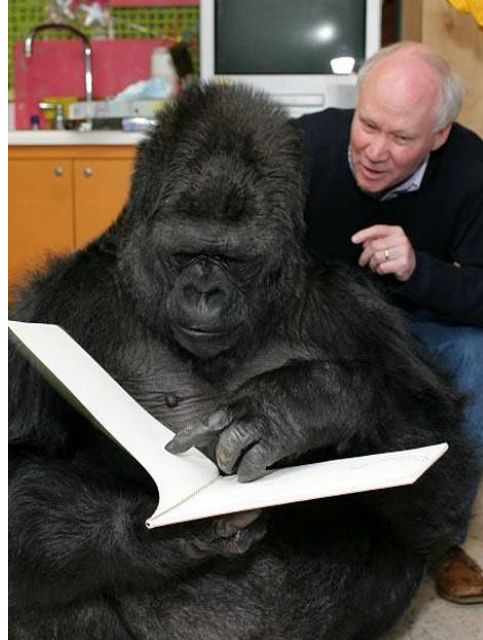
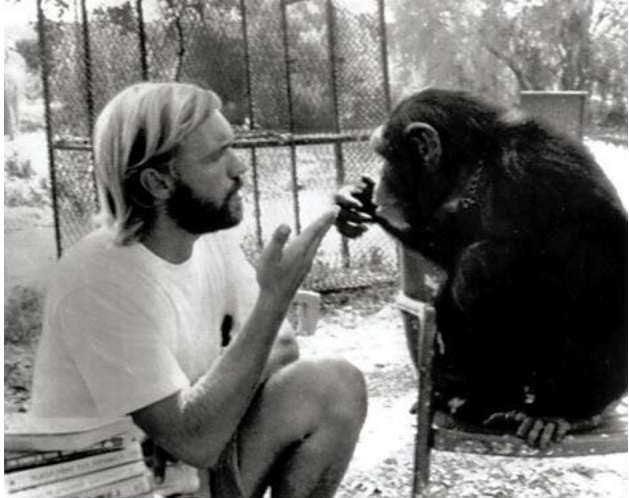


Human - Animal Interaction & Communication



Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence--and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process

Irene Pepperberg

Meet Alex, a “one pound ball of feathers” that is also known as an African grey parrot. Bought at a downtown pet store in Chicago Alex eventually would learn over 100 English words and be able to identify shapes, colors and even concepts like “zero.” *Alex & Me* is also the personal story of the struggles of his owner and trainer, Dr. Irene Pepperberg, a scientist at Brandeis University. She taught and trained him for over thirty years, helping to show that the avian brain is capable of more cognitive processing and higher brain functions than previously thought. To learn more about Alex or Dr. Pepperberg please see <http://www.alexfoundation.org/>

Animal Talk: Breaking the Codes of Animal Language

Tim Friend

Science journalist Friend eavesdrops on the magical, mysterious world of animal communication, behavior and emotion. Although humans often focus on the verbal, Friend says that it is the often overlooked nonverbal messages that link us with the other creatures. There is, in fact, a wide range of signals that creatures have developed

over time. Often these are visual, tactile or chemical messages instead of vocal clues. Friend explores these different types of communication through interviews and anecdotal stories that include a wide variety of animals (everything from dolphins to squirrels). He also gives readers an introduction to the history of such complex ideas as evolution, animal intelligence and communication.

[Ask Now the Beasts: Our Kinship With Animals Wild and Domestic](#)

Ruth Rudner

Ask Now the Beasts is a compilation of short essays focusing on both wild (falcons, wolves, penguins) and domestic (horses, mules, cats) creatures. Rudner, a former journalist, considers herself an observer of nature. Her essays describe her experiences working and living with a variety of animals, such as when she helps to track peregrines in the wild or when she has to put her pet dog to sleep. In Rudner's eloquent and engaging prose one gains a feel for the deep, ancient connection between animal and human and life and death. To read Ruth Rudner's further adventures and insights please see her website at <http://www.ruthrudner.com/>

[Kanzi: The Ape at the Brink of the Human Mind](#)

Sue Savage-Rumbaugh & Roger Lewin

In a somewhat controversial book, Savage-Rumbaugh discusses the story of Kanzi, a bonobo chimpanzee, who as a youngster learned to communicate through keyboard lexigrams (symbols) that were shown to his adopted mother. The focus of the initial research was the mother but instead after a separation it was discovered that Kanzi possessed a much better aptitude for understanding symbols and words. Although it is questionable, the authors equate Kanzi's language ability with that of a small human child. In addition, they also discuss the history of ape language research and various linguistic theories. Kanzi is still alive today. He is currently living in the Great Ape Trust in Des Moines, Iowa and there is a lot of information about him at the Great Ape Trust website at <http://www.greatapetrust.org/research/general/kanzi.php> .

