

A COW'S MOO

The vocal tics of a cow's moo can reveal their feelings, expressing a variety of emotions from distress to excitement, according to a new study. Research published in Scientific Reports suggests cows talk to one another, communicating their emotions, positive and negative, through individualized voice cues. The study was led by Alexandra Green, a PhD student at the University of Sydney, who monitored voice calls in a herd of 18 cows for five months.

Domesticated cows are "gregarious" creatures, according to the researchers, and use vocalizations as a means of mediation within the group. Green and her colleagues studied 333 recordings of cow vocalizations. These included positive calls made during the period of sexual receptivity in females, when ovulation occurs, or in anticipation of feed. They also included negative calls made when they were denied feed or isolated from the herd.

Researchers are finding more and more evidence of vocal calls like these across species—for example, in pigs, horses and wild boar. But while it was known that female cows and their calves could communicate via individualized voicing, this study suggests they maintain individualized voicing throughout their lifetime.

The team hopes the news will help agricultural workers care for their livestock and boost animal welfare by integrating some of the findings into their daily practices.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos.)
 - a) Cows make positive calls when they know they are about to eat. TRUE "These included positive calls made during the period of sexual receptivity in females, when ovulation occurs, or in anticipation of feed"
 - b) According to investigations, cows are the only animals that can "talk". FALSE "Researchers are finding more and more evidence of vocal calls like these across species—for example, in pigs, horses and wild boar"
2. Find a synonym in the text for the following words or phrases. (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto.)
 - a) range (paragraph 1). VARIETY
 - b) employ (paragraph 2). USE
3. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer this question. (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto.) How can this research help farmers?
MAYBE THE COWS CAN HAVE A BETTER LIFE AND BEING UNDERSTOOD BY FARMERS WHO CAN ALSO CAPITALIZE ON THESE STUDIES
4. Follow the instructions for each part of this question. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos.)
 - a) Rewrite this sentence using reported speech:
"I would love to understand my cat" Sue told her friend.
SUE TOLD HER FRIEND SHE WOULD HAVE LOVED TO UNDERSTAND HER CAT

b) Fill in the blanks with the most suitable word: Animals can express their emotions AS much as human beings do, even IF we cannot really understand them.

c) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets: Scientists HAVE STUDIED (study) animal language for many years. Last year, a crucial discovery WAS MADE (make) in this field.

5. Write about 80 to 100 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos).

Do you think animals are well treated by human beings? Justify your answer.

ANIMALS ARE NOT ALWAYS WELL TREATED BY HUMANS, IT IS NOT ESSENCIAL TO BE AN EXPERT TO KNOW IT, WE USE THEM IN OUR OWN BENEFITS AND WE DON'T LOOK FOR THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

FIRST OF ALL, SOME ANIMALS ARE HUNTED JUST FOR FUN, WE CAN REMEMBER JUAN CARLOS I IN BOSTWANA AS AN ELEPHANT HUNTER. SECONDLY, WE TEST ON THEM A LOT OF MEDICINES AND COSMETICS AND A LOT OF THESE STUDIES COULD BE DONE IN A LAB WITHOUT USING ANIMALS. FINALLY, WE GROW THEM TO KILL THEM AND EAT THEM, AND I AM NOT VEGETARIAN, BUT I TRY TO BUY ORGANIC FOOD OR MILK BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THOSE FARMERS HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THE ANIMALS.