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The Island Leisure LAND

Beatles Rock Band launches at the Cavern Club



Staff members of a game store take their turn at playing on the stage at the launch of the video game, The Beatles Rockband at The Cavern Club in Liverpool

The Beatles Rock Band game was greeted by scores of fans dressed as the Fab Four when it launched at the Cavern Club in Liverpool.

The midnight event coincided with the release of digitally remastered versions of the band's entire back catalogue.

The game gives players the chance to pretend to be Paul, John, George and Ringo, scoring points against each other.

Players dressed up as their favourite band-members as they tried to emulate their 60s idols by singing, strumming toy guitars and hitting a drum kit at the spiritual home of the group.

Tribute band The Beatles Experience entertained the crowd with favourite songs like Love Me Do and She Loves You.

Fans are expected to queue outside shops to be the first to get their hands on the computer game.

Neil Ashurst from computer game store Game said: "The launch of The Beatles Rock Band has certainly caught the nation's imagination and is likely to be the most successful title in the Rick Band stable."

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Imagine your child dead or lost. The shock, horror, the feeling of helplessness and grief.

Grief is a reaction to the absence of something or someone who caused happiness, comfort. The continued absence of that person or thing can lead to stress. In the context of bereavement, this stress is termed grief. Charles Darwin, the great scientist, wrote that animals share our emotions including grief.

People like to believe that animals have no sense of their mortality and are unable to comprehend the concept of death. This allows us not to feel remorse when we eat them, hunt them, separate their families, massacre thousands in the name of preventing pandemics, keep them in cages or kill them in slaughterhouses.

Grief is something that those with a memory feel. An animal's memory is like yours. If you an animal can love or fear, he/she can certainly grieve for the same reasons - following the death of an owner, relative or friend.

How do animals express it? Many vocalize pain or distress and show changes in their behaviour. Some, like elephants, even shed tears. When my dog Milly's puppy was killed in front of her by another dog she howled and ran round the house for 3 days, refusing to eat. It took months to get her to interact with us.

The most obvious example of grief in animals has been observed in elephants. If an elephant dies, the troupes who knew her/him will go to where the body is and touch or pass around the bones. They will stay in the area

Lei, who immediately liked Hoku. Hoku was polite; he allowed her to swim with him, he was not aggressive and he even began to look around again. But he kept one eye shut on whichever side Lei was swimming on.

When a dolphin passes away, the others of the group mourn by stopping eating and swim around with loud whistles. If a child dies, the grief of the mother dolphin is intense. She weaves round the body, propping it up to the surface and trying to revive it for hours. Dolphins keep the bodies of their dead afloat by supporting them with their own until all members of the group have shared in the grieving process.

A French documentary film showed a crocodile killing a female hippo and dragging it onto a sand dune. Soon after, hippos are seen coming out of the

Animals mourn loss of near and dear ones

river to lick the body. They lie down in a circle around the cow as if it's a fallen friend, and stay there for hours before wading back into the water.

Every dog owner knows that they mourn the death of loved ones - companion or master. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals conducted a project entitled Companion Animal Mourning. The study found that 36% percent of dogs ate less after the death of a companion; 11% stopped eating completely; 63% of dogs vocalized more than normal or became quieter. The study found that dogs changed their sleep patterns and location of their sleep. 55% became more affectionate and clingy with their caregivers. And 66% exhibited four or more behavioral changes after their loss.

If a cat loses a friend, they will stop eating and playing for some time and stay near the scent of the lost one. Mother cats whose kittens are taken away look for them for many days, pacing and crying out. Larry Lachman, author of "Cats on the Counter", says grieving in cats may last up to three years, with the most visible signs in the first year. They include loss of appetite or overeating, chronic meowing or howling, searching for the person or animal, spray-marking and self-mutilation. A sudden refusal to use the litter box and attacking owners or family members can also signal bereavement. Sometimes cats wait at the window, or sit on a gate-post, waiting for the absent one to return. Some owners have even noticed their surviving cats taking on behaviour patterns of the missing cat. Some fast and became critically ill. Post mortems show no sign of disease except for that caused by failure to eat. Some have repeated nightmares after the death of their owner in the cat's presence waking whimpering and fearful for months until the trauma fades.

