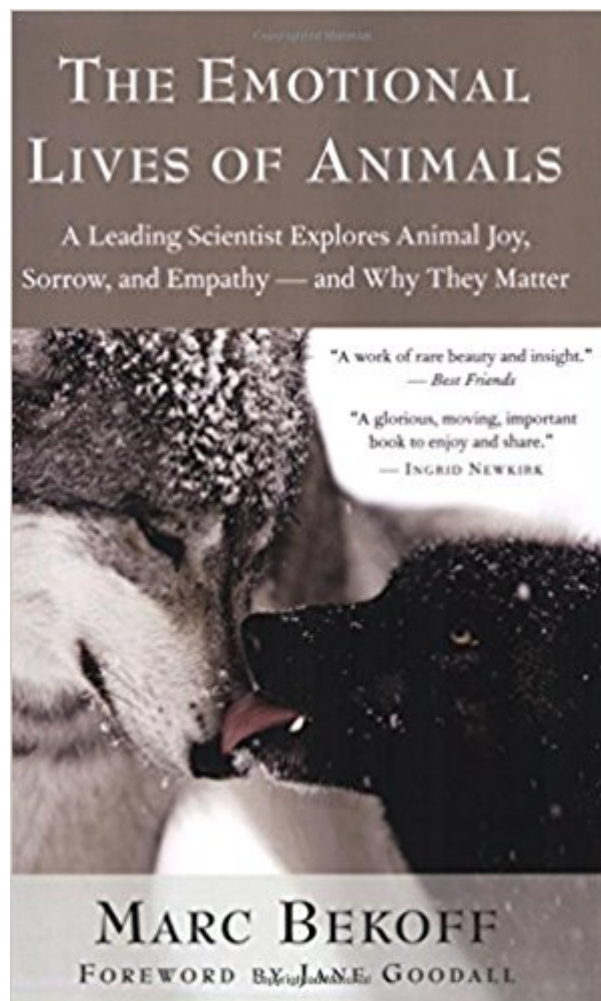


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The Emotional Lives Of Animals: A Leading Scientist Explores Animal Joy, Sorrow, And Empathy — And Why They Matter



Synopsis

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

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: New World Library; First Trade Paper Edition edition (May 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1577316290

ISBN-13: 978-1577316299

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #85,156 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Animal Behavior & Communication #40 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Animal Rights #135 in Books > Self-Help > Emotions

Customer Reviews

Marc Bekoff gives us a scientific view of the novel science of animal's emotions. People who know animals see feelings and it is not just through anthropomorphic thought, but facts on how animals react. This book shows through science we have similar neural systems. Darwin is quoted "that there is no fundamental difference between man and the higher animals in their mental faculties. We all evolved from similar animals" - who express human characteristics such as jealousy, hatred, or love. ... Current cutting edge research agrees with Darwin's observations and ideas. Dogs and other animals share with humans some of the same brain structures and some of the same neurochemicals that form the basis for such emotions as joy. Anyone who works closely with animals or has pets know they show pleasure, pain, joy, play, sulk and other emotions. That is how we bond together and they recognize our feelings as well. They are not automatons with robotic reactions, animals have personality and surprise us in many ways. Stories within the book show how animals care about humans as well as each other without anyone training or coaxing. Mark

Bekoff notes this is a gift we should treasure. There is a wonderful forward by Jane Goodall noting the book shows careful scientific methodology with intuition and common sense. The book shows why animal emotions matter, how they are studied, what animals feel, including animal justice, morals, fair play and other interesting behavior. There is always uncertainty in science, however, many scientists have been hesitant to speak out about animal emotions. They no longer talk "as if" they have feelings, they acknowledge animals have them. The point of the book is to be kind to animals and how personal choices affect them.

This is a wonderful book and I can't recommend it highly enough. If you want to read just one book which provides insight into the complex emotional lives of animals this is it. Dr. Bekoff draws from a wide array of sources, including personal anecdotes from animal lovers and field observations from wildlife biologists, to arguments about Darwinian evolution and continuity, to the latest discoveries in neurobiology which demonstrate that animals share many of our same neural structures for emotion. The wonderful stories about grief, joy, awe, humor and other emotions in a variety of animals, including rats, dogs, elephants, whales, macaws, chimpanzees, monkeys, and moon bears will make you smile and cry. Dr. Bekoff, however, doesn't stop at simply making the case for animal emotions but goes beyond to argue that given our understanding of the rich emotional lives of animals that we have an ethical obligation to treat our fellow animals with compassion and respect and he discusses current abuses including factory farms, medical research, and zoos. As someone who has worked on animal welfare issues and is interested in animal behavior, it's Dr. Bekoff's advocacy for animals that I find most inspiring for he is one of those rare scientists who argue that what we know imposes an ethical obligation to act. Although many scientists now accept that animals have rich emotional lives, Dr. Bekoff has been at the forefront of the movement arguing--as a scientist--for the complex emotional lives of animals. His willingness to take on the skeptics and see his fellow animals as being the rich, emotional, complex beings that they are is an inspiration to us non-scientists who work with and care for animals. Dr.

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