyes before, during and after they were stroked for five minutes. Afterwards the footage

The history of humankind has been one of flight from the wild world. We have done everything we possibly could to prove to our own satisfaction that we have nothing whatsoever to do with other animals. Our entire civilisation is build on this premise. It is therefore deeply disturbing to consider that we are part of the same continuum as dolphins, apes, and for that matter, the birds and bees. Developed language is one of our genuine differences: but at bottom, we are all animals who communicate with each other, just like the rooks in the rookery and the redshanks out on the marsh.

~ Simon Barnes (Birdwatching With Your Eyes Closed : An Introduction To Birdsong)

was analysed to record the amount of eye white that was visible throughout the observation.

Their results revealed the amount of visible eye white decreased when the cows were being stroked, leading the scientists to suggest that the visible eye whites could indicate how relaxed the cows are feeling.

World Animal Protection's Sentience Manager, Helen Proctor says "Many people often forget that *animals have an interest in feeling good, and not only being free from pain or fear.* Developing measures of positive emotions in animals is really important, as it enables us to understand how they are feeling. It also helps us to know which experiences and environments make them feel good."

Purpose Of The Study

Animal sentience is of growing international concern. The scientific community's understanding of sentience is crucial in affecting how animals are treated. These results, along with previous papers on ear postures and nasal temperatures as measures of positive emotions, prove that not only do cow's show visible signs of pleasure at being stroked by someone they know, but that it is possible to measure positive emotions in cows.

Researchers hope the study will be useful for those who are working to improve cow welfare in the dairy sector by increasing our understanding of cow behaviour. The study addresses the worrying trend towards intensive indoor dairy farming and the lack of information to help consumers find out if the milk they are buying is produced from these farms. Happy cows in a pasture based dairy farming produce the best milk.

Horses Use Eyes And Ears To Communicate

By Justine Alford

Social animals communicate in a variety of ways; from gestures to facial expressions, touch to vocalizations. Like humans, studies on various non-human primates such as chimpanzees have

demonstrated that these animals can convey a lot of information through gaze and head position. But what about animals with very mobile ears and side-facing eyes, such as horses? Can they use ears and eyes as visual cues to attention? While that may seem a “yes, duh,” to horse owners, no one had actually ever studied this form of communication in horses before. Now, a team of scientists from the University of Sussex have stepped in to put suspicions to the test. Their study can be found in *Current Biology*.

For the study, researchers photographed horses whilst they were paying attention to something. They then displayed these life-sized photographs above two buckets of feed in such a way that the image of the horse appeared to be paying attention to one of the two buckets. In order to investigate which areas of the face were important in providing information, the researchers manipulated the photos by covering up either the eyes or the ears with masks. Next, they released a number of horses, one at a time, and allowed them to decide which bucket to feed from.

The researchers discovered that the horses were sensitive to the attentional state of the horse in the photograph, and that this influenced their decision of where to feed. If the horse in the image was not obstructed by the masks, the study horse was more likely to



choose the bucket that the image appeared to be paying attention to. If the eyes or ears were covered, however, the choice was found to be random.

Another interesting finding was that the ability to detect cues varied depending on the identity of the horse in the image, indicating that differences in facial features or expression may be important.

The researchers conclude that a combination of head orientation and facial expression using the eyes and ears is necessary to communicate social attention. This study therefore challenges previous ideas that animals with eyes on the side of the head cannot gather information based on the direction of one another's gaze. They would like to take this work forward by exploring facial features related to the expression of emotion in horses.

“Horses display some of the same complex and fluid social organization that we have as humans and that we also see in chimpanzees, elephants and dolphins,” lead author Jennifer Wathan said in a news-release.

“And the more we look at communication across different species, the more we can consider what might have promoted the evolution of sophisticated communication and social skills,” she told the BBC.

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12.

The Moral Significance Of The 'Innocence' of the animals

By Steve F. Sapon Tzis

Apparently, what has prompted animal rightists' interest in animal innocence is what Dale Jamieson calls the "Argument from Innocence" against animal exploitation. Roughly, this argument contends that since animals are not criminals, we are not justified in inflicting suffering and death on them.



To my knowledge, no one has ever claimed or suggested that chickens, sheep, white mice, guinea pigs, etc., (ordinarily) are criminals and that our use of them in laboratories, abattoirs, etc., is merely giving them the punishment they so richly deserve.

"Those chickens are vicious little beasts, and de-beaking is just what they deserve" and "white mice are incorrigible little criminals who should be given cancer to pay off their debt to society" are just not the sort of thing that anyone says to justify, factory farming or animal research.

Furthermore, in expanded form, the Argument from Innocence must read something like this:

P1: Prima facie, no sentient being should be exploited as a means merely for fulfilling the interests of others. (Let's call this "the right to respect.")

P2: The right to respect can be forfeited, but it is forfeited only through committing serious crimes.

P3: Animals have not committed serious crimes.

C: Therefore, animals have not forfeited their right to respect.

Whether P1 should read as it does or should, rather, be limited to a proposition referring only to human beings is what is at issue in the animal rights debate. Most mainstream moral philosophers (not



to mention most people in general, if they ever made explicit their presumptions about such things) would insist that P1 is incorrect and should be replaced with something like the following:

P1 : Prima no human being should be exploited as a means merely for fulfilling the interests of others.

It follows that the Argument from Innocence is circular, if it is supposed to be a contribution to resolving the animal rights debate and may, consequently, be disregarded when the issue concerns whether animals are entitled to rights.

Nonetheless, the issue of animal innocence--by which I ordinarily mean animals' supposed inability to recognize and respond to moral values--does seem to enter into the animal rights debate significantly in the following two ways. These two ways constitute the horns of a dilemma on which it may be thought that animal rightists are skewered: in order to answer the naturalistic objections to animal rights raised under the first heading, one can point to the innocence of animals, but that very innocence would seem to leave animal rights prey to the Kantian criticism to be noted under the second heading. Let's call this "damned if they are, and damned if they're not" situation the "Dilemma of Innocence."

First, one of the most common responses to animal liberation arguments is "But animals eat other animals!" This phrase seems to have a double meaning to those who use it:

since animals consume other animals, they do not deserve to be treated any better by us, and

since one species exploiting another is a standard, even essential, part of the natural order, we are merely taking our place in nature and making our contribution to the natural cycle of life on earth when we exploit animals.

Questions of animal innocence are relevant to evaluating these contentions. We can call the first contention the "Let them reap what they sow!" defense of our exploiting animals, the second contention the "It's only natural!" defense. We will deal briefly here with each in turn.

Of course, it is immediately amusing when the "Let them reap what they sow!" defense is offered in support of our consuming cattle, sheep, hogs, rabbits, and other herbivores. It is also striking that when animals occasionally turn the tables and prey on us, e.g., shark and bear attacks, we do not resignedly say "I guess we, too, have to reap what we sow." Rather, we usually brand such animals "renegades," "monsters," or even "murderers" and pursue them with unbridled vengeance. Apparently, we feel that if we do the reaping, that balances the books, but if we are the harvest, then retribution is needed to balance those books. I do not think that further discussion is needed to conclude that "Let them reap what they sow!" is just a self-serving excuse for our reaping the benefits of being the strongest species around.

Additionally, it can be noted that animal predation can usually be considered "innocent," in that it is usually properly described as "doing what they must in order to survive." Animal predators cannot ordinarily be described as careless, callous, or self indulgent exploiters. So, if it is "only fair" for us to treat animals as they treat each other, then we should limit our exploitation of them to "doing what we must in order to survive." Given our many frivolous uses of animals and the vast array of alternatives to animal exploitation which we already have or could develop, our exploitation of animals goes far beyond that limit. Consequently, the "Let them reap what



they sow!" justification of why it is normal us to exploit animals is not only a hypocritical but also an insufficient excuse for the extent of our exploitation of them.

Turning to the "It's only natural!" argument, this defense of our exploiting animals presumes that we can learn how we morally ought to behave by studying how animals behave. There probably is



some truth to this. Since we share many physical, psycho logical, and social needs with animals, we may very well learn how efficiently to balance and fulfill these various needs through studying how animals do this. Since at least one of the goals of morality is commonly thought to be promoting the general welfare through fulfilling, as far as possible, the needs of all, such knowledge can be of value in determining what we morally ought to do.

However, if we presume that animals are innocent of morality (and that nature is not structured and directed by a morally concerned super-natural being), it follows that there is no reason to believe that we will find in nature paradigms of moral concern, moral behavior, or moral order. So, although studying the concerns, behavior, and social order of animals may provide useful information for developing answers to moral questions, such study could not-

-contrary to what some environmental ethicists seem to believe- reveal the fundamental moral concerns or principles needed to answer moral questions. For example, while what we ought morally to do depends, in large part, on maximizing the general welfare and securing a fair shake for all, such goals can seem largely, if not completely, absent from a natural order in which the survival and reproduction of the strongest appears to be the predominant organizing mechanism. Thus, if animals are innocent of morality, we cannot, logically, point to the natural order in which one animal



exploits another as a moral paradigm justifying our exploiting animals.

However, if animals are innocent of morality, animal rights would seem open to the following Kantian criticism: since animals are not capable of being moral agents, they are not entitled to being considered as ends in themselves and, consequently, may be exploited

*Is eating animals who are someone's children or parents considered kindness? Is killing and eating innocent lives considered wise?
And if yes then why don't human do it with their own family?
~ Bindali Samant*

(humanely, of course) for the benefit of moral agents (i.e., human beings). Here, curiously enough, being innocent counts against animals and animal rights.

One can respond to this Kantian argument in several ways. For example, one can argue that animals are not as innocent of morality as Kantians (and other mainstream moral philosophers) would have us believe. Contrary to what Kant maintains, being moral is not limited to acting out of respect for law, and contrary to what Huxley portrays, nature is not merely red in tooth and claw. Many moral virtues, e.g., loyalty, compassion, and self-sacrifice, are found in the animal realm.

Thus, animals' innocence, i.e., their inability to be fully moral agents, can contribute to answering the "But animals eat other animals!" objection to animal rights and can do so without leaving animal rights vulnerable to the Kantian side of the Dilemma of Innocence.

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Steve F. Sapon Tzis, California State University, Hayward

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13.

You cheeky little monkey

This Lemur Loves Cuddly Toys

This cheeky little Lemur loves to climb into babies' car seat and is audacious enough to snuggle up to them and play with their cuddly toys.

Stunned Angie Widernis could not believe her eyes when she went to check on nine-week-old daughter Finley to discover the





Mind if I borrow this? The ring-tailed lemur plays with one of baby Finley's toys as he sits happily on her head while she enjoys a nap

ring-tailed lemur sitting comfortably on her head during their trip to the Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard, Kansas.

Despite the furry critter scrambling about and playing with her toys, baby Finley did not even wake up from her snooze and after staff told them he was perfectly safe the family managed to capture the incident on camera.

Source

Daily Mail Reporter, 11 July 2014

The Huffington Post, Amber Barnes, Jul 10, 2014

Maressa Brown, The Stir, July 11, 2014

14.

