

# ANIMAL LOVE

BY ALINE ALEXANDER NEWMAN

**D**o you love your brothers and sisters, feel better when they're around you (usually), and even take care of them? If so, you have something in common with many animals. Research shows that hamsters who live with a sibling heal twice as fast as those that don't. Ground squirrels care enough to squeal warnings of danger to their siblings, but with strangers they don't bother. Many animals find life with siblings is better than life without them. Read on to find out why.

## LOST AND FOUND

Cyndy Lamb's Labrador retriever, Cooper, isn't comfortable around other dogs. "He always gets his hair up when he meets another dog," says Lamb. "He's apprehensive."

But Cooper acts differently with one dog at the Diggity Dog Day Care Center, says Pat Kucera, operator of the center in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Cooper plays happily with Levi, another Lab. They leap onto couches and chase each other around in circles.

Cooper's and Levi's owners talked and discovered that the Labs were the same age and had each been adopted from the same shelter a few months back. Lamb also recalled that Cooper had one sibling, and the abandoned pups were so tightly bonded that neither played with anybody else at the shelter—dog or human.

No wonder Cooper and Levi acted excited. They're more than playmates—they're brothers!





# DO animal siblings CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER?

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## FOLLOW THE LEADER

"C'mon! You can do it!" That's the encouraging message a family of six daredevil California sea lion pups seemed to be exchanging after they discovered a ready-made diving board. A tree fell across their lake at Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire, England, in the United Kingdom. Naturally curious, Poppy and Lola shimmied up the trunk and toppled into the water. "I think the first couple of times they may have slipped," says Michelle Stevens, who works at the park. Either way, the sea lions began plunging off on purpose.

Their half brothers and sisters followed. Until their move to another zoo, the pups would climb and dive daily. Sometimes one barged ahead, determined to go first. Other times they took turns. While waiting, the pups sometimes acted annoyed. But there were other times they seemed to applaud each other by clapping their flippers. No matter their mood, the siblings always had someone to play with.



## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Cashew and Macadamia, spotted hyena twins, were inseparable. One day, Cashew disappeared. Had a predator nabbed the little cub? Hyena cubs take care of each other when their mothers leave to find food. Without her twin and protector, Mac stood little chance of survival. Zoologist Sofia Wahaj, who was studying the hyenas in Kenya, in Africa, was concerned. Then she saw something puzzling. Macadamia and her mom were pawing frantically around a hole in the ground. "Mom's tail was bristly, and she was snarling and poking her head into the hole," says Wahaj. Finally a huge warthog burst out of the hole—followed by Cashew! The cub had been exploring the tunnel when the warthog entered and trapped her inside. Mac and Mom knew Cashew needed help because they had heard her muffled cries. Now Macadamia had her ally back, and the devoted duo have rarely been separated since.



## TAKE MINE

Like early cavemen, Kanzi, a captive bonobo, and his sister Panbanisha smack rocks together to make stone tools. It's hard work, and Kanzi—being stronger—is better at it. "He can more quickly make a knife that cuts the first time," says William Fields, director of bonobo research at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa. Panbanisha might have to hammer out three to get one that's sharp.

One day Kanzi (above, on left) finished his knife, used it to cut the rope securing a food box, and ate the banana he found inside. Knowing her turn was next, Panban (above, on right) reached for her brother's stone tool. "Nope," said the researcher. Panbanisha must make her own.

Instead the two creative apes plotted together. On his way out, when the scientist wasn't looking, Kanzi hid his knife where Panbanisha could find it. Minutes later she did and opened her box in a flash—thanks to her brother.



## HUNGRY, HUNGRY BEAR

Every August, bears gorge on salmon swimming upriver to spawn. Standing in the water, grizzlies probe the river bottom with their front feet. When they feel a salmon, they pin the fish and grab it with their teeth. But one young grizzly was having trouble (above, on left). The same hunter who had killed his mother had shot the youngster in a foreleg, leaving him unable to fish.

"This bear would charge as best he could, and salmon would scatter," says Stacy Corbin, a fishing guide in Cooper Landing, Alaska. The bear always came up empty-pawed.

Corbin worried about the cub...until he saw his sister (above, on right) snag six salmon and drop them at her brother's feet. Rather than going off by herself like other bears her age, the grizzly stayed and helped her brother. "She fed him for weeks," says Corbin. "He wouldn't have made it without her."

## BROTHER'S KEEPER

Orcas living off the coast of Canada's Vancouver Island have an unusual custom. The males stay with their mothers their whole lives. "They're such social animals they can't live alone," says Naomi A. Rose, a marine mammal scientist. But without a female relative to chaperone them, the rambunctious males are often shunned by other orcas. So when mothers die, their sons often do, too, unless they have an aunt or sister to live with.

Foster, a teenage whale, didn't need a female relative. He had a big brother, Top-Notch. When Foster was little, Top-Notch frequently babysat him. He tolerated Foster's exuberant pushing, splashing, and leaping.

When their mother died, Top-Notch took Foster under his fin again. For ten years, the brothers swam side by side, keeping each other company and gaining acceptance by the pod. By sticking together, these two brothers thrived even after they'd lost their mother.

