

5. Do Animals Have Feelings?

If you approach any animals in the wild, the first thing it will probably do is run or slither the other way. Therefore, it is safe to say that animals feel fear, much like humans do.

Animals also feel pain. If you accidentally step on a cat or dog's tail, they will become agitated. Same would happen if you stepped on the tail or foot of a wild animal.

While it's obvious to us that animals feel fear and pain, did you know that animals also feel love?

While it's true not all animals will care for their young after they are born, most are good parents. Turtles are one example of an animal that does not care for their young. Once her eggs are laid, her job as a parent is done. When the young are born, they are completely left to fend for their own. However alligators are very protective over their eggs and we know most bird species are as well.

Animals that do care after their young may do so in different ways. For example, a Whitetail deer will teach their fawns from a young age to lie motionless in tall grass to avoid predators. Red tailed hawks will hover overhead and scream to create a fearful distraction. This hawk is crying because she realized her baby passed away in a bad storm last night. She feels emotional pain, just like a human would feel if they lost a loved one. Larger mammals such as moose and bear will become aggressive enough to kill if you dare to come between them and their young.

Along with the love animals feel, animals also feel contentment, happiness, and even playfulness when their needs are met and they have nothing to fear. These rescued tigers in their new home are a great example of that. The previous environment in which they were removed from was hostile. When they came here, they were angry, hungry and scared.

Some animals, such as dolphins, will go through great measures to not only protect their young, but to protect other members of their species as well. Dolphins will tend to sick or injured dolphins by pushing them to the surface to breathe. This is called *altruism*, a behavior in which an animal will sacrifice its own well-being for the benefit of another.

Once a person observes, studies and understands animal behaviors, it's obvious that animals do have emotions, just like you and I!

Do you think they would be upset if they knew that we are talking about them?