

ANIMAL SENTIENCE

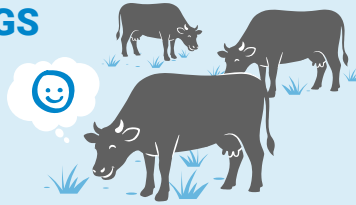
'Animal sentience' is the ability of an animal to **feel** positive and negative emotions and to **think, learn, and experience** the world around them. Sentience is the reason animals care about what is happening to them and around them.

ANIMALS HAVE FEELINGS

Feelings can be positive or negative:



Positive feelings include happiness, comfort, and satisfaction.



Negative feelings include pain, fear, boredom, and frustration.



ANIMALS CAN THINK

Sentient animals:

- Notice what is happening around them.
- Can remember what has happened to them in the past.
- Can use information they have learned to make choices in the future.



WHICH TYPES OF ANIMALS ARE SENTIENT?

We know that all vertebrate animals, and some invertebrates, are sentient. These include:



MAMMALS



BIRDS



REPTILES



CRUSTACEANS

Lobsters, crabs and prawns



AMPHIBIANS



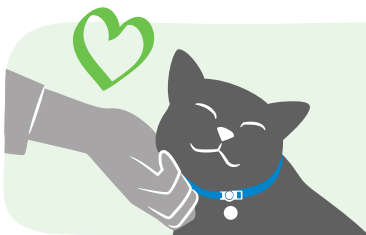
CEPHALOPODS

Octopus, squid and cuttlefish



FISH

It is likely that many other animals are also sentient, and research about animal sentience continues to grow every year.



WHY DOES ANIMAL SENTIENCE MATTER?

The way animals feel matters to them, so it should matter to us too.

Knowing that animals can **feel and think** helps us understand **what they need and want** and **make better decisions about how to care for them**.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR PETS?

- When animals are healthy and have what they want, they have good wellbeing and a life worth living.
- When you notice the way an animal feels, you can take action to keep your animals healthy and give them what they want.
- Watch animals you care for to look for signs of positive (comfort, playfulness, curiosity, happiness) and negative emotions (fear, pain, stress, boredom, frustration).



Act quickly if an animal seems distressed or unwell.



Treat every animal as a feeling, thinking being and make choices that support their wellbeing every day.