Chimps Play With Dolls

Playing with dolls was a part of female childhood long before a plastic lady named Barbie appeared on the scene. Girls will lead entire fantasy lives with their dolls, giving them names, taking care of them when they're pretend-sick, giving them pretend-weddings and even pretend-scolding them when they pretend-make poor life decisions.

Having such an active imagination is surely not just one of the most childlike traits you can probably think of, but also one of the most human. After all, it's not like other animal species are out there having little slumber parties with their dolls while we're not looking, right?

Except, yeah, there's one species that's totally doing exactly that. Surprisingly, when it comes to playtime, human kids and chimpanzees are actually more alike than you think.

Wait, what?

Researchers from Bates College and Harvard University found that young female chimps would take sticks, bark, small logs and vines, and not only cradle them as if they were baby chimps themselves, but also use their imagination for the whole doll-owning experience.

When playing with their doll-sticks, the young females would cuddle with them, put them to bed and rest with them in their nests like a little girl sleeping with her plush toy for security. A few times, the little dolls even got the equivalent of their own Barbie dream



houses, as the chimp girls would build separate nests just for them to pretend-live in. And during the day, the chimp girls would also walk around with their sticks tucked between their stomachs and their thighs, mimicking the way that mother chimpanzees carry their babies.

All this behavior, which was witnessed over a hundred times during 14 years, was not just limited to girl chimps. One young male chimp was seen using a stick to play "airplane," resting on his back and holding the stick up with his hands and feet, the way that many parents play with their young children. In another instance, a male chimp was seen with his own stick dolly after he saw his mom was pregnant, pretending to care for it. There were no reports on whether his chimp father went out and worriedly fashioned him some chimpanzee G.I. Joes to get him interested in "man stuff."

Source

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15.

Mischief

Animals And Human Children's Delight

Gerald Durrell said that his pet magpies used to torment the chickens next door by imitating the sound that summoned them to food, after which they would “chuckle like a pair of city slickers that have successfully duped a crowd of bumbling and earnest villagers”.

Magpies also have a sinister reputation for theft and for other terrible crimes.

What other mischievous animals can you think of? Monkey would be the first answer for many of us.

Puppies and kittens are also no saints.



Ferrets, raccoons, foxes, bears and squirrels could also be thought of as mischievous then - raiding bins and stealing stuff and all.

Mischievous Little Goat Arrested for Disorderly Conduct

A “lawless” kid (baby goat) was taken into custody in New Jersey on a litany of charges, including disorderly behavior, trespass and first-degree larceny in April this year.

Paramus cops say they “responded to calls of a disorderly goat headbutting doors in the Beech Lane area of town” on Sunday morning.

According to the police report, the smirking ball of fur attempted to flee but eventually got picked up “running in the roadway.” He remains in custody with the animal control, as per the reports.

Baboon Burglars Make Off With Furnishings

The owners of a Cape Town flat had the shock of their life when they returned to find that their home had been destroyed by a group of cheeky baboons.

A dozen chacma baboons clambered into a third floor flat after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open.

The baboons raided the cabinets, stole food, ripped off the curtains and even made it off with a teddy bear.



The hairy burglars scaled the block of flats' brick walls and raided the property in Cape Town, South Africa, while its owners were out.

Stunned neighbours and passersby watched in disbelief as the monkeys made off with bedsheets, curtains and the toy after their 30 minute pillage.

One brazen baboon even appeared to use the salmon-coloured curtains as a disguise when they flee the scene of their crime.



Clever disguise: One of the baboons covered itself in the pink curtains as the group fled the scene with their takings

It is thought they initially entered the flat looking for food - raiding the fridges and trashing the kitchen.

But it was the big teddy bear that won their affections, as the baboons played with the toy and groomed it like it was another monkey.

Cyril Ruoso, the 43-year-old wildlife photographer and journalist said: 'At the beginning, only one of the baboons was inside the flat.

'He opened the wide front windows to the flat with his mouth, and around ten baboons then came into the flat.

'They were in there for more than half an hour as nobody was able to do anything.

The owners were out and nobody had any keys to enter.

'I am quite used to working with monkeys, but I was amazed. And then when they came out



with a blanket, curtains and a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished.

‘The baboons played with the teddy bear like a kid plays with a doll. They even groomed it like a monkey!’

Mr Ruoso added: ‘It is easy to understand the baboons are looking for food, but they are intelligent and very social animals.

‘Interactions and social behaviours are a big part of their education to become an adult baboon.

‘Play seems to be a very good way for the youngsters to learn how to behave as baboon.

‘They love to be hidden behind leaves and tree trunks in the wild - I have seen that several times.

‘Here, they do the same with new materials, like a blanket or curtains.

‘But the teddy bear used as a doll is much more of a mystery to me, especially because the adult baboons used it too.’

The monkey raids are common in South Africa, where monitoring teams are employed to try to keep the baboons at bay.



Source

Gabrielle Bluestone, 4/05/15

Daily Mail Reporter, 10 December 2013

Kelly Mclaughlin, Cape Times, Dec 9, 2013

16.

Playful Life

Of Animals And Children

In psychology and ethology, play is a range of voluntary, intrinsically motivated activities normally associated with recreational pleasure and enjoyment. Play is commonly associated with children and juvenile-level activities, but play occurs at any life stage, and among other higher-functioning animals as well.

Johan Huizinga defines play as follows:

“Summing up the formal characteristic of play, we might call it a free activity standing quite consciously outside ‘ordinary’ life as being ‘not serious’ but at the same time absorbing the player intensely and utterly. It is an activity connected with no material interest, and no profit can be gained by it.”

In young children, play is frequently associated with cognitive development and socialization. Play that



promotes learning and recreation often incorporates toys, props, tools or other playmates. Play can consist of an amusing, pretend or imaginary activity alone or with another.

Modern findings in neuroscience suggest that play promotes flexibility of mind, including adaptive practices such as discovering multiple ways to achieve a desired result, or creative ways to improve or reorganize a given situation (Millar, 1967; Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000).

As children get older, they engage in board games, video games and computer play.



Play is explicitly recognized in Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, November 29, 1989), which declares:

Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Sportive activities are one of the most universal forms of play. Different continents have their own popular/dominant sports. For example, European, South American, and African countries enjoy Soccer (also known as 'Football' in Europe), while North American countries prefer Basketball, Ice Hockey, Baseball, or American Football. In Asia, sports such as Table Tennis and Badminton are played professionally; however Soccer and Basketball are played amongst common folks. Events such as The Olympics Games and FIFA World Cup showcase countries competing with each other and are broadcast all over the world. Sports can be played as a leisure

'She is a really intelligent bird. She has learned to untie her own cage and is always chatting away.

'She makes the ringing noise of the telephone, pretends to answer it and then has a conversation with herself - it is really quite funny.

activity or within a competition. According to sociologist Norbert Elias; it is an important part of “civilization process”.

Play and Animals

Evolutionary psychologists believe that there must be an important benefit of play, since animals are often injured during play, become distracted from predators, and expend valuable energy. In many cases, play has even been observed between different species



that are natural enemies such as a polar bear and a dog. Yet play seems to be a normal activity with animals who occupy the higher strata of their own hierarchy of needs. Animals on the lower strata, e.g. stressed and starving animals, generally do not play. However, in animals like Assamese Macaques physically active play is performed also during periods of low food availability and even if it is at the expense of growth, which strongly highlights the developmental and evolutionary importance of play.

"Cruelty to animals is as if man did not love God... there is something so dreadful, so satanic, in tormenting those who have never harmed us, and who cannot defend themselves, who are utterly in our power."

~ Cardinal John Henry Newman.

The social cognitive complexity of numerous species, including dogs, have recently been explored in experimental studies. In one such study, conducted by Alexandra Horowitz of the University of California, the communication and attention-getting skills of dogs were investigated. In a natural setting, dyadic play



behavior was observed; head-direction and posture was specifically noted. When one of the two dogs was facing away or otherwise preoccupied, attention-getting behaviors and signals (nudging, barking, growling, pawing, jumping, etc.) were used by the other dog to communicate the intent and/or desire to continue on with the dyadic play. Stronger or more frequent signaling was used if the attention of the other dog was not captured. These observations tell us that these dogs know how play behavior and signaling can be used to capture attention, communicate intent and desire, and manipulate one another. This characteristic and skill, called the “attention-getting skill” has generally only been seen in humans, but is now being researched and seen in many different species.

Observing play behavior in various species can tell us a lot about the player’s environment (including the welfare of the animal), personal needs, social rank (if any), immediate relationships, and eligibility for mating. Play activity, often observed through action and signals, often serves as a tool for communication and expression. Through mimicry, chasing, biting, and touching, animals will often act out in ways so as to send messages to one another; whether it’s an alert, initiation of play, or expressing intent. When play behavior was observed for a study in Tonkean Macaques, it was discovered that play signals weren’t always used to initiate play; rather, these

signals were viewed primarily as methods of communication (sharing information and attention-getting).

One theory – “play as preparation” – was inspired by the observation that play often mimics adult themes of survival. Predators such as lions and bears play by chasing, pouncing, pawing, wrestling, and biting, as they learn to stalk and kill prey. Prey animals such as deer and zebras play by running and leaping as they acquire speed and agility. Hoofed mammals also practice kicking their hind legs to learn to ward off attacks. Indeed, time spent in physical play accelerates motor skill acquisition in wild Assamese Macaques. While mimicking adult behavior, attacking actions such as kicking and biting are not completely fulfilled, so playmates do not generally injure each other. In social animals, playing might also



help to establish dominance rankings among the young to avoid conflicts as adults.

John Byers, a zoologist at the University of Idaho, discovered that the amount of time spent at play for many mammals (e.g. rats and cats) peaks around puberty, and then drops off. This corresponds to the development of the cerebellum, suggesting that play is not so much about practicing exact behaviors, as much as building general connections in the brain. Sergio Pellis and colleagues at the

University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, discovered that play may shape the brain in other ways, too. Young mammals have an overabundance of brain cells in their cerebrum (the outer areas of the brain – part of what distinguishes mammals). There is evidence that play helps the brain clean up this excess of cells, resulting in a more efficient cerebrum at maturity.

Play also allows mammals to build up various skills that could come in handy in entirely novel situations.

Just Like Children, Running Around A Playground

Animals as diverse as gorillas, dolphins and meerkats have all been caught playing games enjoyed by humans.

Gorillas enjoy playing games of "tag" like children, a study has suggested.

Great apes are often seen taking it in turns to tap each other on the shoulder and then scurry away in a role-playing game.

Their actions mirror that of children running around a playground. By playing both chaser and the chased, the apes develop a better understanding of fleeing and pursuit and greater levels of communication between each other, scientists say.

The Gorillas also cheated and used unfair tactics, the research found.

Last year dolphins were caught on camera playing football with a jellyfish off the Welsh coast.

Marine biologists said they believed their game of flipball was thousands of years old and may explain why dolphins in captivity are so skilful at juggling balls.

"It seems to me of great importance to teach children respect for life. Towards this end, experiments on living animals in classrooms should be stopped. To encourage cruelty in the name of science can only destroy the finer emotions of affection and sympathy, and breed an unfeeling callousness in the young towards suffering in all living creatures."

~Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady of the United States of America

Meerkats are curious and active creatures. During the World Cup a Bristol Zoo gave some footballs to baby meerkats who proceeded to show more skill than England's players in South Africa.

Birds enjoy whistling merry tunes but scientists claimed recently that they were better at singing in the rain and the cold.

Researchers found that birds sing more sweetly in colder climates than their laid-back cousins in the tropics because they have to try harder to attract a mate.

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17.

Having Fun

And Learning Valuable Lessons

Recreation may look like it serves no obvious purpose, but when dogs and other animals are having fun they are learning some valuable lessons.

Say you're walking your dog in the park, when he comes face to snout with another dog. An intricate dance begins, as if each movement was precisely choreographed. The dogs visually inspect each other, sniff each other, walk circles around each other. And then the fight begins. But is it really a fight, or is it just play-fighting?



It's very important for Fido and you to know whether he's in any true danger.

Dog owners everywhere like to take their dogs to the park to play. But is their behaviour best described as "play"? Scientists, such as James L. Gould and Carol Grant Gould have used the word "play" to describe any behaviour that does not have any apparent adaptive function, that is, it serves no obvious purpose.

The natural world teems with examples of such "purposeless activities." University of Vermont biologists Bernd Heinrich and Rachel Smolker describe a commonplace activity among ravens (*Corvus corax*): snowboarding. Ravens in Alaska and Northern Canada are known to slide down steep, snow-covered roofs. When they reach the bottom, they

walk or fly back to the top, and repeat the process over and over again. In Maine, ravens were observed tumbling down small mounds of snow, sometimes while holding



sticks between their talons. "We see no obvious utilitarian function for sliding behaviour," they write. Anyone who has spent time in a school playground will recognize that ravens and human children both delight in this type of repetitive sliding activity.

Herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*), too, like to play, but it's not them that take any risks. These shorebirds feed on clams by dropping them onto hard surfaces such as rocks or paved roads. If they drop them from high enough, the clamshell might crack, providing access to the juicy snack waiting inside. Sometimes, rather than letting clams drop to the ground, herring gulls try to catch the clam in mid-air.

Other shorebirds play this game of catch as well, including black-backed gulls, common gulls, and Pacific gulls.

After observing herring gulls for eighty hours, researchers Jennifer R. Gamble and Daniel A. Cristol from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, formulated some “rules” of the game. They found that younger gulls played drop-catch more often than mature gulls. They also found that the drop-catch was performed over soft ground more often than over hard or rocky surfaces. In other words, if the gull had dropped the clams on the softer ground, it was extremely unlikely that they would break open. They also noticed that drop-catch behaviour was far more likely to occur when the gull was carrying an object that wasn’t a clam. And drop-catched clams were less likely to be eaten than dropped ones. Most interesting was that drop-catches were more common when the wind was stronger, providing a provocative hint that this may be more enjoyable for gulls when it is a more challenging task. It may be that drop-catching gulls are simply having fun.

Practice Makes Perfect

Both the snowboarding ravens and the drop-catching gulls are examples of solitary play, but social play is also common. This brings us back to the dog park play-fight, and another important aspect of animal play, which ethologist Robert Fagen described as being “specific signal patterns.” Dogs and their canid cousins, wolves and coyotes, bow their heads down – a signal that psychologist Marc Bekoff calls a “play bow.” The play bow, like other signals, serves as a means of broadcasting the message, “I want to play!” They serve another important function: they maintain on-going play. This is important, since several behaviours used during play are also used in other contexts, like aggressive, predatory, and sexual encounters.

Until mankind can extend the circle of his compassion to include all living things, he will never, himself, know peace.

Albert Schweitzer, 1952 Nobel prize recipient

In fact, Bekoff found that the bow is used more often before and after actions that could be misinterpreted as non-playful – infant and adult dogs used the play bow directly before and after mock bites 74% of the time, juvenile wolves 79% of the time, and young coyotes 92% of the time.

It is easy to see that play may sometimes have a purpose that is perhaps masked by the lack of any adaptive or evolutionary function. Given that young animals borrow actions from aggressive, hunting, foraging, or sexual behaviours, play may serve as a form of practice. Play might help animals become more psychologically flexible. Fagen argues that: “the distinctive aspect of playful practice and learning is that they are generic and variational, requiring varied experiences and stressing interactions between simple components.” If this is the case, then perhaps the variation within “play actions” may better prepare an animal to respond adequately in future aggressive or sexual encounters.

So next time you walk by a playground or schoolyard, take a look around. The kinds of games that young children play may echo simpler forms of play seen in animals as different from us as seagulls and coyotes. Some children may remind you of the drop-catching seagull or snowboarding raven, just trying to have a good time. Other games, though, might have a deeper purpose, helping children learn their place in the social world within which they live.

Source

By Jason G Goldman, BBC, 9 January 2013

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18.

Gangnam Bear

Grizzly Performs Famous Dance

That We Had All Hoped Had Gone Away

Like every fad, the Gangnam Style dance craze that became the most successful YouTube video has had its day.

But it seems that the cult dance from South Korean rapper Psy that inspired countless parodies is still being recreated by one loyal fan- a European brown bear.

British photographer Mark Sisson captured the cub's movements in Northern Finland in June, 2013

Mr Sisson watched in amazement as the cub stood on his hind legs, pranced around and banged his wrists together.

Walking across a swamp with his mother and two siblings, the cub burst into action, despite his family's withering looks.



The single-minded cub continued to prance around on his own in an uncanny recreation of Psy's energetic moves.

Mr Sisson, from Shropshire, said: 'These images were taken during a long night spent in a photographic hide in northern Finland, where I was leading a photographic trip.

'This summer there were a couple of European brown bears with families of small cubs visiting this swamp area throughout the night.

'The cubs are always playful and cheeky but this particular youngster seemed to have a great delight in standing up and



practicing his moves. 'Normally standing up like this is to help them see potential danger at a distance (their eyesight is not particularly good generally) but this youngster had other ideas, and my client sharing the hide commented that it reminded him of the Gangnam style of dancing!

'Looking through the sequence of images he had begun a bit shyly with his back to us, then had another go side-on and once he was happy tried once again for his mum and siblings to see - unfortunately all he got was a disapproving look from mum and the rest of the family carried on eating!



'Movement wise he was moving from side to side, one foot to another and it was this along with the positioning of his front paws that really drew the Gangnam analogy to mind.'

Source

Daily Mail Reporter

15 August 2013

Tom Wyke, The Guardian, 18 August 2013

Tessa Berenson, TIME, Sept. 12, 2013

19.

Boar Piglet Learns To Moo

With New Cow Family

A wild boar piglet that strayed from its family has found a new home with a herd of Galloway cattle in the German state of Lower Saxony, learning to moo and even suckle from the cows for nourishment.

One day the wee hog showed up on a meadow owned by cattle farmer Bodo Bertsch near the village of Waake.

They were shy at first, but since then his 14 cows and 12 calves have accepted “Freddy” as a member of their herd, Bertsch said.



The boar's favourite member of the herd is "Rula," from whom he rarely strays.

A farmhand discovered the boar in a meadow among the herd. "At first we could hardly believe it," he said.

But in the following days, the piglet could be seen trotting around the field with the cows, and Bertsch, believing it to be a male, dubbed him "Freddy," though he now believes the animal may actually be female.

Bertsch has spoken with a number of experts about the unusual occurrence, and none had heard of such a friendship between cows and boars.



Egbert Strauß, deputy leader of the IWF institute for wild animal research in Hannover, agreed.

"But pigs are clever," he said. "The animal obviously lost his sounder and searched for a new one."

Groups of wild boar sows and their young are called sounders.

Freddy seems to feel comfortable in her new home, eating grass like the cows and attempting, albeit with limited success, to imitate their mooing.

She has also joined a calf in suckling from one of the cows, and when the cows bed down, she snuggles up next to them.

Your Sunday ham was once a sweet little piglet who started life being taken from his mother and having his testicles dug out, teeth broken out and tail cut off - all without pain killer - then was put in a factory farm gestation cage he couldn't even turn around in the rest of his life, until he experienced the first sunlight and fresh air in his face on the way to the evil slaughterhouse where his throat was slit and within seconds he was hauled into a boiling cauldron to be boiled alive. It's done for you ham and bacon lovers. You fund it when you eat his bloody corpse and your soul will reap the consequences...

~ Alessandra Morgenstern and Anna Volpetti.

Just how bovine the porcine pretender has become will be put to the test in mid-November when the herd will be transferred to their winter meadow.

“I’m interested to see whether Freddy marches onto the cattle trailer with the Galloways,” Bertsch said.

Source

The Local, 05 Nov 2010

NBC News, Josh Frome, Oct 6, 2010

The Examiner, Marilisa Sachteleben, December 7, 2010

20.

Crows Are As Intelligent As Children

Study Reveals Birds Have Same Intelligence As A Seven-Year-Old

Crows have a reasoning ability rivalling that of a human seven-year-old, research has shown.

Scientists came to the conclusion after subjecting six wild New Caledonian crows to a battery of tests designed to challenge their understanding of cause and effect.

The tasks were all variations of the Aesop's fable in which a thirsty crow drops stones to raise the level of water in a pitcher.

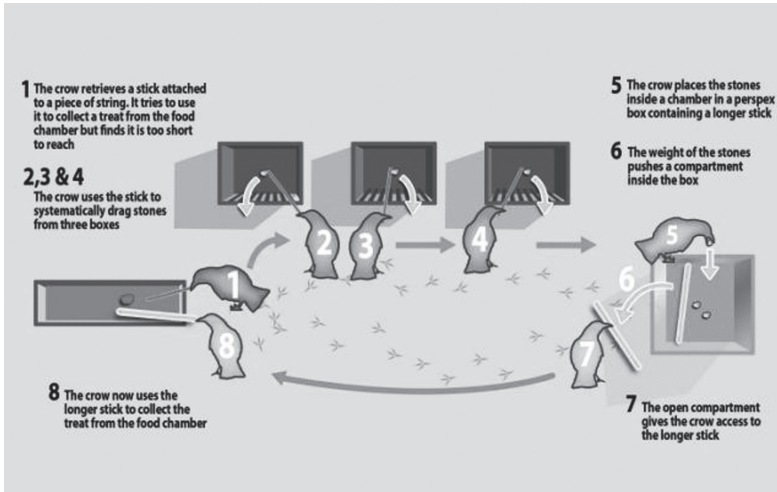
In the 'water displacement task', crows worked out how to catch floating food rewards by dropping heavy objects into water-filled tubes.

They demonstrated an ability to drop sinking rather than floating objects, solid rather than hollow objects, to choose a high water level tube over one with low water level, and a water-filled tube over one filled with sand.



Clever: The 'water displacement' tasks (pictured) were all variations of the Aesop's fable in which a thirsty crow drops stones to raise the level of water in a pitcher

The crows failed on two more difficult tasks, however. One test required understanding of the width of the tube and the other involved displacing water in a U-shaped tube.



