

## Animals Are Smart

Some people think that we are superior to animals but in reality animals are smart like us. Pets react to your moods and seem to know just when it's dinner time! Some animals use tools, communicate and think for themselves. When they do these things, they show us that they are smart. If animals can use tools, they must be smart. For instance, a cow named Betty made a hook out of a piece of metal wire. That's obviously pretty smart but she didn't stop there. She then used the hook to get treats out of a glass tube. This is being smart because Betty figured out how to make a tool to get something she wanted. Another smart animal who used a tool was Fu Manchu, the Orangutan. Fu Manchu first traded food for wire with another orangutan and then he hid it in his mouth until the right time. Then he used the wire as a tool to pick the lock on his cage and escape. This shows Fu Manchu was smart because he used a tool and he outsmarted humans by escaping from his cage.

Equally, animals who communicate might be even smarter than animals who use tools. For instance, one clever gorilla named Koko actually learned sign language! Not only that but she started making her own signs. This showed scientists that she was trying to communicate her thoughts, which takes big brain power. This proves that she is smart because when Koko made her own signs, it showed that she wasn't just memorizing signs, she was thinking and making her own signs. Another smart animal who could understand communication was Betsy, a dog. Betsy can understand 340 spoken words!

Not only that, but when someone showed her a picture of something she had never seen before she could go and get the item. This is really smart behavior because Betsy didn't just memorize words. She could recognize objects and fetch them. Betsy didn't really communicate with her mouth, but with her actions and she understood so much. It's just as good as us communicating with our mouths.

By the same token, for animals who don't communicate or use tools, there is another category. That category is animals that think on their own. The poison dart frog is an example. Aside from protecting themselves with poison, they have amazing memories! The mothers hide their polliwogs in individual nests all over the jungle and have to remember where each one is. They come back to them every couple of days to feed them. That is really amazing how they think for themselves because every pollywog (up to 35) is in a different, camouflaged spot and their mom can still remember where each and every one is. Another example of animals thinking on their own is Alex, the African grey parrot. Alex can figure out likeness and difference between two objects. For instance, when scientists hold up two objects and ask what the difference is he will answer either shape or color, depending on what it was.

This is really smart because not only can Alex tell the difference-he can tell what is the same about objects. That is a pretty smart bird to be able to figure out what was the same and what was different in his mind, but he also translated that out into words. These animals are really smart in thinking on their own.

Nevertheless, there are people that think that animals are not smart. Some may think that most of the animals I talked about were special, that they were bred in a lab. But animals in natural life are smart too. For instance, a girl in my class named Erin has a farm, and every day her dad goes out at 2:30 a.m. to milk them. The cows line up at 2:25 am without even being told. This shows they are smart because the cows know what time it is, and line up early without being told. Another real life example of smart animals is my friend Mandy's cockatoo. Now, in case you are not aware, cockatoos repeat what is said. This cockatoo, however, takes it a step farther. Instead of just saying things at random times, she actually answers the door when the doorbell is rung. No, she doesn't physically open the door, but she does say things like "Hello" and "Come in." This proves that she is smart because instead of just saying random words, she responds with the right words at the right time.

As I have stated, animals really are smart. We are not superior to animals. They are as smart as people. I know that animals are smart, especially ones that use tools, communicate, and think for their own.