

# Do Animals Think?

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For a long time, people suspected that animals were not so smart and that they lived by instinct. But now experts tell a much different tale. Many animals can talk, think, and use tools in the same ways that we do. These amazing finds make us think about how we act toward our animal pals.

For example, Kanzi is a big ape who was kidnapped when he was an infant. As a kid, he would tag along with his mom when she went to language lessons. His mom did not like the lessons, but Kanzi did. He quickly learned lots of words. He was the first ape to pick up words without help from humans. Now, Kanzi recognizes more than 200 words. He also can do sign language and make stone tools.

But Kanzi is not the only animal that demonstrates such skills. Alex was an exotic bird that could chat with

humans and even do some math! He would watch his trainers talk. One of them would do the things that Alex should be doing. Alex would get mad and try to outdo the trainer. Sometimes, he would correct the humans that were discussing important topics around him. Alex got sick and died in 2007, but his pals think he was a fantastic bird.

Crows are another kind of bird that can complete distinct tasks. They can make hooks out of wire to help them open things up. Elephants get sad when they see other elephants that are sick. If they find elephant bones, they will examine them with love.

Research shows that animals are more intelligent than we ever thought possible. If this is the case, then should we rethink the way we treat our animal pals? We may never know. But the next time you are chatting with your pet, consider the fact that he may understand every word!

This text passage is archived under Animals.