The programme shows 007 the crow completing the eight stage puzzle in approximately two-and-a-half minutes. The individual processes are detailed in this diagram

Nevertheless, the birds' understanding of the effects of volume displacement matched that of human children aged between five and seven, claimed the scientists.

Lead researcher Sarah Jelbert, from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, said: "These results are striking as they highlight both the strengths and limits of the crows' understanding.

'In particular, the crows all failed a task which violated normal causal rules, but they could pass the other tasks, which suggests they were using some level of causal understanding when they were successful.'

New Caledonian crows, named after the Pacific islands where they live, are famous for their intelligence and inventiveness.

They are the only non-primate species known to fashion tools, such as prodding sticks and hooks, which they use to wrinkle out grubs from logs and branches.

Another recent study also seemed to support the problem-solving ability of the birds.

The experiment, which was devised by Dr Alex Taylor, a Lecturer in Evolutionary Psychology based at The University of Auckland, New Zealand, involved a wild crow which had learned to use individual props during three months of captivity.

It successfully managed to work out the order in which to use them to complete an eight stage puzzle in approximately two-and-a-half minutes and get an inaccessible treat. The animal was later released.

The findings appear in the latest issue of the online journal PLOS ONE.

Source

The Daily Mail, 26 Mar 2014

Veronique Greenwood, TIME, March 28, 2014

James Vincent, Independent, 27 March 2014

Rachel Sullivan, ABC Science, 27 March 2014

21.

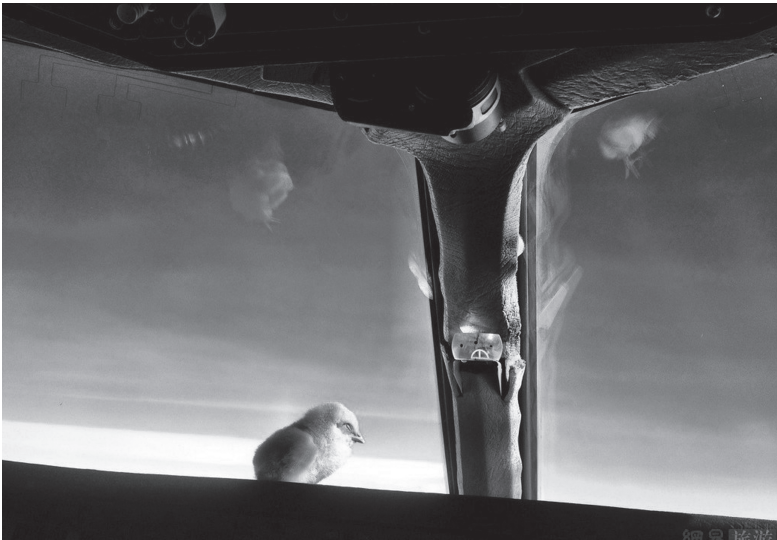
When You Can't Fly

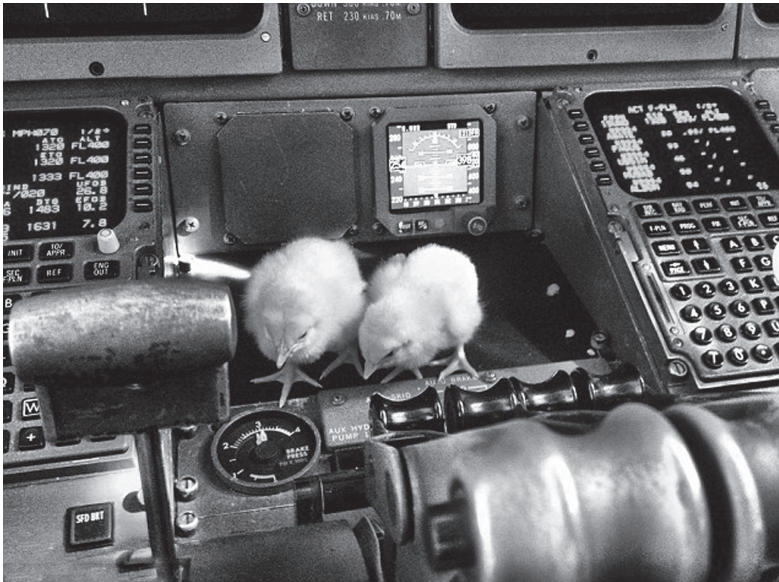
Just Hop on A Plane

Baby Chicks Get A Flying Lesson From The Cockpit

Chickens may not be capable of flying long distance but these baby chicks got their wings when they were given their first lesson in the sky - on a flight from Brazil to Ecuador.

Three pilots were shocked to discover the tiny birds who had wandered onto the Martinair cargo flight from Campinas to Quito.





The chicks looked like they were enjoying the view across South America as they got familiar with the controls in the cockpit.

After being shown around by the pilots, the birds enjoyed the rest of the 2,600 mile flight with their wings up in first class.

Of course, what happened to them upon landing can be guessed easily but at least they had a few hours of fun in their short, miserable lives.

Even within some kind of fantasy scenario of "humane slaughter", the use of animals as part of a food "industry" means a massive reduction of their natural lifespans. This in itself would be considered an intolerable cruelty if applied to humans.

Let's face it, the juggernautical pharmaceutical industry's main promise is the increase of lifespan. This is what most of us want for ourselves and our loved ones.

I just saw the movie "Lincoln" and was so struck by the parallels between the fight for the abolition of (human) slavery in the US and our current fight for the abolition of the property status of animals.

~ Vegan Smythe

Just Like Children - Innocent, Helpless And Defenseless

Source

Tara Brady, The Daily Mail, 3 July 2013

The Rio Times, Chris Pleasance, Anthony Joseph, July 5, 2013

Correio Braziliense, Brasília Edition, July 7, 2013

22.

Tucked Up Tight

Orphaned Baby Bats Find A New Home With Their Own Blankets, Bottles And Dummies

These adorable baby bats (known as flying foxes) are orphans but they've been hanging out in a new comfy home with their own blankets, bottles and dummies.

The tiny Australian natives are being cared for at a special bat nursery at Wildlife Victoria in Melbourne, Australia.

Just weeks old, all have lost their mothers to various accidents such as being electrocuted while flying into power lines. Wildlife Victoria volunteers are helping to keep them safe and healthy until they are old enough and strong enough to return to their colony.



The volunteers are working round the clock to refill formula bottles, rotate dummies and swaddle them in blankets to help them feel secure.

Baby fruit bats have a very strong bond to their mother and are completely dependent on them in the first few weeks of life, clinging constantly to them for food, security and warmth. They are flightless at this time.



Rescuers often give babies dummies to imitate their natural behaviour suckling to their mother's underarm nipples.

The older orphans are also getting practice hanging on cables in the nursery.

The fly, the mouse, the human: Another article on Medical Xpress claims that human, mouse and fruit fly brains have some “strikingly similar” characteristics. Al Hirth, a psychologist at King’s College London deduced this from studies of what happens when analogous parts of the brains are disrupted. A photo of the three brains side by side shows dramatic differences in size, like between a pinhead and a cantelope. The researchers found, “despite the major differences between species, their respective constitutions and specifications derive from similar genetic programmes.” Hirth believes this shows common ancestry, but he was just speculating:

Dr Hirth from King’s College London Institute of Psychiatry says: “Flies, crabs, mice, humans: all experience hunger, need sleep and have a preference for a comfortable temperature so we speculated there must be a similar mechanism regulating these behaviours. We were amazed to find just how deep the similarities go, despite the differences in size and appearance of these species and their brains.”

Dr. Hirth did not, however, find mice or fruit flies doing research to figure out how the human brain works. Furthermore, “no fossil remains of the common ancestor exist,” the article admitted.

The city of Melbourne has a fruit bat population of around 6,000 – which can swell to more than 30,000 over summer when babies are born.

The bats fly up to 31miles (50 km) every night in search of food and disperse up to 60,000 seeds during their journey.

Their numbers have been decreasing in the neighbouring Australian states of New South Wales and Queensland which has led to a rising population in Victoria. Projects to plant more native trees in Melbourne and surrounding areas over the last 30 years has also attracted the bat species.

The fruit bat is the largest bat living in Australia and grow to have an average wingspan of 1metre (3.2ft).

Source

Alex Ward, The Daily Mail

28 November 2013

Kelly Ryan, Herald Sun, November 14, 2013

Earth Form, January 27, 2015

Just like this child. If I like I can kill him, there is no difficulty. But does it mean that I shall kill him? No. Similarly a small ant, anyone can kill. No. Here is a living entity, part and parcel of Krsna, samah sarvesu -- he should not be unnecessarily killed. We should be careful, not that "Trample over the ants and let them be killed." No. Everything should be carefully done. Of course, we cannot stop this, but we should be careful.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.6.9 -- June 25, 1976, New Vrindavan)

23.

Some Birds Are

'Grammar' Nazis

Spend longer than a half second on the Internet and you'll encounter someone so hung up on correct grammar usage that you suspect he's got sentence diagrams where his ribs should be.

And for those of you who'd rather gouge out your own eyes than use or read bad grammar, hey, we get it. After all, what's the point of language if we ignore the rules? And wasn't it the invention of language that propelled humanity into civilization the first place?

Well, hold your butts, kids, because some animals are just as concerned about good grammar as we are.

Wait, what?

Bengal finches not only have rules of syntax when it comes to songs, but they also get mighty pissy when other finches break them.

Researchers at Kyoto University recorded the tweets, chirps and chi-chi-chu-wee-reeees of a group of finches, then played the songs back



to a different group. After a while, the scientists pulled a fast one by taking the same songs and jumbling them up -- forming new

“sentences,” if you will. In most cases, the jumbled song made the finches go bananas.

They started screeching angrily -- the kind of call usually reserved for intruding enemy finches. The scientists tried playing the same sound sample again with another group, and they got pissed, too -- virtually every finch that heard it, in fact. The scientists had accidentally created the finch song version of a your/you're mistake.



In case you're thinking that maybe they had just accidentally created a finch song that naturally sounds

Grammar test: A Science Daily entry tells the upshot in the headline: “Young Children Have Grammar and Chimpanzees Don’t.” Scientists at University of Pennsylvania believe they have shown that “children as young as 2 understand basic grammar rules when they first learn to speak and are not simply imitating adults.” For instance, children tend to get the definite article “the” and the indefinite article “a” correct every time when referring to objects. They also exhibit more extensive diversity of abstract grammatical concepts. Chimpanzees, by contrast, just don’t get it. The famous 1970’s ape Nim Chimpsky “never grasped rules like those in a 2-year-old’s grammar.” To the researchers, “This suggests that true language learning is — so far — a uniquely human trait, and that it is present very early in development.” An article on PhysOrg, though, claimed that chimpanzees have “metacognition,” the ability to think about thinking. This was based on how they responded to a touch screen to find a hidden reward. None of them, however, were found mumbling, “I think, therefore I am.”

- Creation Evolution Headlines

violent or threatening, they played it for a group of finches that had been raised in isolation -- they never lived with finches in the wild. They were fine with it. They didn't screech.

