

# 3

## Strange behaviour



### Reading

- 1 You are going to read an article about human behaviour. For questions 1–10, choose from the sections (A–D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which section mentions ...

- a strong reaction to news of the writer's research?
- one animal showing jealousy?
- an animal thinking of the consequences of their actions?
- any unfairness provoking a strong and selfish reaction?
- the animal behaviour shown not going as far as equivalent human behaviour?
- a sense of injustice from people having to cope with adverse conditions?
- an explanation for the irrational sense of unfairness that humans or animals may show?
- an animal's feeling of injustice leading to irrational behaviour?
- unfairness among humans being perceived by those who are less well off?
- examples of both humans and animals behaving with fairness?

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## It's not fair!

*Do animals share our sense of unfairness over displays of greed?*

**A** How often have you seen rich people take to the streets, shouting that they're earning too much? Protesters are typically blue-collar workers yelling that the minimum wage has to go up, or that their jobs shouldn't go overseas. Concern about fairness is always asymmetrical, stronger in the poor than the rich. And the underlying emotions aren't as lofty as the ideal itself. Children become thoroughly indignant at the slightest discrepancy in, say, the size of their slice of pizza compared to their sibling's. Their shouts of 'That's not fair!' never transcend their own desires. We're all for fair play so long as it helps us. There's an old story about this, in which the owner of a vineyard rounds up labourers at different times of day. Early in the morning he went out to find labourers, offering each 1 denarius. But he offered the same to those hired later in the day. The workers hired first thing in the morning expected to get more since they had worked through the heat of the day, yet the owner didn't feel he owed them any more than he'd originally promised.

**B** That this sense of unfairness may turn out to be quite ancient in evolutionary terms as well became clear when graduate student Sarah Brosnan and I discovered it in monkeys. When testing pairs of capuchin monkeys, we noticed how much they disliked seeing their partner get a better deal. We would offer a pebble to one of the pair and then hold out a hand so that the monkey could give it back in exchange for a cucumber slice. Alternating between them, both monkeys would happily barter 25 times in a row. The atmosphere turned sour, however, as soon as we introduced inequality. One monkey would still receive cucumber, while its partner now enjoyed grapes, a favourite food with monkeys. While that monkey had no problem, the one still working for cucumber would lose interest. Worse, seeing its partner with juicy grapes, this monkey would get agitated, hurl the pebbles out of the test chamber, sometimes even those measly cucumber slices. A food normally devoured with gusto had become distasteful.

C There is a similarity here with the way we reject an unfair share of money. Where do such reactions come from? They probably evolved in the service of cooperation. Caring about what others get may seem petty and irrational, but in the long run it keeps one from being taken advantage of. Had we merely mentioned emotions, such as resentment or envy, our findings might have gone unnoticed. Now we drew the interest of philosophers, anthropologists and economists, who almost choked on the monkey comparison. As it happened, our study came out at the very time that there was a public outcry about the multimillion dollar pay packages that are occasionally given out on Wall Street and elsewhere. Commentators couldn't resist contrasting human society with our monkeys, suggesting that we could learn a thing or two from them.

D Our monkeys have not reached the point at which their sense of fairness stretches beyond egocentric interests – for example, the one who gets the grape

never levels the outcome by giving it to the other – but in cooperative human societies, such as those in which men hunt large game, anthropologists have found great sensitivity to equal distribution. Sometimes, successful hunters aren't even allowed to carve up their own kill to prevent them from favouring their family. These cultures are keenly aware of the risk that inequity poses to the social fabric of their society. Apes, as opposed to monkeys, may have an inkling of this connection. High-ranking male chimpanzees, for example, sometimes break up fights over food without taking any for themselves. During tests, a female received large amounts of milk and raisins, but noticed her friends watching her from a short distance. After a while, she refused all rewards. Looking at the experimenter, she kept gesturing to the others, until they were given a share of the goodies. She was doing the smart thing. Apes think ahead, and if she had eaten her fill right in front of the rest, there might have been repercussions when she rejoined them later in the day.

