

**STUDENTS:** These four stories paint a picture of how animals act and feel. There are many times when people are heroes, cry for those they miss, and call each other names or laugh at their own jokes. Aren't there also times when animals do the same?

Read the next four stories, and think about how the animals felt. Have you ever felt the same way? At the end of each story, write down how you think the animals were feeling in these stories. Then, follow your teacher's instructions to write about a time when you felt the way these animals did and how those feelings made you act.

**TEACHERS:** These four adapted stories illustrate how animals experience feelings and act on them the same way humans do. Ask the students to read the stories in small groups or read them as a class. Discuss the way animals must have been feeling in the stories and why they acted the way they did. Then, ask the students to tell about times when they have had similar feelings and how they acted.

For each story, have the students write one to three memories of having felt the way the animals in these stories did. Ask them to pick their favorite or most interesting memory and to write a paragraph telling about the memory and explaining why their behaviour was similar to that of the animal(s). These stories can be compiled into a wonderful classroom book. The students may want to contribute more than one memory.

This extension of **Compassionate Citizen** can be used as a single writing activity or as a springboard to a related reading unit. If you wish to make it a complete unit, begin the activity by telling the students they will be reading and learning about animals. After the activity above, allow students to select a book for a book report from the bibliography provided at the end of this unit. Assign an oral report in which the students tell what the book was about and read aloud one short passage that illustrates an animal showing his or her feelings. Students might also enjoy sharing their memory paragraphs in this format.

## Animals Save Lives!

***A pack of Indian dogs saves a human baby from the dangers of the night.***

Adapted from the *Montgomery Journal* (Maryland, USA), 31 May 1996

According to the Press Trust of India, one spring evening in 1996 in Calcutta, a pack of hungry, homeless dogs looking for food in a garbage dump came across a baby sitting on top of the rubbish. The dogs smelled the baby, who was crying and cold. They had never seen a human baby before. But they stopped looking for food right then and stayed with the small, helpless baby. A dump was nowhere for a baby to be—there were many dangers and nobody to feed or keep the baby warm.

The night was long. The hungry, wet and tired baby couldn't sleep well on top of the piles of rubbish. The dogs stayed through the night. In the morning, a woman walking through the dump found the baby. The dogs allowed the woman to pick up the baby,



knowing that she would take the baby somewhere safe. The woman took the baby to a police station, where the dogs stood outside and waited. When the baby's parents could not be found, the baby was sent to Mother Teresa's abandoned children's home.

There are many stories from around the world of dogs—and other animals, including pigs, dolphins, chickens and even kangaroos—helping people.

## Talk to the Animals!

***Koko is a gorilla who learned American Sign Language and taught her human family about gorillas and their feelings.***

Adapted from *Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts*, by Jean Craighead George. New York: HarperCollins, 1994

**K**oko learned to sign hundreds of words! When she first signed the word for 'food' to Francine Patterson, the woman who took care of her, and Francine gave her food, Koko was so happy that she put a bucket over her head and ran around wildly.

Koko could easily learn the words for things she liked but was not as eager to learn words for things she didn't. It took her two months to learn the word for 'egg', which she hated, and only one minute to learn 'berry', which she loved.

Koko has a great sense of humour. When asked the color of her white towel over and over until she was very bored, she signed, 'Red.' When asked twice again, she replied, 'Red,' then carefully picked a tiny speck of red lint off her towel. She laughed and again said, "Red."

Koko recognises herself in the mirror, carefully cleans her room and plays with her companion animals. She was so sad when her cat died that she was allowed to choose another kitten. She took care of her kitten companion with gentleness and love.

Koko also told people what and whom she didn't like. When she was really angry with someone, she would call the person a 'rotten toilet'. She had a younger gorilla friend named Mike, whom she would call 'Mike nut' when she felt jealous. One of her teachers, Ron Cohn, punished her when she misbehaved. She called him 'stupid devil devilhead'.

Eventually Francine Patterson realised that gorillas like Koko and Mike should live where they can be their natural gorilla selves. They all moved out to the country where Koko and Mike could climb fruit trees

and play in a huge outside area.

Koko signed her thoughts about herself and her species when she said, 'Fine animal gorilla'.

### DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **Birds have different calls to signify different messages, including hunger, rain, danger and help. The Koel's call specifically heralds the monsoon.**
- **All humpback whales in a local area sing the same songs; the small populations all have their own stories to tell.**
- **When electric fish send out their signals to other fish, they can't hear themselves talk!** (*Animal Behavior*, Jim Halliday, ed., 1994)



## Animals Are Sad When Others Die!

***Damini the elephant had lived a hard life for many years. Nobody knows who her parents were, or where she was born, but when she was 72 years old, she was rescued from people who were illegally transporting her. After five months alone at the Prince of Wales Zoo in Lucknow, India, she made friends with another elephant, Champakali, who had come to live at the zoo.***

Adapted from the Associated Press, Lucknow, India, 16 May 1999

Champakali had come to the zoo from the Dudhwa National Park, 310 miles southeast of New Delhi. Champakali's days were spent forced to give rides to tourists. When it was learned that she was going to have a baby, park officials decided to send her to the zoo. Zoo workers worried about how to take care of the mother elephant, but Damini adopted Champakali as her 'little sister'. The two elephants became fast friends, spending all of their time together, communicating with soft rumbles and caresses.

Elephants are very social animals who bond with each other and form very close friendships. Elephants are known to take care of each other, too, and watch out for each other's babies. When young or sick elephants are in danger, the other elephants work together to help them. When elephants die, the other elephants comfort the surviving members of the family. Elephants touch the bones of elephants who have died. Experts say that this is their way of remembering the elephants who are no longer with them.

Champakali and Damini had become like sisters. When Champakali and her baby died of medical complications, Damini shed real tears. Soon, she stopped eating and showed little interest in anything else. For 24 days, the zoo workers and veterinarians tried everything they could do to save Damini, but despite all of their efforts, she died. Zoo workers

said that Damini was heartbroken over the loss of her friend Champakali and no longer had anything to live for. Experts believe that if Champakali had had other elephants to comfort her during that sad time, she may not have died.

### DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **Aunt Gigi, an older chimpanzee with no children, adopted two orphan chimpanzees whose parents had been killed!** (*The Great Ape Project*, Paola Cavalieri & Peter Singer, eds., 1993)
- **Elephants often try to save dying relatives by keeping them from falling down or feeding them. When their relatives do die, the elephants grieve and sometimes even bury them!** (*When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals*, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson & Susan McCarthy, 1995)
- **Geese mate for life and mourn when their mates are killed. Geese have also been known to feed their blind geese companions!** (*The Souls of Animals*, Gary Kowalski, 1991)



## Animals Are Heroes!

**Tang, a Newfoundland dog, saved 92 people from a sinking ship in a horrible storm.**

Adapted from *Dog Heroes*, by Tim Jones. Seattle: Epicenter Press, 1995.

During a snowstorm in December 1919, a ship called the Ethie crashed into rocks off the shore of Newfoundland, Canada. Ninety-three people were trapped on the ship as the ocean pounded it into the rocks. The crew tried to throw one of the ship's ropes to people on the beach, but they missed. Then one of the sailors took the rope and jumped into the ocean. He tried to swim to the beach with the rope, but he was carried out to sea and never seen again.

Then the ship's captain saw Tang, a Newfoundland who lived aboard the Ethie. The captain knew Tang was their last hope. He gave the rope to Tang. With the rope in his teeth, the dog jumped into the sea and swam for land. In the huge waves and strong winds, it must have been hard for Tang to swim—the undertow tried to drag him out to sea and the water rushed into his eyes and ears. But he swam on until he reached the shore. People on the beach ran into the water to pull Tang onto dry land. They took the rope from his mouth and tied it to something strong. The rope was used to bring the people on the sinking ship to land. All 92 people on the Ethie were saved.

History books don't say what Tang did once he'd made it to land, but it isn't hard to imagine the excited dog looking for his human companion, greeting every person that came from the ship. Lloyd's of London, the famous insurance company, gave Tang a medal for bravery, which he wore for the rest of his life.

### DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **A dog and a duck once led a mother to her drowning son!** (*Real Animal Heroes*, Paul Drew Stevens, 1989)

- **A wildlife observer once saw an elephant try over and over to rescue a baby rhinoceros from where she was stuck in the mud, even though the mother rhinoceros kept charging the elephant!**

(*When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals*, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson & Susan McCarthy, 1995)



### SUGGESTED READING ON ANIMALS

- *Beautiful Joe* by Marshall Saunders, retold by Quinn Currie, 1990
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell, 1877
- *The Bollo Caper* by Art Buchwald, 1983
- *Cat Stories* by James Herriot, 1994
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, 1952
- *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* by Paul Goble, 1978
- *Hunter and His Dog* by Brian Wildsmith, 1989
- *In Hawk, I'm Your Brother* by Byrd Baylor, 1976
- *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George, 1974
- *Perfect the Pig* by Susan Jeschke, 1980
- *Pets Without Homes* by Caroline Arnold, 1983
- *Sandy of Laguna* by Joseph Bell, 1992
- *The Secret of NIMH* by Robert O'Brien, 1982
- *That Quail, Robert* by Margaret Stanger, 1966
- *William's Story* by Debra Duel, 1992