But then when those same finches spent two weeks with the first group, the ones that went ape at the sound of the song, soon they started getting pissed off at it, too. Being around the other finches taught them the rules of their "grammar," and taught them to get enraged at those who misuse it.

Source

Kristi Harrison, Fady Labib, Eddie Rodriguez | August 28, 2011

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24.

Are Pets 'Kids?'

Owner-Pet Relationships Share Striking Similarities To Parent-Child Relationships

People have an innate need to establish close relationships with other people. But this natural bonding behavior is not confined to humans: many animals also seem to need relationships with others of their kind. For domesticated animals the situation is even more complex and pets may enter deep relationships not only with conspecifics but also with their owners. Scientists have investigated the bond between dogs and their owners and have found striking similarities to the parent-child relationship in humans.

Scientists at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna (Vetmeduni Vienna) have investigated the bond between pets and their owners and have found striking similarities to the parent-child relationship in humans.

Their findings are published in the journal PLOS ONE.

For example, domestic dogs are so well adapted to living with human beings that in many cases the owner replaces conspecifics and assumes the role of the dog's main social partner. The relationship between pet owners and dogs turns out to be highly similar to the deep connection between young children and their parents.

The Importance Of The Owner To The Pet

One aspect of the bond between humans and pets is the so-called "secure base effect." This effect is also found in parent-child bonding: human infants use their caregivers as a secure base when it comes to interacting with the environment. Until recently the "secure base effect" had not been well examined in pets.

Lisa Horn from the Vetmeduni's Messerli Research Institute therefore decided to take a closer look at the behaviour of dogs and their owners. She examined the dogs' reactions under three different conditions: "absent owner," "silent owner" and "encouraging owner." The dogs could earn a food reward, by manipulating interactive dog toys. Surprisingly, they seemed much less keen on working for food, when their caregivers were not there than when they were. Whether an owner additionally encouraged the dog during the task or remained silent, had little influence on the animal's level of motivation.

When The Owner Is Replaced By A Stranger

In a follow-up experiment, Horn and her colleagues replaced the owner with an unfamiliar person. The scientists observed that



dogs hardly interacted with the strangers and were not much more interested in trying to get the food reward than when this person was not there. The dogs were much more motivated only when their owner was present. The researchers concluded that the owner's presence is important for the animal to behave in a confident manner.

Why Do Adult Dogs Behave Like Human Children?

The study provides the first evidence for the similarity between the "secure base effect" found in dog-owner and child-caregiver relationships. This striking parallel will be further investigated in direct comparative studies on dogs and children. As Horn says, "One of the things that really surprised us is, that adult dogs behave towards their caregivers like human children do. It will be really interesting to try to find out how this behaviour evolved in the pets like dogs with direct comparisons."

Source

Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien

Lisa Horn, Ludwig Huber, Friederike Range. The Importance of the Secure Base Effect for Domestic Dogs – Evidence from a Manipulative Problem-Solving Task. PLoS ONE, 2013.

The rascal says that the animals have no soul. Why? Then the child has also no soul? What is the difference between the child's behavior and an animal's behavior? Anyone who has got a dog in his family, the dog is also one of the children. He also behaves... The children also behave like the dog. And the children do not find any difference, that a dog is different, he is different. Simple. So if the dog has no soul and if their behavior are the same, as of the dog, of the child, so does it mean the child has no soul? How foolish they are. Just see.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.15.42 -- December 20, 1973, Los Angeles)

25.

When Your Pet

Becomes Your First-Born Child

Birth rate in developed countries just hit a record low, as more and more twenty- and thirty-somethings are putting off the parenting phase of their lives. But make no mistake, they're still spoiling, coddling, primping and using baby-talk. It's just directed at ... furrer companions. Have pampered pets become their adorable and adopted, but no less important children? Here are some ways that pet ownership is basically parenthood -- minus the maternity leave.

1. The first time you hear your pet cry, you're hooked.

2. Your pet deserves the best, so you buy her a bed as soft as a cloud.

Sometimes even a 22-carat-gold mattress won't please your picky pet... so you end up just letting him sleep "next" to you. On your bed.



This probably comes at the expense of your significant other, or your general comfort, depending on the size or willingness of your pet to share.

But you just can't say no to that face.

3. You splurge on organic fresh food for your pet.

4. You take your pet everywhere, and sometimes forget it has legs of its own.

5. You try so hard to do everything right, but still, potty training remains your Everest.

6. You can't help dressing your pet up.

7. Even his most awkward phases are incredibly adorable to you.

8. So much so, that you pay for fancy professional photo shoots

9. You document each milestone, and every year you throw your furry friend a birthday party fit for a king.

10. You can't bear to go on vacation without your pet.

11. You wonder if your pet has social anxiety issues.

Just to be safe, you ask your friend to recommend a pet psychiatrist.

12. You worry that your pet might be too "different" to qualify for exclusive pet day care schools.

13. Still, you know the truth: your pet is just a misunderstood genius.

14. But then you worry your pet is becoming too obsessed with technology...

What if all the pet-based TV programming she's watching makes her forget how to communicate face-to-face?

And people are now practicing eating their children, and at the end of Kali there will be no food available. They'll have to eat the children, just like the snakes do. The snake eat their own children. There are many animals -- they eat their own children. (Modern practice of eating human fetus in some countries like China is referred here)

~ Srila Prabhupada (Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adi-lila 1.13 -- April 6, 1975, Mayapur)

15. Still, you know that you can't protect your furry friend from all the scary things in the world

So you try to keep your baby close by your side.....

That way, she won't go getting into trouble.

16. To be honest, you kind of have trouble letting your pet grow up.

Source

The Huffington Post, By Amanda Scherker

30/12/2013

Just like sometimes the Christian philosophers say, "The animals are given under the control of man. Therefore they should be slaughtered." This is their philosophy. Control of man does not mean they should be slaughtered... They should be taken care of. That is the law. That is stated in the Bhagavad-gita: kṛṣi-go-rakṣya-vaijñyam vaiśya-karma svabhāva-jam [Bg. 18.44]. The productive class, they should give protection to the cows. The cows are given under their protection, not that "Because the cows are given under my protection, therefore I must open a slaughterhouse and kill them." Similarly....children under the protection of father and mother... Just like this child is sitting on the lap of his father... He is comfortable. But if the father thinks, "He is under my protection; therefore I shall cut throat..." Now it is going on. The abortion means that. The child has taken shelter of the mother's womb for protection, but now she is killing the child. The time is so bad.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.15.34 -- December 12, 1973, Los Angeles)

26.

Caring For Animals

Helps Teenagers Develop Better Social Skills

A recent study claims young adults who care for an animal have stronger social relationships.

U.S. scientists also found that looking after a pet might also boost teenagers' connections to their communities as well.

The study by psychologists at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, Massachusetts, found that people aged



between 18 and 26 who had strong attachments to pets, reported feeling more connected to their communities and relationships.

The study found that young adults who cared for animals reported engaging in more 'contribution' activities, such as providing service to their community, helping friends or family and demonstrating leadership, than those who did not look after a pet.

The more actively they participated in the pet's care, the higher they scored on their sociable deeds.

Source

Sarah Griffiths, The Daily Mail, 4 February 2014

Daniel Goleman, New York Times, January 11, 1990

Katherine A. Kruger, Symme W. Trachtenberg, James A. Serpell, Animal-Assisted Interventions in Adolescent Mental Health

Children are born to test their boundaries. They want to explore in any way possible how "far they can go". Children start out with a natural curiosity to search for the power that they possess; the impact that they can have on the life around them. Most children naturally have the urge to step on insects. Throw sand on them. Squish them. It is our job to teach them that life is valuable. It might not seem like a big deal when a child dances around on some ants, but it is a show of aggressive behavior that we as parents should change. It's a great opportunity to teach children about living beings and their role in this world. Ants are fascinating, hard working animals. It's great to sit on the ground with our toddlers and to show them how ants are carrying sticks. How they are going in and out of their houses. To just allow them to kill them and go on with the day is an enormous missed parenting opportunity.

Their is no nicer lifestyle to have when you have children than a vegetarian lifestyle. You can teach your child about all the wonderful animals in the world, without having to hide from them what happened to the animal whose body pieces are lying on their plate. Children are born to love animals. It comes so natural to explain to them that you don't eat meat, because you prefer the animals to be alive. They understand! It makes sense!

~ Teaching Compassion, PETA

27.

Pets Really Are Like People's Children

Brain Scans Suggest

Mothers Respond Similarly To Photos Of Their Kids And Their Pets

Brain scans are helping scientists better understand the bond between people and their beloved pets.

The study included 14 women who had at least one child between the ages of 2 and 10 and one pet that had been in the household for two or more years. Imaging technology called functional MRI was used to monitor the women's brain activity as they looked at photos of their children and their pets.

Brain areas associated with emotion, reward, relationships and social interaction showed increased activity when the women saw the pictures of their children and their pets. A brain area involved in facial recognition and other visual processing functions showed greater response to their pets than to their children.



However, a brain region involved in forming bonds with others became active only when the women saw photos of their children, according to the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) study published Oct. 3 in the journal PLoS One.

"Pets hold a special place in many people's hearts and lives, and there is compelling evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that interacting with pets can be beneficial to the physical, social and emotional well-being of humans," study co-lead author Dr. Lori Palley, of the MGH Center for Comparative Medicine, said in a hospital news release.

Previous studies have found that levels of hormones such as oxytocin -- which is involved in pair-bonding and maternal attachment -- rise after interaction with pets, she said. "And new brain imaging technologies are helping us begin to understand the neurobiological basis of the relationship, which is exciting," she added.

Study co-lead author Luke Stoeckel acknowledged this is a small study that might not apply to a larger group of people. Still, "the results suggest there is a common brain network important for pair-bond formation and maintenance that is activated when



mothers viewed images of either their child or their pet," Stoeckel said in the news release.

The researchers said the similarities and differences in brain activity revealed by functional neuroimaging could eventually help explain the complexities underlying human-animal relationships.

Additional, larger studies are needed to replicate these findings and to see if they also occur in other groups of people, such as fathers, women without children, and parents of adopted children, and with other types of pets, they added.

Source

Robert Preidt, HealthDay News, Oct. 3, 2014

US News, Oct. 3, 2014

Massachusetts General Hospital, news release, Oct. 3, 2014

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According to Vedic conception, the animals, they are also members of your family. Because they are giving service. Not that one section of the members of my family I give protection, and the other section, I take everything from them and then cut throat. This is not civilization. You keep your sons, wife, daughters, cows, dogs, they are animals, asses, domestic animals, horses, elephants. If you are rich, you can keep elephants also. It does not mean... Either family-wise or state-wise, it does not mean that you give protection to some members and cut throat of the others. Oh, how horrible it is.

~Srimad Bhagavatam (Bhagavad-gita 1.26-27, London, July 21, 1973)

28.

Childless Couples

Bringing Up Animals As Their Children

How A Childless British Couple Raised An 8Ft Grizzly As Their Son - And How His Death Left A Huge Hole In Their Lives

Necessities is a very particular sort of women's boutique. There are racks of tasteful, candy-coloured two-pieces, a whole floor dedicated to mother-of-the-bridal outfits and, at the centre of it all Maggie Robin, a warm, affectionate and strikingly beautiful 64-year-old.



