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## Do Animals Talk?

Can you tell when your cat wants something to eat? Have you heard your dog barking at other dogs? Some people think that animals communicate through sounds such as barks, meows, or chirps. Animals may be telling each other that there is trouble ahead or where to find food. They may be letting each other know where they are.

Researchers believe that vervet monkeys make different calls depending on which type of predator they spot: snakes, mammals, or birds. When a vervet spots a snake, it makes a frantic scream. The other vervets cluster together and stand on their hind legs, looking for the snake. They move slowly away from the snake once they see it.

After seeing a hyena, cheetah, or leopard, a vervet gives a different scream. This scream causes the other monkeys to climb trees. They move to the ends of thick branches. A heavy animal won't be able to climb after them without breaking the branch and falling. The monkeys can also leap from treetop to treetop.

When a vervet monkey sees an eagle, it lets out a third kind of scream.

This scream causes the other monkeys to run for cover. The monkeys dive into bushes or huddle near tree trunks, where the eagle won't be able to see them.

The spotted hyena makes a noise that sounds like a human laugh. This is why they are often called laughing hyenas. The sounds hyenas use include snorts, grunts, and giggles. Once a hyena catches its prey, such as a vervet monkey, it tells the rest of the pack about it. The hyena uses various sounds, including its famous laugh!

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