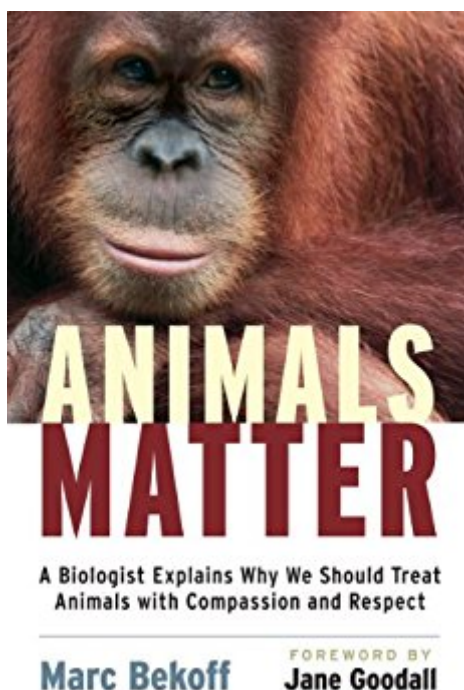


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# Animals Matter: A Biologist Explains Why We Should Treat Animals With Compassion And Respect



## Synopsis

Nonhuman animals have many of the same feelings we do. They get hurt, they suffer, they are happy, and they take care of each other. Marc Bekoff, a renowned biologist specializing in animal minds and emotions, guides readers from high school age up—including older adults who want a basic introduction to the topic—in looking at scientific research, philosophical ideas, and humane values that argue for the ethical and compassionate treatment of animals. Citing the latest scientific studies and tackling controversies with conviction, he zeroes in on the important questions, inviting reader participation with thought experiments and ideas for action. Among the questions considered: Are some species more valuable or more important than others? Do some animals feel pain and suffering and not others? Do animals feel emotions? Should endangered animals be reintroduced to places where they originally lived? Should animals be kept in captivity? Are there alternatives to using animals for food, clothing, cosmetic testing, and dissection in the science classroom? What can we learn by imagining what it feels like to be a dog or a cat or a mouse or an ant? What can we do to make a difference in animals' quality of life? Bekoff urges us not only to understand and protect animals—especially those whose help we want for our research and other human needs—but to love and respect them as our fellow beings on this planet that we all want to share in peace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What makes us similar to animals? What makes us different? What makes us different from each other? Whatever your answers to these vague questions, it will probably involve some aspect of Emotion, and this book evaluates the emotional links that we share and that differentiate us all. The author indicates emotion is especially significant in sharing experience, and in deciding with whom we share that experience. Almost no reasonable person would choose to abuse a human being of low intellectual capacity who looks at us with a trusting smile, and almost no one would sympathize with an intellectual equal who treats such a person with cold cruelty. Nevertheless, we often categorize other creatures by their emotional response to us, and often find we are amazingly wrong. The author suggests that when we expand our awareness, we are often more accurate and positively rewarded beyond our expectations. We can never treat animals as equals, but we can never degrade them without degrading ourselves. If we should discover creatures who are our technological and intellectual superiors, we should hope they will treat us better than we have treated other conscious creatures. It's an interesting thesis, and it's interesting to think of the alternatives.

I wish everyone could read this book - I honestly believe it would change the world.

Marc Bekoff's knowledge of animal emotions is impressive - and yet he manages to condense information down into clear, succinct bits that the average reader can digest and process. I appreciate this because the topics he writes on can be weighty for someone who is not totally familiar with them. I think it's crucial that everyone consider the emotions and thoughts of species other than our own. The examples and cases presented seem to lead to only one conclusion.... Animals Matter - and books like this one matter, because through the author's efforts, a voice is given to the voiceless.

An excellent read. Very informative and well written by a great author, a great biologist. If you had any question in your mind why animals matter, You know why animals matter after reading this book. It is a book for your mind and your heart.

This is an excellent book. Filled with great information that will make the reader really stop and think about how animals are treated and how they should be treated. So much good info and lots of quotes that I had to highlight. One of my favorites is about being honest with children about how animals are treated in our society. The author writes "If we do not tell it like it is, important messages are lost." He provides thought-provoking insight, but also proposes questions that get you thinking. I also loved the foreword, which was by one of my idols, Dr. Jane Goodall. What she opens with is so important. She says "Whether an individual respects, ignores, or harms different kinds of animals depends, to a large extent, on the kind of environment in which the child grew up." Yes! We teach children from a young age whether or not it is okay to harm animals, harm and protect some animals, etc. Good stuff! Should be required reading for every high school student in the country!

Excellent, concise book. Many animal welfare issues are covered in this one book. A great introduction and reference to important animal issues.

The master of Animal's literature, a Biologist with a vast/huge experience in this field. Strongly recommended for anyone ...

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