Maggie is the sort of shop owner who hugs her customers. The type who'll make you a cup of tea while gently guiding you towards just the right pair of sparkly kitten heels.

Since a devastating death in the family 15 years ago, Bear Necessities has been Maggie's refuge — from her grief and her sometimes turbulent marriage.

That the death was of a 70st grizzly bear named Hercules seems — to Maggie, at least — almost incidental.

In his day, Hercules was the most famous of bears. A cuddly



giant who lived with Maggie and her husband Andy, a professional wrestler, Hercules toured the world, met Margaret Thatcher, starred

in a James Bond movie and once spent three weeks on the loose in the Outer Hebrides.

His death in 2000 from natural causes had a huge impact on the couple who had raised him from a cub, shared their lives with him for 26 years and considered him their son.

‘Andy was so desperate, he said he couldn’t live without a bear,’ says Maggie. ‘But I knew that to be touched by something like Hercules once in your life makes you very lucky. And also, when I’m in my 70s, I can’t be saying: “I need to go home and feed my grizzly.”’

Quite. Looking after Hercules, all 8ft and 980lb of him, involved rather more than a morning walk and the occasional tin of Pedigree Chum.

The bear lived with the couple, drinking his morning tea from a mug and sitting up at the table to blow out the candles on his birthday cake. At night he would sprawl in front of the fire while Maggie rested her feet on his enormous, furry bottom.

He ate copious amounts of prawns from Marks & Spencer, preferred his spaghetti well done, thank you very much, and spent his days wrestling Andy in the glens and burns near their vast Scottish ranch.

The bear’s presence was so all-consuming that, for a couple of years after his death, it looked as though the couple’s marriage might not survive either.

‘It was awful,’ says Maggie. ‘Andy was just lost. His focus for life, his everything, had just been whipped away from him.’

‘For the first two years I didn’t know if we’d make it. I thought: “Are we going to last?” Andy just shut himself away. He wouldn’t talk about how he was feeling.’

Life today in the well-heeled Perthshire town of Auchterarder is rather different for the Robins from the glamour of the Eighties.

Back then, they toured America in a big bus emblazoned with the words ‘Hercules the Scottish Big Softy’, were regularly feted

by heads of state and movie stars, and were accustomed to having Disney on the phone, hoping to book Hercules for its next movie.

Andy, now 77, had a stroke three years ago, but has recovered well.

Just last year, 14 years after Hercules's death, the couple finally replaced their beloved bear with a hilariously diminutive substitute, a Jack Russell named Robbie — a tiny ball of energy who scampers among the shop's well-to-do customers, dragging a blanket behind him.

The couple adopted Hercules from a wildlife park for £50 in 1974.

Andy, a Commonwealth wrestling champion, had fallen in love with the idea of owning such an animal after being asked to wrestle a chained, muzzled black bear during a trip to New York.

That poor beast had had its teeth taken out, and on his return home Andy became obsessed with the idea of getting one of his own — and treating him like an equal.



But surely even the most smitten of young wives (Maggie was just 21) don't simply say 'yes, dear' when their beloved suggests bringing home one of the world's fiercest animals as a pet?

She shrugs. 'I just thought it would be lovely. I walked into it. I know it's nuts. But I love animals, so it made a strange sort of sense.'

The couple reared Hercules by hand, slowly training the little bear to become comfortable around humans, to wrestle Andy without tearing an arm off and walk around un-muzzled.

Experts the world over rang them up to say that a grizzly bear could never be domesticated, and they would both end up dead.

In her new book about the couple's life with Hercules, there are lots of old pictures of Maggie, leggy, blonde, puckering up to give the bear a kiss or riding around the garden on his back.

At every step of his development it was as if Hercules were thumbing his big wet nose at the experts. Maggie says he was gentler with her than with Andy, and she called herself his mum.

'It was a much more innocent time,' says Maggie. 'You could do tons of stuff with a bear and nobody really bothered you.'

These animals who live with us on our farms — even they are satisfied. They are not afraid. If they are resting, and some of my students come near, they do not stir and become fearful. They have come to know, "These people love us. They'll not harm us. We are safe. We are at home." Any animal, be he bird or beast, can be taught this sense of safety and friendship.

Take these cows. They know all of you are their friends. Animals can understand this. You can make friends even with lions and tigers. Yes. I have seen it. At the World's Fair in New York, a man was embracing a lion, and the lion was playing with him the way a dog plays with his master. I've seen it.

Disciple: Often you see that kind of thing at the circus, as well — a man putting his head in a lion's mouth.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes.

Disciple: If you haven't fed him, then it is dangerous. But as long as you keep him well fed, you can even put your head into his mouth.

Srila Prabhupada: Naturally. Animal means "living being, spiritual being," not some dead stone. So he can understand, "This man is giving me food — he's my friend." The feeling of love, friendship — everything is there, even in the animals.

Disciple: Everything is there except God consciousness.

Srila Prabhupada: Generally the soul can come to God consciousness only in the human form of life. But even in an animal form he can become God conscious, by associating with someone who is God conscious.

—Srila Prabhupada (Conversation, New Vrindaban, West Virginia, June 24, 1976)

‘Nowadays, with all the red tape, you can’t do anything without health and safety. Herc would have been locked up, and it would have destroyed him. He loved to go out, wandering over the hills.’

Neighbours in Sheriffmuir, near Dunblane, where the Robins ran a pub, grew accustomed to seeing the bear lumbering around in the nearby heather, before coming into the bar and downing a few shandies with the locals by slurping from a pint glass.

‘He was a happy drunk,’ Maggie explains. ‘And he was always very careful when he was indoors. He didn’t like to knock anything over.’

She recalls when a young blind girl came to see him at the Edinburgh Playhouse. The girl was so excited to meet the bear that she gripped him very tightly round his neck. Maggie’s heart was in her mouth.

‘I was very nervous because she had a tight grip on him, she was



touching his eyes and his ears, and she was just so excited,’ she says.

‘But he seemed to know he needed to be careful. He just sat there and let her touch him. It was way beyond anything I could ever have expected. He was a gentle giant.’

She insists he was never violent towards her or Andy. Not really, anyway. ‘I mean,’ she says airily, ‘he caught you with little nips if

you were lying over the top of his tummy and he had his big teeth over your face. It was just like playing with a cat. But much bigger.'

They treated the bear like a baby, so much so that they never got round to having children of their own.

'It was just the three of us,' says Maggie. 'We were a family, and we were happy with that. He was my boy. You actually feel like you've had a child with a bear. You've just got that connection and that depth of feeling. It was quite amazing.'

Not having a conventional family still nags at Maggie's heart. 'Now I think, well, I would have quite liked to have had children, but we just never seemed to have the opportunity. We were so wrapped up in life with Herc, plus there's the idea of a toddler roaming around . . .'

She pauses. 'Hercules was a big, 8ft bear. It would probably have been fine, but it never seemed like the right time.' She sighs. 'My grandmother used to say to me: "You won't have any of the smiles, but you won't have any of the tears."'

Instead, Maggie built up a career as an accomplished horsewoman, rising to become a national ladies show jumping champion. But there was one episode that threatened to throw their life off-course: during the shooting of a Kleenex advert in the Outer Hebrides in 1980, Hercules went missing. A huge military operation was launched in an attempt to find the bear, but for weeks there was no sign of him.

'We were up in a helicopter and looking at everything down below. I couldn't understand why I couldn't see this great big thing moving about,' she says. 'But he would be frightened, and his natural instinct was to hide.

'A lot of locals were scared or thought he would eat their sheep, but I knew he wouldn't touch anyone because that's not who he was. He liked his food cooked, his spaghetti, his meat properly done.

'And his sheer gentleness meant he wouldn't attack you. It would be like saying Robbie [their dog] would turn round and eat you.'

Hercules's eventual recovery after 24 days — cold, starving and 15st lighter — served only to cement his reputation as a gentle soul.

A documentary was made about life at home with him, and he was voted a TV personality of the Year. He even appeared with Roger Moore in the Bond movie Octopussy.

He became a genuine celebrity, much beloved by everyone, except footballer Graeme Souness, who apparently took great fright while presenting Hercules with an honorary Rotary Club membership and legged it into the nearest toilet.

Such was the bear's reputation that, driving down the motorway in their specially adapted bus, the Robins would see police lights flashing behind them and panic, only to have the officers ask: 'Can we have a look at the big fellow?'



No wonder, then, that his death in 2000, after months of deterioration following a back injury — devastating to a beast of Hercules's size — sent shockwaves through the Robins' marriage. Even today, 15 years on, the pain is still there for both of them.

'It's been really difficult for Andy to move on,' she says. 'That seems a ridiculous thing to say after all these years, but Hercules was his right arm.

'And you know what men are like, especially big, strong men like Andy. Hercules was the only thing on this earth that Andy's ever given himself up to completely.'

Not even you? She shakes her head. 'Not even me. A lot to me, but not like that. It's always been very hard for him. He just would not accept that Herc would not be here.'

Maggie's grief was quieter, sadder. For years, she kept a tuft of the bear's fur, getting it out every so often to inhale its sweet, musky scent.

'That was my comfort blanket,' she says. 'I didn't even tell anybody I had it until about three years ago. It was mine, and I didn't tell a soul.'

She still has the fur, but the smell — like Hercules himself — is long gone. Her memories of him, however, are still vivid.

'You wouldn't believe the number of people who come into the shop and tell me they saw him somewhere,' she says. 'It's nice to hear the stories.'

She keeps some photographs, and a few old framed newspaper clippings on a wall at the back of the shop for curious customers to peer at. 'I just loved him, that was all,' says Maggie.

Listening to her remarkable story, it's clear the feeling was mutual.

Hercules The Bear, by Maggie Robin, is published by John Blake Publishing in November 19, 2015.

Source

Emma Cowing, *The Daily Mail*, 7 November 2015

Hercules The Bear, Maggie Robin, John Blake Publishing, November 19, 2015

BBC's *On This Day* - "1980: Missing Scottish bear is found", *BBC News*, 13 September 1980.

"Bear with a sore back". *BBC News Online*. 18 October 1999.

Stevens, Christopher, *Daily Mail*, Mar. 21, 2014

29.

When Someone Compares Raising Children With Training Pets

By Jonathan Brill

This proposition may sound odd to many, or even offensive. Personally though, especially after having two children, I see very little difference between the two.

I have trained pets my whole life and I've seen what works and what doesn't. I've applied the same concepts to my children and they've worked wonders. I am fair, stern, respectful and reward appropriate behavior. I am consistent and do not relent until whatever it is I want done or learned, is completed.

I see nothing wrong with comparing (the raising of) children and pets. One does need to realize, however, that the comparison goes only so far.

Our first "child" was a golden retriever. It was several years before we had human children. Once they came along, it was evident that pets and young children have quite a few similarities in terms of how they interact with the world.

With our daughters now grown and out of the house, the other day-to-day members of our family are two golden retrievers. I act toward them in a motherly way.