When the elephant Kaveri died in Chandigarh's Chhatbir Zoo, a trumpeting of other elephants filled the air. Defying their mahouts, the elephants repeatedly turned and moved towards Kaveri's shed whenever taken for a walk

The story of Hoku and Kiko, a pair of Pacific spotted dolphins at Sea Life Park is well known. Kiko died of a kidney ailment. Hoku swam for days with both eyes shut. The keepers gave him a young spotted dolphin female named



Chimpanzees show great emotion upon the death of one of their group, screaming, charging, and whimpering. A mother will carry for days the limp body of an infant who has died till it becomes a desiccated strip of fur. Only then will she leave it.

Primate babies born in research labs are snatched from their mothers within three days of birth—leaving the babies depressed and unable to develop normal relationships throughout their lives. Laboratory animal caretaker Nancy Megna writes about what they witnessed at the Yerkes Primate Research Center: "The mother emits either lost calls, waiting in vain for a response from her stolen baby, or she makes a mourning type of crying."

She does this constantly, sometimes sitting far from the group at the edge of the compound, sometimes sitting near the door to her quarters. If an employee walks by, the mother will often follow along the whole distance of the fence of her enclosure, looking directly at the employee as she emits her lost call. Babies, too, make plaintive calls, in hopes of being reunited with their mother. "Cows behave the same way when their babies are taken for slaughter."

From horses and rabbits to deer, animals mourn the loss of another. Even rats who play together care for each other and grieve, protecting the body of a loved one that has passed away.

In most animals, symptoms of grieving include diminished interest and energy, absence of play, listlessness, reduced social interactions, increased daytime sleeping, weight loss/loss of interest in food, coarsening of fur and loss of sparkle in eyes. Sometimes they die soon after the loss of a companion.

Sharon Crowell-Davis, an animal behaviorist at the University of Georgia, has scientifically proven that animals have emotions just like us, by the use of PET [positron emission tomography] scans. This instrument provides an evaluation of mental states based on brain changes in response to specific stimuli. It was noted that both humans and animals react to a certain stimuli in a similar way. "When animals are recorded showing the same patterns of brain activity and the same brain chemical changes that correspond to a particular human emotion or mood state, it would not be logical for us to assume that they are not experiencing similar feelings," Crowell-Davis says.

Next time you eat a lamb or a calf, you leave a mother who is crying her heart out.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in



Cricket 'helps cut bad behaviour'

Schools are being encouraged to crackdown on unruly pupils – by playing cricket.

By Graeme Paton, Education Editor

Researchers from Loughborough University found that children with a history of disruption and truancy acted in a more "sportsman-like manner" after being exposed to the game for just a few hours.

The university, which analysed the

results of a three-year schools programme run by the Cricket Foundation charity, said pupils displayed better social skills and teamwork compared with those taking part in normal PE lessons.

The study also found cricket helped girls to overcome "restrictive gender beliefs" and gain confidence in playing sport.

It comes despite fears that the game may be under threat in state schools because of a lack of equipment and overcrowded timetables. Earlier research found fewer than one in 10 pupils plays cricket and most schools still do not have proper facilities or expert tuition in the sport.

But academics insisted the game had a

positive impact on children, particularly those from deprived areas.

One 11-year-old girl told researchers: "With football [the boys] sometimes kick you and things but with cricket no one really tries to trick you and cheat. And we clap when someone does well."

A 10-year-old boy said: "You learn sportsmanship, you can work together

and help people out."

The university's Institute of Youth Sport surveyed more than 300 pupils taking part in the Chance to Shine initiative run by the Cricket Foundation. They also interviewed teachers and cricket coaches.

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