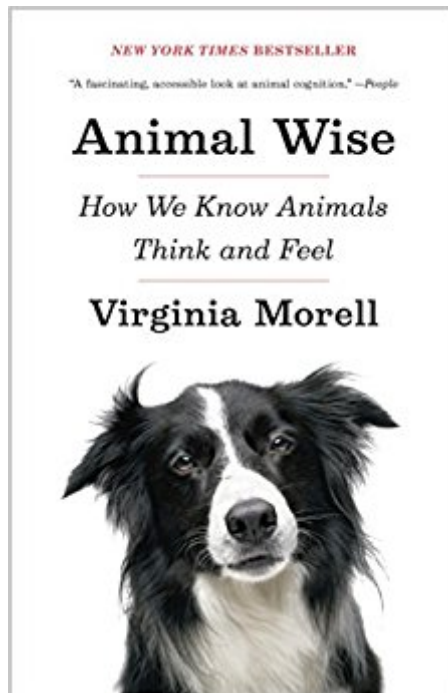




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Animal Wise: How We Know Animals Think And Feel



Synopsis

The New York Times's #1 Bestseller that explores animal intelligence and will alter the way we as humans view other species. Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a fish? Or a parrot, dolphin, or an elephant? Do they experience thoughts that are similar to ours, or have feelings of grief and love? These are tough questions, but scientists are answering them. They know that ants teach and rats love to be tickled. They've discovered that dogs have thousand-word vocabularies and that birds practice their songs in their sleep. But how do scientists know these things? *Animal Wise* takes us on a dazzling odyssey into the inner world of animals and among the pioneering researchers who are leading the way into once-uncharted territory: the animal mind. Morell uses her formidable gifts as a storyteller to transport us to field sites and laboratories around the world, introducing us to animal-cognition scientists and their surprisingly intelligent and sensitive subjects. She explores how this rapidly evolving, controversial field has only recently overturned old notions about why animals behave as they do. In this surprising and moving book, Morell brings the world of nature brilliantly alive in a nuanced, deeply felt appreciation of the human-animal bond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Animals have always been portrayed as "non-intelligent, devoid of personality, robotic-like etc". Jane Goodall broke this mold with her first scientific descriptions of chimpanzees at Gombe National Park by the implementation of personal pronouns such as "he" or "she" instead of the usual "it" in referencing her subject matter -- her thesis was rejected on this "anthropomorphism" alone ... Jane held firm eliminating all the "its" and reestablishing her designation of "he, him, her, hers" in reference to certain chimpanzees. The editor finally backed down and this small breakthrough allowed scientists to begin seeing animals as individuals, then to see them with colorful and complex personalities and finally to begin seeing their complex social interactions. Since then this field of animal intelligence has exploded illuminating the surprising intelligence of arthropods, birds, rats, canines etc. This book is a delightful update on where the science of animal intelligence currently stands. The chapters on porpoises and elephants are weak and loosely written but the vast bulk of this book is an enjoyable read and a delight to see scientists beginning to understand the complex societies of animals. More importantly, the author goes into the background on how biologists have elucidated all this information by exploring their experimental techniques. A winner!

I don't really need a book to tell me that animals think and feel (my cats and dog have no issues communicating with me). Still, it's very interesting to know what's being done to prove the intelligence of animals. The science sometimes is a little too dense and I struggled with those parts, but I mostly learned so many things that are simply amazing! Did you know that ants can teach? Cows and whales have regional accents. Crows use tools. And dogs... it is amazing how we have evolved together, being that we have no common ancestors. I was just a little disappointed that cats have not been studied as much because these tests require the animals to cooperate and cats are simply not interested (I can almost picture my cat, Charlie, telling a scientist "Dude, I'm napping" | I really don't care whether humans think or not, as long as you guys feed me. Now, go away and close the door behind you). After reading this book, I stopped eating fish (the only living creature I still ate) - how can you eat creatures who dream? For animal lovers, this book is fascinating. For people who don't think about these things, maybe it's time to change their perception.

I love animals and have always been searching what I could learn about their mental achievements. This book has enlightened me more and added the quality of empathy to bestow towards them. And what was shared by the author is a small beginning of what we will learn as years go by. Thanks to our Wise, Loving Creator for making them to be our companions and to learn more about ourselves and our place on this planet.

This is a current review of the consciousness and communications of social animals, a subject that was thought to be unscientific throughout much of the twentieth century, but with the availability of new neuroscience and the "naïve" approach of several current investigators we are back to Darwin's assumptions of the animal minds that inform their behavior. This is a good and readable sampling of the experimental evidence supporting what animals must be thinking. It is based on the author's chatty interviews of various investigators of ants, fish, parrots and other birds, rats, elephants, dolphins, chimps, dogs and wolves. It is a welcome relief from the "mindlessness" of behaviorism. Jerry Woolpy

Everyone who shares a home with a dog or cat knows without doubt that their pet thinks and experiencing emotions, but the research review of other species including insects, fish, and birds was enlightening. Very interesting review of the current animal cognition research.

Learned things about animals that grabbed my attention, and fascinated me. Highlighted sections to share with others in my circle

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