

Do animals have feelings? Yes, animals have feelings, not only for themselves but they can also sense the feelings of other animals and humans. They often express their feelings through communication, touch, posture, and visual contact.

Some animals communicate their feelings, wants, and needs by sounds known to their species. For example, our dogs bark when needing to go outside or when their food dish is empty. They howl to alert us of possible danger or a friendly visitor at the door. Our cat will meow when it wants attention, food or water. She also meows and growls at my dogs when they are harassing or chasing her. Then there's our African Gray Parrot, she communicates her wants and needs through actual human language. She will ask for various fruits and vegetables. For example she says, "I want apple" or "Got some banana?" She also tells us "Good Morning" every morning and says "Good Night" every night.

Our pets, as well as many other pets like to be petted and scratched. Our dogs will either climb in my lap or nudge me to get my attention. In fact, our Great Dane is extremely jealous of hugs not given to her. She will interfere by walking between two people and separating them by pushing with her nose or sometimes with her whole body. Our cats like to rub against us or just jump in our lap when they are wanting to be petted or scratched. Then there's our parrot, she will put her head down and ask for it to be scratched "Want a scratch?" She definitely knows what she wants and can express it so we can understand.

Posture is a little harder to describe. Our dog's posture changes when they see a stranger or someone they don't know. They will arch their back, fold back their ears and even make their hair stand up. Our Great Dane is almost 8 years old. There are days when she doesn't feel so well so she lays around when she sits, she slumps. But on a good day she sits up straight with her head up proud. Our cats make an arch in their back and hiss when a dog is near or if they are startled or frightened. And then comes the parrot, when something big or unusual goes by her cage she may squawk, flap her wings and sometimes fall to the bottom of the cage.

Visual contact is important in all animals. They use it to show affection to other animals as well as to stare off danger. Our cat and dogs often have a staring contest. They don't take their eyes off of each other until one finally gives in. At that moment they all take off running!

So to answer the question, "Do animals have feelings? Yes, they have feelings. From first hand experience you can tell a lot of feelings from the moment you look at them to the moment you blink.