- Rachel Binfield



What's the difference? I understand children are humans but perhaps that's the disconnect. My pets sit in the front seat with me, figuratively. I don't treat them like animals which is likely why I'm so successful in training them. My children are very well behaved and never step out of line. They are also very happy because they understand the boundaries I've defined and operate well within them very rarely testing the limits.

I don't see the difference and yet I receive very negative reactions when I compare the two to most people.

I do recognize the tremendous differences in children versus animals and I am more or less referring to the early years of childhood and the methods of disciplining my children and teaching them how to do things rather than instilling a moral foundation, or offering reasoning why they want to do something versus need to do something.

30.

But Mum, I Don't Need A Bath!

When Bath Time Often Turns Into A Battleground

Adorable Orphan Ape Does All He Can To Avoid Getting His Fur Wet

As generations of parents will gladly testify, bath time often turns into a battleground when toddlers are involved.

And as these adorable pictures show, it's not just human babies who get all steamed up when it's time to take a dip.

Two-year-old Mr Bernie — one of 330 orphaned apes at the Orangutan Care Centre and Quarantine in Borneo — will do just about anything to avoid taking a plunge. With four strong hands able to firmly grasp the sides of the bath, getting him into the warm, soapy water can be a soggy struggle.

In the wild, orangutans usually shy away from water, preferring to keep themselves and their babies clean through picking out bugs and dirt with their long fingers. But at the orphanage there are no ape mums to help out.



Mister Bernie was brought to the orphanage in July 2010.

A spokesman from the centre said: 'He was a scrawny, scared little thing with hair matted from sticky sap. After a long bath, some motherly attention, and countless bananas, Mr Bernie started thriving in his new home. He is now strong, healthy and handsome.'



The centre was set up in 1998 to help orphaned and rescued orangutans learn the skills they need to live independently in the wild.

Located in the village of Pasir Panjang near Tanjung Puting National Park, a team of surrogate human mums live with the youngsters day and night.

Each day, the orphans are taken into the 200 acre forest surrounding the centre where they forage, play and hunt, carefully watched by their carers.



Often, the human mothers sleep with the young apes overnight in wooden shelters in the forest. The bond between carer and orphan is powerful.



Soon after arriving at the centre, traumatised babies can cling to their new mothers all day, only gradually learning independence over weeks and months.

The caregivers stay by their wards' sides until they are able to live completely on their own. The moment when the youngsters finally leave home can be devastating for their human "parents".

All the orphans have distinct personalities. Luna, another orphan, is quiet and nervous. She was rescued from a worker at a palm oil plantation who was keeping her as a pet.

When she arrived at the centre a year ago, aged 12 months, she was half the size of a healthy orangutan of her age.

Mr Bernie has altogether more confidence. Famed for his insatiable appetite and his ability to sneak food, he will — if unsupervised — steal baby bottles full of milk from other apes.



Source

David Derbyshire, The Daily Mail, 28 September 2012

“BBC programme information on Orangutan Diary”. Bbc.co.uk. 2009-01-12.

Small children are just like animals and they have to be trained how to obey, otherwise they will be simply spoiled. But the art is how to apply authority and discipline so they will enjoy it and not reject, and I think you all instructors are learning yourselves that art more and more

~ Srila Prabhupada (Letter to: Dinatarini dasi -- Vrindaban October 26, 1972)

31.

Koala's Heartbreak

After Loggers Destroy His Home

This koala had the worst day ever. The little guy wandered back to his home in New South Wales, Australia, only to find it had been cut down and chipped by logging operations. A volunteer with WIRES, a rescue operation licensed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, said the koala had been sitting on top of the wood pile for hours, looking sad and almost crying.

He was later taken to a local veterinarian and released near an established colony, but the heartbreaking photo shows some of the hardships faced by the animals over the past few years.



Severe habitat destruction and the spread of a deadly chlamydia outbreak have decimated populations and the Australian government declared the species threatened in some areas for the first time last year.

Source

The Huffington Post, 04/30/2013

Ali Berman, Ecorazzi, April 18, 2013

The Daily Telegraph, Staff Writer, May 01, 2013

Everybody is thinking in terms of the human community. Human community. Why human community? Living being community. If you make this world as belonging to the human society, that is defective. It belongs to everyone. It belongs to the trees community, it belongs to the beast community. They have got right to live. Why should you cut the trees? Why should you send the bulls to the slaughterhouse? This is injustice. And how you can meet justice by doing yourself injustice? Because you have no Krsna consciousness. You do not know that Krsna is original father and we are all sons. The tree is my brother, the ant is my brother, the bull is my brother, the American is my brother, the Indian is my brother, the Chinese my brother. This is universal. Therefore you have to develop Krsna consciousness before you talk of this nonsense universal brotherhood and this United Nations and all this nonsense. These are useless talks if you have no idea how to think of universal brotherhood or United Nations. Useless. Therefore they are talking for years and years, and wars are going on.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Bhagavad-gita 7.1 -- March 17, 1968, San Francisco)

32.

Feathered Friends

Baby Owl Is Given Fluffy Toys To Stop Him Feeling Lonely

A baby owl who had to be taken from his family has been given a new one made up of stuffed toy birds.

Five-week-old Tomsok was saved by trainers at the Scottish Owl Centre in UK, after his sibling was accidentally killed by their parents.



The Ural owl is now being hand-reared and the fluffy fella enjoys watching television with his new owl friends – and his carer’s cats.

Trainer Rod Angus, 53, describes the latest recruit to the aerial squad as ‘a bit thick’ and looking ‘like a tea cosy’.

Rod, who runs the centre with wife Niccy, said: ‘Tomsk is five weeks old, really laid back and quite friendly.

‘We named him after Tomsk from the TV show The Wombles, and also after the town in Siberia, which is one of the Ural owls natural habitats.’

The centre is home to around 100 owls, including Snowys and Great Greys.

Most of the birds are breeding pairs on show to the public, but about 20 of them are part of the trained ‘Flying Display Team’ - the largest collection of trained owls in the world.

The owlet was born at the centre where his parents are a breeding pair. His siblings did not fare so well - one did not hatch and the other was accidentally killed by one of his parents.

Because he still needs regular attention, Tomsk spends the evenings with the centre’s keepers, who take him home.

Although he is currently less than one foot tall, he will eventually have a wingspan of around five feet



Rod added: 'When he goes to our other keeper's house they sit on the couch and watch TV.

'He will also spend time at the senior keeper's home, who has cats, but its no problem because they are house-trained, so they don't hunt.

'They just they sit together, growing up side by side.'

Source

By Sara Malm, The Daily Mail, 14 May 2013

Beth Buczynski, October 21, 2015

Turkey Central, Abi, 15 May 2013

Natural World News, May 15, 2013

33.

Parrots Name Their Babies

What to name a baby is one of the first things that expecting parents obsess about. But whether they end up naming their kid something generic like "Ashley" or "John," or if they happen to despise the fruit of their loins and name him "Audio Science," most moms and dads will agree that names are part of what makes their babies unique and help to forge their individual identity.

And more than that, individual names also make humans special. After all, outside of sappy Disney movies involving comically deformed elephants, what other animal parent takes the time to give each of its newborn members its own permanent moniker?



Except the talking animals depicted in Disney movies aren't so far off the mark, at least when it comes to a few select species.

Wait, what?

Dolphins, crows, primates and parrots have all been observed using unique calls when they want the attention of specific members

of their groups. This means that, at least among these species, individual animals actually have the equivalent of their own names. Most perplexing of all seems to be parrots, because according to pirate-movie logic, it should scientifically turn out that every single parrot ever has the same name.

But now that scientists know that parrots have signature calls, a few questions come up, like: Who gets to decide the signature call that's given to each parrot chick? Is it the parrots themselves who decide what they should be called, thus making it an innate characteristic? Is some sort of alpha parrot handing out identifying sounds? In order to answer all these questions, researchers at Cornell University filmed parrots in the wild of Venezuela, along with their newborn chicks, to see exactly when and how a parrot got its name.



What the scientists found was that it was not the parrot newborns who got to choose their signature calls. Instead, it was the proud parrot parents who gave each chick its name. Much like a human, the adult parrot will choose a name for its young soon after it's born. Each parrot, though, may tweak its own signature call as it grows older, elongating a whistle here or shortening a chirp there, essentially giving itself a nickname.

Source

Kristi Harrison, Fady Labib, Eddie Rodriguez, August 28, 2011

Rowley I (1997) "Family Cacatuidae (Cockatoos)" in *Handbook of the Birds of the World Volume 4; Sandgrouse to Cuckoos*, del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J. (eds.) Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.

Iwaniuk, Andrew (2004-02-09). "This Bird Is No Airhead". Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

34.

Baby Elephants

Indulge In A Little Rough And Tumble

Youngsters are known for enjoying playing around with each other - and these baby elephants are no different.

These incredible pictures show the unusual moment when four baby elephants weighing up to 300kg each decided to pile on top of each other.

The elephants had been drinking water on the banks of the Ghwarrie Dam in Addo Elephant National Park, Eastern Cape, South Africa, as their mother cooled off.



But just like their human counterparts, the youngsters' love of play soon turned into a right old rough and tumble - much to the annoyance of the herd's matriarch.

After a period of them piling on top of one another, she swiftly marched over to break up the fun before the poor baby elephant at the bottom was injured.

The moment was spotted by Ayesha Cantor, 46, during a day trip. She said: 'We had been sitting at the dam for over an hour, watching the various family groups coming in to drink and play and then moving off.

'We had just decided to move off when I just happened to glance back for a last look and quickly called out for my husband to stop again when I saw the two youngsters seemingly deep in conversation - turned into the elephant bundle.

I've heard and seen two babies briefly playing but never four and over such a long period of time as this.

Just like children, they test their boundaries. Play

teaches them to know their boundaries and how to behave within their family group.



'It looked to us exactly how humans play, so playful and so much fun. Amazing to see wild animals enjoying themselves in this way.'

And Mrs Cantor admitted she wouldn't have wanted to be the elephant at the bottom of the 900kg pile, adding:

'Having been near the bottom of a human pile-on you can be sure I was very pleased not to be that baby Ellie at the bottom of this particular one.'

Source

Daily Mail Reporter

23 August 2013

Alex Wynick, The Mirror, 23 Aug 2013

35.

When Food Choices

Negate Free Choice

On many occasions we have read or listened to defensive reactions from people who claim that no one can force them to change what they eat, as if someone had their mouth pried open and was attempting to shove a russet potato down their throat. They defiantly proclaim their freedom to make the choices they want. But how free are they — really?

There's a striking irony and even delusion in our act of choosing to eat certain foods. People talk of making certain food choices for themselves, yet these same choices literally mean life or death for a being that values his life just as we value ours. Behind the surface of our food, we are quite literally choosing between ideologies. When we choose to eat animals, we are choosing the ideology of violent oppression. It is a choice that negates the very meaning of choice and of free will since making such a choice necessitates the domination of an otherwise free agent against his



will and denying his most fundamental interest in avoiding suffering and death.

