




Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?

Frans De Waal

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352 pages

Revue de presse

'Engrossing and remarkable' -- BBC Wildlife Magazine

'If you are at all interested in what it is to be an animal, human or otherwise, you should read this book' -- Guardian

'[This] guide to animal intelligence will help us to adjust our human-centricity a little bit... De Waal sets out not only to explore the topic of animal intelligence [...] but also to investigate why we are so very resistant to accepting the fact that other species share some of our mental traits. In the process, he explores the history of such biases, as well as the research that has challenged them... Are We Smart Enough? is like the lunchtime lecture you might go to... story-driven and personable, so you feel the narrator is there with you, affably offering insights that expand your understanding' --Literary Review

'This is what science writing should be, and so rarely is: confident but humble; rigorous but suffused with wonder. De Waal writes with the simplicity that comes only with profound understanding. He's a true scientist - free of the reductionist fundamentalism that suffocates so much modern science. The book is an exhilarating but genial journey through evolutionary aeons, across the species barrier, and into the surprisingly companionable worlds of non-humans' -- Charles Foster, author of Being a Beast

'When a judge says that a young criminal behaved like an animal he means it as an insult. If he read Frans de Waal's splendid new book he would discover that in reality it is a compliment' -- Desmond Morris

'Compellingly recounted by De Waal, who has a long and distinguished career in animal psychology... This book makes plain [that] we can see plenty of ourselves in our animal cousins too' Raphael Hogarth, The Times

'A lively, punch and rigorous review of 20 years of academic studies of animals' mental lives, written by one of the most prominent thinkers in the field... It is the half-century-long failure of science and empathy that motivates de Waal's fascinating book... De Waal demolishes the pedestal on which we have placed humanity... Rich in detail... [it is] an important corrective to human exceptionalism' -- James McConachie, Sunday Times

'Frans de Waal's fascinating book is an eye-opening record of the many ways in which animals regularly display their own particular kinds of smartness' --Daily Mail

'De Waal draws on his own experience and a vast array of scientific papers to support his ideas. His book is rich and digressive... It is certainly a significant contribution to the debate' -- Philip Hoare, New Statesman

'So, are we 'smart enough to know how smart animals are?' The question will occur to you many times as you read Frans de Waal's remarkable distillations of science in this astonishingly broad-spectrum book. I guarantee one thing: readers come away a lot smarter. As this book shows, we are here on Planet Earth with plenty of intelligent company' -- Carl Safina, author of Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel

'Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are? will completely change your perceptions of the abilities of animals. This book takes the reader on a fascinating journey of discovery into the world of animal problem solving' --Temple Grandin, author of Animals in Translation and Animals Make Us Human

Présentation de l'éditeur

What separates your mind from an animal's? Maybe you think it's your ability to design tools, your sense of self, or your grasp of past and future; all traits that have helped us define ourselves as the preeminent species on Earth. But in recent decades, these claims have been eroded, or disproven outright, by a revolution in the study of animal cognition. Take the way octopuses use coconut shells as tools; elephants that classify humans by age, gender, and language; or Ayumu, the young male chimpanzee at Kyoto University whose photographic memory puts that of humans to shame. Based on research involving crows, dolphins, parrots, sheep, wasps, bats, whales, and of course chimpanzees and bonobos, Frans de Waal explores the scope and the depth of animal intelligence, revealing how we have grossly underestimated their abilities. People often assume there is a cognitive ladder, from lower to higher forms, with human intelligence at the top. But what if it is more like a bush, with cognition taking different forms that are often incomparable to ours? Would you presume yourself dumber than a squirrel because you're less adept at recalling the locations of hundreds of buried acorns? Or judge your perception of your surroundings as more sophisticated than that of a echolocating bat? De Waal tells of the rise and fall of a view of animals as stimulus-reponse beings, and opens our eyes to their complex and intricate minds. With astonishing stories of animal cognition, expert science and De Waal's deeply enquiring mind, *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* challenges everything you thought you knew about animal-and human-intelligence. Biographie de l'auteur FRANS DE WAAL has been named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People. The author of *Our Inner Ape* (Granta, 2005) among many other works, he is the C. H. Candler Professor in Emory University's Psychology Department and director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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