[The Language of Animals](#)

Stephen Hart

Although Hart's *The Language of Animals* is a little older it is a good introduction to the variety of forms and issues surrounding the idea of animal language. Unlike many of the titles by other biologists and zoologists he also discusses communication and interaction amongst a number of species (from honeybees to dolphins to non-human primates). Hart also covers famous animal subjects, such as Hans "the clever horse" and Nim Chimpsky. Hart has turned his book *The Language of Animals* into a regularly

updated website entitled the Animal Communication Project which can be found at <http://acp.eugraph.com/>

Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are

Roger Fouts

Dr. Fouts is famous for his over forty year career working with primates. He currently serves as a Co-director of The Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) and a Professor of Psychology at Central Washington University. In *Next of Kin* he describes how he along with other researchers helped to teach chimpanzees American Sign Language (ASL). These chimps, including the remarkable "space monkey" Washoe, become a second family for Dr. Fouts. *Next of Kin* also describes Dr. Fouts own journey from young psychology student to important animal rights activist and a world authority on primate communication and behavior. For more more information on Dr. Fouts please see his website at <http://literati.net/Fouts/>

Smiling Bears: A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Life of Bears

Else Poulsen

Poulsen is the recipient of the 2000 Zookeeper Research Excellence Award from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Bear Taxon Advisory Group. In addition, she is also one of the founders and the President of the Board of Directors for Bear Care Group (a nonprofit group that supports bear welfare and wildlife education). In *Smiling Bears* Poulsen describes in emotional and insightful vignettes some of the polar bears, black bears, grizzly bears that she has encountered during her career. The reader learns how Poulsen uses intuition and various forms of communication to help her bears have a better quality of life in captivity. For more about Poulsen's activities please check out <http://www.bearcaregroup.org/>

Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism

Dawn Prince-Hughes

Recently, scientists have been exploring how animal communication and behaviors can help us to understand and cope with medical disorders and diseases. Prince-Hughes, a sufferer of Asperger's syndrome, tells how she learned to relate to other humans by observing the social interaction among gorillas. Not diagnosed until in her 30s, Prince-Hughes led a troubled childhood and traumatic early adulthood that included homelessness. It was not until becoming fascinated by gorillas and in particular Congo

(a 500 pound gorilla) that she began to feel connected to another creature. This meaningful experience, of course, ignited a different career path which eventually led professional and personal successes.

[Thousand Mile Song: Whale Music in a Sea of Sound](#)

David Rothenberg

Musician Rothenberg is known for probing the intersection of man-made music and natural sounds. His previous works include *Why Birds Sing: A Journey into the Mystery of Bird Song*, which later served as the basis for the BBC documentary, *Why Birds Sing*. In *Thousand Mile Song* he pursues the meanings of the various grunts and gurgles of whales in Canada, Russia, the Caribbean and Hawaii. Accompanying this title is a CD full of fascinating whale “music”. Learn more about Rothenberg’s activities at <http://www.davidrothenberg.net/> and more about this book at <http://www.thousandmilesong.com/>

[What Shamu Taught Me About Love and Marriage: Lessons for People from Animals and Their Trainers](#)

Amy Sutherland

On a lighter note, Sutherland’s “What Shamu Taught Me About a Happy Marriage” (2006) was one of the most emailed articles in *New York Times* history. This famous article about modern love and relationships is available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/25/fashion/25love.html> . In *What Shamu Taught Me About Love and Marriage* Sutherland expands on the concept of using progressive animal training techniques on human beings. Like animal trainers, she found that ignoring negative behaviors and instead only encouraging positive behaviors led to a more enjoyable less stressful life for her. Thus, she contends that we should not be yelling or punishing each other, activities that ruin relationships but instead we should be paying more attention to behavior and body language (like in the animal kingdom). Sutherland maintains a website at <http://www.amysutherland.com/>