On the other hand, nothing can restore our freedom of choice and our free will better than making conscious food choices that do not rely on violence and death to bring that food to our plate. Nothing can liberate our conscience like withdrawing our support of the senseless suffering of animals and instead choosing a plant based diet. It's not a hard choice to make when we understand both the negative consequences completely in our power to prevent as well as the positive benefits we enjoy, particularly those to our health and the health of our planet.

As author Melanie Joy points out, there is no free choice without awareness. "When an invisible ideology guides our beliefs and our behaviors, we have become casualties of that system that has stolen our freedom to think for ourselves and to act accordingly."¹

Source

Free From Harm Staff Writers | March 3, 2012

1. Melanie Joy, Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism (Newburyport: Conari Press, 2009) 64.

Materialistic persons express their envy of animals by cruelly killing them. Similarly, the conditioned souls become envious even of other human beings and of the Lord Himself.

Envious persons express their bitter feelings toward other human beings by creating wars, terrorism, cruel governments and cheating business enterprises. The sinful bodies of such envious persons are just like corpses.

~ Srimad Bhagavatam 11.5.15p

36.

Friend or Food?

Do Mixed Messages Confuse Children?

How We Teach Children a Separate Morality for Food Animals

In an eye-opening new research paper called *The Conceptual Separation of Food and Animals in Childhood*, University of Bristol researchers Kate Stewart and Matthew Cole explore how we, as a society, teach our children a separate morality for food animals that intercepts a child's natural tendency to protect and empathize with all animals. As the paper points out, when we explain to children for the first time where meat comes from, their first reaction is often revulsion. Parents confront this moral quandary by explaining to children why farm animals have a different role in our lives than other animals.

These family traditions, along with current pop culture and food advertising influences, “contribute to a food socialization process whereby children learn to conceptually distance the animals they eat from those with whom they have an emotional bond or for who they feel ethically responsible.”¹ Or, in other words, children learn what animals to love and which to eat, according to accepted social norms.

But this rigid moral framework doesn't make sense to all children. One animal activist recently wrote about a terrifying childhood

experience: "When I was very young a pet pig who adopted me was taken to the slaughterhouse. It was humanely treated but it was stunned, decapitated and hung up by its legs and hacked apart length ways. This pig was my best friend, it was entrusted to me and I felt I had betrayed him. I was too young to realize that my parents would not do the same to me or my brother, so distrust, fears and nightmares were a regular occurrence for me."²

Through popular film and literature narratives and advertising, Stewart and Cole delve deep into how we define this role that farm animals should play in our children's lives and also how we differentiate them from the roles of the other two major categories



of animals: wildlife and pets. The Lion King, Babe, Charlotte's Web, Chicken Run and Bambi are some of the iconic movie references the authors tackle, carefully decoding their intricate moral constructs to reveal their powerful messages to our children. Equally fascinating is how these Hollywood film messages

carry through to fast food industry advertising and product offerings to children. So the moral narrative flows from movie plot to Happy Meal, chock full of wildlife animal toys, nuggets and mini burgers. "Farmed animals, invisible and unmentioned as they are in literature and film, lay invisible and unmentioned in the meal box in burger or nugget form."³

In Stewart and Cole's analysis, the most consistent messages that run through the narratives of children's film, literature and advertising are:

- Farm animals are working animals, replaceable commodities or just absent all together, while carnivorous wild animals and pets

have often highly-developed characters that “humanize” them and make us care about them.

- A child must lose empathy for animals to become a mature adult, as if it were a rite of passage.



- Animals are defined based on their relative utility to humans. “Animals are saved if they transcend their species-being, specifically if they attain human-like qualities”⁴ (such transcendence

Do children have an inherent sense of right and wrong even before we teach it to them? This question resonates in my mind even more after a neighbor's 5-year-old child who came to visit my hens last week professed to me with proud intention, “I don't eat chicken because I don't want them to die for us.” What fascinates me about this 5-year old's statement is that, unlike many of the adults I've talked to, he seems to understand implicitly that the taking of a life is more important than our selfish preoccupations about what foods we like and dislike. We manage this through a learned adult skill called denial which allows us to block out the unpleasant consequences of certain food choices we make and still enjoy it even though it is inconsistent with our values.

~ By Robert Grillo

occurs to the protagonists in Babe, Chicken Run and Happy Feet, thus saving them from their natural fate as prey)

- Farm animals are objects or elements of production to which we should not attribute individual characteristics, as we do with our pets. Evidence of this objectification can be seen in how advertisers and filmmakers refer to various types of meat as pork or hamburger, rather than by the name of the animal.

- The mythical (non-scientific) notion that humans are at the top of the food chain, and therefore our eating of animals lower than us is part of the circle of life (a theme central to *The Lion King*). In the *Lion King*, herbivorous animals have no names, no voices, no signs of intelligence, and are void of individual traits, while the lions (being carnivores at the top of the food chain) have rich and complex characters. “The *Lion King* depicts a rigid and immutable hierarchical pattern of social relations, and meat-eating as not only natural, but a sacred duty to the ‘circle of life.’”⁵

But perhaps most importantly, Stewart and Cole’s research lays bare the very assumptions that we have been indoctrinated with for generations about food animals. And the fact that we are living in an age where these assumptions are being challenged and unraveled means that the moral compass could be showing us a new path to our understanding of food, animals and ourselves. The times we live in demand this.

Source

Free From Harm Staff Writers | February 28, 2013

1. Stewart and Cole, *The Conceptual Separation of Food and Animals in Childhood*, 2011

2. A Free from Harm member who wishes to remain anonymous

3, 4, 5. Stewart and Cole, *The Conceptual Separation of Food and Animals in Childhood*, 2011

37.

'Thou Shall Not Kill'

Following is a conversation between His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and a Jesuit Priest recorded on July 25, 1973 in London.

Srila Prabhupada: One commandment is, Thou shall not kill. So if somebody kills innocent animals and eats them, is he leading the good life?

Priest: Father, you're being a bit unfair, Thou shall not kill means "Thou shalt not unnecessarily take away life." How would we be able to live if we didn't eat meat?

Srila Prabhupada: How are we living? We are eating nice foods prepared from vegetables, grains, fruits, and milk. We don't need meat.

Priest: Look at it this way. You just said a few minutes ago that there are eight million or so different kinds of life. Would you agree that the potato, the cabbage, and other vegetables also have life?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes.

Priest: So when you boil those vegetables, you're taking away their life.

Srila Prabhupada: What is your philosophy — that killing a potato and killing an innocent animal are equal?

Priest: You said, "Thou shalt not kill," but you kill the potato.

Srila Prabhupada: We all have to live by eating other living entities: jivo jivasya jivanam. But eating a potato and eating some animal are not the same. Do you think they are equal?

Priest: Yes.

Srila Prabhupada: Then why don't you kill a child and eat it?

Priest: I wouldn't for a second think of killing a child.

Srila Prabhupada: But animals and children are alike in that they both are helpless and ignorant; Because a child is ignorant, that does not mean we can kill him. Similarly, although animals may be ignorant or unintelligent, we should not kill them unnecessarily. A reasonable man, a religious man, should discriminate. He should think, "If I can get my food from vegetables, fruits, and milk, why should I kill and eat animals?" Besides, when you get a fruit from a tree, there is no killing. Similarly, when we take milk from a cow, we don't kill the cow. So, if we can live in such a way without killing, why should we kill animals?

*yas tvam krsne gate duram
saha-gandiva-dhanvana
socyo 'sy asocyan rahasi
praharan vadham arhasi*

You rogue, do you dare beat an innocent cow because Lord Krsna and Arjuna, the carrier of the Gandiva bow, are out of sight? Since you are beating the innocent in a secluded place, you are considered a culprit and therefore deserve to be killed.

In a civilization where God is conspicuously banished, and there is no devotee warrior like Arjuna, the associates of the age of Kali take advantage of this lawless kingdom and arrange to kill innocent animals like the cow in secluded slaughterhouses. Such murderers of animals stand to be condemned to death by the order of a pious king like Maharaja Pariksit. For a pious king, the culprit who kills an animal in a secluded place is punishable by the death penalty, exactly like a murderer who kills an innocent child in a secluded place. (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.17.6)

Priest: Would you say that because I eat meat and bacon and so on — does that make me sinful? If I didn't eat those, I would be less sinful?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes.

Priest: So if I give up eating meat and bacon and sausages, I would become a different person?

Srila Prabhupada: You would become purified.

Priest: That's very interesting.

Srila Prabhupada: Animal killers cannot understand God. I have seen this; it is a fact. They do not have the brain to understand God.

The fly is coming, disturbing. I can simply make some spray to kill it, as you do generally. But that killing is another risk. But those who do not know, they kill it. Because you have no right to kill. Suppose a man is disturbing you. So if you kill, you become a murderer and you'll be taken into the court and you'll be punished, and if you say, "This man was disturbing me; therefore I have killed him," that is no excuse. You have killed this man; you must suffer. This is ordinarily we find in our general living condition. So in the state of the Supreme Lord, you cannot kill even a mosquito or even a fly. You'll be punished. Because God says that "Everyone is My child." Just the same example: Suppose I have got so many brothers. One brother is a fool, so he creates me some disturbances; I kill him. So will the father be happy?

~ Srila Prabhupada (Lecture, Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla 20.102 -- July 7, 1976, Baltimore)

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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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Many of his books have been acclaimed internationally and translated in other languages.



By The Same Author

Oil-Final Countdown To A Global Crisis And Its Solutions
End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future
To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization
Cow And Humanity - Made For Each Other
Cows Are Cool - Love 'Em!
Let's Be Friends - A Curious, Calm Cow
Wondrous Glories of Vraja
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Ancient Indian view on animals is succinctly presented in Srimad Bhagavatam, an ancient Vedic text. It is said therein:

mrgoṣṭra-khara-markakhu-
sarīsrp khaga-maksikah
atmanah putravat pasyet
tair eṣam antaram kiyat

One should treat animals such as deer, camels, asses, monkeys, mice, snakes, birds and flies exactly like one's own son. How little difference there actually is between children and these innocent animals. (Srimad Bhagavatam - 7.14.9)

By this statement, we can imagine how broad minded the Vedic civilization was and how much it was concerned with the well-being of all living entities. This is the Vedic world view, commonly known as the peaceable kingdom. If we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect them, not to abuse them for our own ends. Our dominion over animals is exactly like the loving parents' dominion over their children.

"The baby is an animal," wrote one mid-nineteenth-century author, "and the child's devotion on the whole is to its body." It is normal for children to want to run, scream, and play, and in the words of the parenting manual author George Akerly, "every effort to restrain them in their youthful gambols is as unnatural as it would be to confine the deer in the midst of the forest."

This association of animals with children (and children with animals) is not new. Throughout the history, children were regarded as not culpable for crimes, a position later adopted by one and all. Today, in many countries like Canada and the United States, children below twelve are not held responsible for their actions. Only children twelve and older may be sent to special correctional institutions, such as juvenile hall. Children enjoy this privilege because they possess innocence. Animals also possess this very same attribute and it reflects in their eyes.

Today, animals are innocent sufferers in a hell of our making.

Dr. Sahadeva dasa

www.kindnessClub.org

Soul Science University Press