## Grammar

2 Identify the incorrect verb form in these sentences, then rewrite each sentence correctly starting with the word in brackets.

EXAMPLE: The tourist party might actually have seen a gorilla in the flesh if the weather were a little more favourable.

(Had ...)

*were* → *had been*

**Had** the weather **been** a little more favourable, the tourist party might actually have seen a gorilla in the flesh.

- a There should be no problem in arranging that loan for you unless you will fail to meet our terms and conditions. (Provided ...)
- b If you would happen to notice anything strange, kindly make a note of it for me. (Should ...)
- c Were jetlag a figment of the imagination, air travellers had no problems on arrival at their destination. (If ...)
- d As the sun should cause permanent damage to your eyes, you shouldn't look directly at it. (Given that ...)

- e This planet would be heading for destruction, unless we pay more attention to environmental issues. (If ...)
- f Provided you stay calm, we would be able to assess the situation quickly. (If ...)
- g If we hadn't had luck on our side, we hadn't ever survived the storm and returned safe and sound. (Without ...)
- h If there is a red sky at night, it is fine the next day. (As long as ...)
- i If you spend long periods of time above 5500 metres, you must experience the ill effects of altitude. (Provided ... not)
- j You wouldn't have this wonderful evidence to support your theory now, if you didn't persevere with your research. (But for ...)
- k Unless you took time to acclimatise when you arrive in a hot country, you will be asking for trouble. (As long as ...)
- l I'll agree to come to the party as long as you haven't worn those ridiculous trousers. (On condition that ...)

## Vocabulary

- 3 The words in capitals after these sentences are all anagrams of nouns meaning *behaviour*. Use the context and your dictionary to help you solve them and fill the gaps. The first and last letters are given.

EXAMPLE: It's considered good **manners** in some societies to leave a little food on your plate. RENMANS

- a Over the years we've got used to his funny little w.....s. YAWS
- b His a.....s since that morning have been quite eccentric and unpredictable. NOCTIAS
- c The president surprised everyone with his unusual c.....t at the memorial service. TUNCCOD
- d She walked at the head of the procession, her b.....g proud and distinguished. GIRABEN
- e When their favourite player was sent off, the r.....n of the crowd was very hostile. TEANIORC
- f There was nothing in his d.....r that suggested he was anxious. REUMANDEO
- g His eating h.....s are rather extraordinary. STIHBA

- 4 Correct any words in these sentences which are used or spelled incorrectly.

- a The Santa Ana wind can have a dramatic affect on people in Los Angeles.
- b In some extreme weather conditions, people have been known to loose control.
- c Certain weather patterns are associated with a raise in crime rates.
- d Predicting the weather accurately takes more than practise.
- e My grandfather believes in weather lore like his ansestors before him.
- f The day the weather forecasters took industrious action was an interesting day for the nation.
- g Some people believe animal behaviour could offer a viable alternat means of earthquake detection.
- h Beside being struck twice by lightning, she has also had some experiences of hurricanes.

- 5 Use words from the box to find collocations with the words in bold and complete the sentences. Use your dictionary to help you.

feeling	intuition	<b>misgivings</b>	omen
sense	sight	sign	suspicion

EXAMPLE: Many teachers have expressed **serious** *misgivings* about the new exams.

- a Those black clouds are a **sure** ..... of rain.
- b I once met a man with **second** ..... who told me I was going to lose my job – and I did.
- c I had a **funny** ..... that you'd show up!
- d I've got a **sneaking** ..... that we're going the wrong way.
- e We hoped that the delay at the airport was not a **bad** ..... for our holiday.
- f She seemed to have a **sixth** ..... when it came to knowing what her twin was thinking.
- g When a woman anticipates something, it is sometimes put down to **female** .....
- 6 The words in the box are all nouns that express strong emotions. Put each one in the correct sentence below to complete the collocations in bold.

disgust	fears	frustration
guilt	rage	tedium

- a Margaret was **haunted by** ..... at the terrible things she'd done.
- b To **relieve the** ..... of the journey, John looked out of the window and counted passing trucks.
- c When I told him what had happened, the manager **exploded with** .....
- d 'Look, it's annoying, but it's not my fault! Don't **vent your** ..... on me!
- e I hope I have succeeded in **allaying your** ..... about the future of the company.
- f I could scarcely **conceal my** ..... at his table manners.

