

off the fence.

Animal Social Networks

5 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Culture

Did you know that animals are innovative individuals? Capable of inventing new ways of doing things? And to spread their inventions, these leaders can count on copycats. In fact, imitating parents and friends is the basis of learning in many animal species. Copying saves time and can even save lives. Learning from others is beneficial for escaping predators, finding food and creating useful alliances. Sometimes, a new behavior appears in a particular region or group. We are talking about culture, where animal communities have a culture of their own that can be as human as human ones. How does culture emerge? How do ideas spread? These are the questions that scientists are finally beginning to answer. Animal societies are emerging as a reflection of human ones.

2. Friendship

Do animals have friends just like us? In fact, yes, they do! In animal communities, the ability to befriend your neighbors is even of utmost importance to survival and reproduction.

3. The Family

In social animals, family is paramount. The little ones cannot survive without the attentive care of their parent. This family unit forms the basic social group. Several families, linked together, form a larger group. In the animal world, nothing is more important than the bonds of blood.

4. Health

Being sociable has its advantages. Finding food and facing the enemy is much easier with the strength found in numbers. In hard times, you can count on family and friends. But social connections also carry a negative side. Pests and viruses can take this opportunity to spread! In public health, patterns of disease transmission have long assumed that contact between individuals was random, with each individual having equal chances of infection. But, in fact, reality tells us the opposite. Human and animal populations do not have a random social structure - they have distinct and well-established links. Studying these links has helped public health better understand the spread of diseases such as AIDS. By examining social networks in animal societies, we can better understand how diseases and parasites spread. This knowledge can help us prevent or even eradicate certain animal diseases.

5. Personality

Like human beings, each animal has its own personality. Violent, calm, shy, daring, willing, revengeful, wise and the list goes on. All animals are not cut from the same cloth. And everyone in their own way leaves a mark the group with which they live. In nature, personality has a great influence on the size and nature of social networks. Is it useful or harmful to be shy, to be daring? The answer is ... it all depends!