

Image credit: Dr Ingrid Visser



## Moko the dolphin



Moko playing with swimmers

Moko was a very friendly wild dolphin who lived off the coast of New Zealand. He often liked to play with people swimming in the water.

One day in March 2008, Moko helped rescue a pygmy whale (a type of small whale) and her calf who were trapped between the land and the sea. People had tried to direct them back to sea but the whales were too worried to follow them. That's when Moko appeared, having heard the upset sounds of the whales. He calmed the mother and her calf down and showed them where to go. Without Moko, the whales would have died.





## Laughing rats

When rats are tickled they often laugh, although the noises are too high pitched to be heard by humans. Rats are used by scientists in experiments, but the animals find humans frightening. To try and make the rats more used to humans, scientists tried tickling them.

The scientists tickled the rats on their back, stomachs and tails and said that the rats were very excited. One scientist said, 'They were jumping around and they chased my hand. Pretty much like human kids, giggling and chasing around.' The tickled rats also did jumps for joy, showing how excited they were.

When you tickle a rat, it actually laughs, although the noises it makes are too high and can't be heard by humans.



Image credit: Scientific American







Elephants are highly intelligent and emotional animals, and are able to experience many of the emotions felt by humans.



Male elephants fighting in Botswana. Credit: Encyclopedia Britannica

Bimbo was a young male elephant living in an animal park. Tabu was an older female who paid special attention to him.

When a younger calf, Mkuba, arrived, Tabu lost interest in Bimbo, and she gave her attention to the younger Mkuba instead.

Bimbo started hitting Mkuba with his tusks whenever he could when he thought no one else was watching. When this happened, Mkuba would call for Tabu's help by making loud noises.





## Wounda the chimp

Wounda was stolen from her family as a baby by poachers in the Republic of Congo. She almost died of a serious illness, but she was saved and brought to a special centre for chimpanzees. Wounda stayed at the centre for years, until she was healthy and ready to be released back into the wild.

On the way to her new home in the jungle, Wounda didn't know what was happening. A chimp researcher called Jane Goodall, who knows a lot about chimps, was able to communicate with Wounda, using the same gestures and signs that chimps to make her feel better about what was happening.

When Wounda was finally ready to be set free, she gave Jane Goodall a long hug before leaving to look around her new home.

Chimpanzees are one of four types of "great ape." The great apes are: chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orang-utans.



Credit: The Jane Goodall Institute



# Giraffes and cars

When a car honked at a giraffe standing in the road at a national park, the giraffe knocked the car over and kicked it hard.

Another driver came across two giraffes crossing a road at night. One of the giraffes got off the road but the other walked over, turned its back and kicked the car with both its feet at the same time.

Giraffes have a powerful kick, and they can kick with both their front and hind legs. One kick can break a lion's back!





## Ola the false killer whale



Credit: Wikimedia commons

Ola was a false killer whale who was kept in captivity in an aquarium. A man who worked at the aquarium used to tease Ola every day, until one day Ola pushed the man down underwater to the floor of the tank and kept him there by pushing him down with his large head. Luckily for the man, he was wearing diving gear, so he didn't drown.

During this, several people tried to help, and other people tried to offer Ola some fish or ordered him to stop. Ola did not listen to any of them, and ignored the fish.

Eventually, after five long minutes, Ola let the man go and he swam to the surface of the water and escaped.

### Did you know?

False killer whales are a type of **dolphin**, a mammal that lives in the sea. False killer whales can grow up to 6 metres in length, and live in groups, called 'pods', of up to 500 members.