## Use of English

7 Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

# TIGERS AS PETS

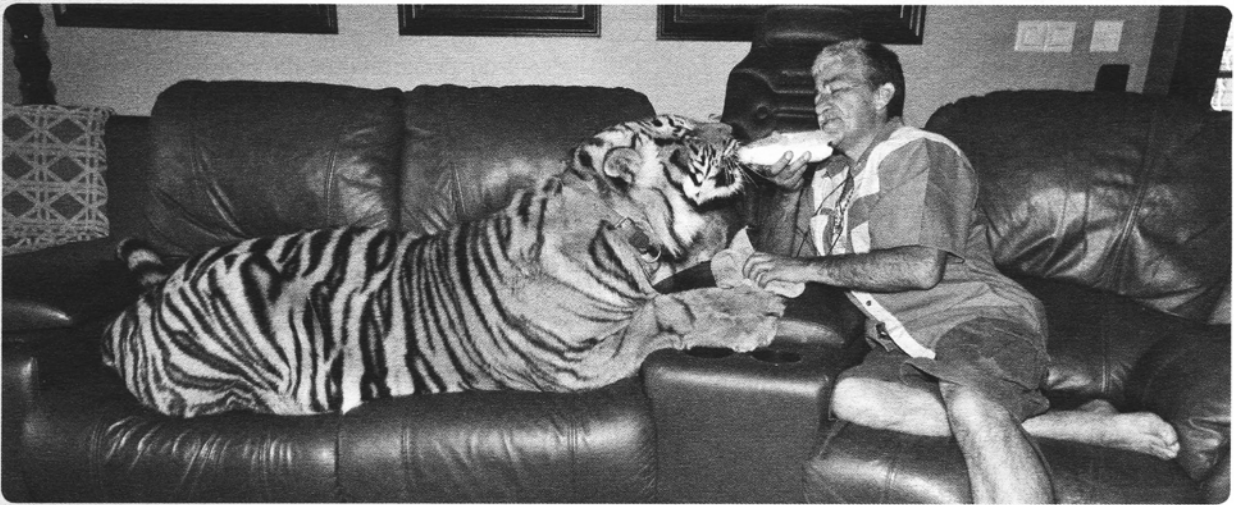
They may be (0) ..... A ..... extinction in India, China and Siberia, but in the US, tigers have found a new lease of life – after a fashion. More than 12,000 are kept as pets – double the number thought to exist in the wild. The craze persists (1) ..... concern among

politicians and animal welfare groups. Various reputable organisations promote ownership of endangered species. Prices are not particularly (2) ..... : \$1,000 for a generic cub, \$3,500 for a pair of Bengal tigers.

The private trade originated in zoos. Tiger cubs (3) ..... so popular with the public that zoos started breeding more than they needed and sold the (4) ..... to private breeders. The US Endangered Species Act

of 1973 outlaws the taking of endangered animals from the wild, but does not (5) ..... what happens to the offspring of animals captured before the law was (6) .....

Many owners believe they are saving an endangered species. But their cubs have no (7) ..... among wild tigers. They are a mixture of, (8) ..... , Sumatran, Siberian and Bengal tigers, which would not survive in the wild.



- 0 A facing  
1 A in contrast to  
2 A forbidding  
3 A occurred  
4 A surplus  
5 A rule  
6 A sentenced  
7 A equivalent  
8 A imagine

- B reaching  
B nevertheless  
B prohibitive  
B demonstrated  
B balance  
B conduct  
B issued  
B similarity  
B say

- C getting  
C in spite of  
C impossible  
C established  
C residue  
C systematise  
C passed  
C substitute  
C suppose

- D meeting  
D whereas  
D restraining  
D proved  
D leftovers  
D regulate  
D stated  
D correspondent  
D take