



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Well-Being



SEPTEMBER 2023

HUMMINGBIRDS

DO ANIMALS FEEL PAIN? YES!!



NATIONAL HUMMINGBIRD DAY September 2

FUN FACTS ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS

Link: [Audubon Adventures: Hummingbirds](#)

- Over 330 species of hummingbirds exist in North and South America.
- Some flap their wings 50 times per second.
- A hummingbird's body temperature may reach 105°F when it's feeding, but it can lower its body temperature to 60°F when resting.
- A hummingbird's heart can beat 1200 times/minute when it is feeding, but can lower it to about 50 beats/minute when resting.
- Hummingbirds are not very social and live solitary lives, only coming together to mate or grudgingly share a hummingbird feeder. They do not form a flock, called a bouquet, or migrate in groups. They may swarm a hummingbird feeder to grab a quick snack on their way through town, but they don't fly together.
- They are the smallest migrating bird. They typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time, and about 3,000 miles during migration.
- A hummingbird burns energy so fast, it must eat about twice its own weight in food each day.
- A meal of nectar travels through a hummingbird's digestive system in less than 20 minutes.
- A hummingbird flicks its tongue up to 13 times a second to lick up nectar.
- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- Hummingbirds have no sense of smell. Some like red flowers, but red dye should not be used in homemade nectar as it could harm the birds. Instead, plant naturally red or orange flowers or use feeders that have red coloring in their structure.
- The average weight of a hummingbird is less than a nickel.
- Hummingbirds can't walk or hop. They use their legs only to perch or move sideways on a perch or branch.

Link: [Attracting Hummingbirds](#)



SEPTEMBER Animal Holidays

- Animal Pain Awareness Month
- National Hummingbird Day - September 2
- National Wildlife Day - September 4
- National Threatened Species Day - September 7
- National Wildlife Ecology Day - September 23
- Happy Goose Day - September 29

September is ANIMAL PAIN MONTH

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN AN ANIMAL IS IN PAIN?

Link: [How to know when an animal has pain](#)

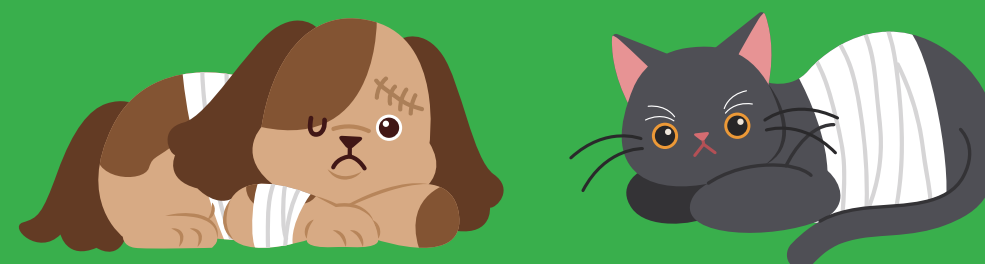
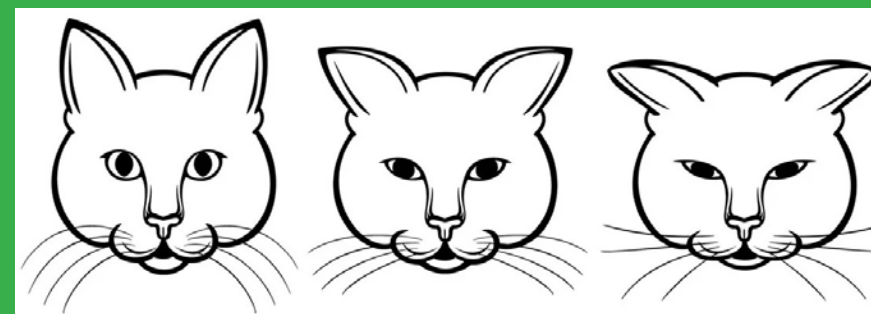
Why? Animals hide pain or may not express their pain in the same way as people do

Signs of an Animal in Pain

- Changes in or bent posture, hunched, droopy head
- Changes in movement, limping, continuous licking or gnawing at part of their body
- Changes in behavior, anxiety, aggression, quiet, withdrawn, trembling, shaking
- Changes in movement, limping, stiffness, doesn't want to get up or be lifted
- Changes in eating or drinking
- Changes in appearance, facial expressions, or dull eyes, birds may pluck feathers



Animal Professionals: [Feline Grimace Scale](#)



AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

HUMMINGBIRD WORKOUT!

Think about how hard a hummingbird works every day!

- A hummingbird may flap its wings 50 times EACH SECOND!
- How many times a second do you think you can flap your arms?
- How about for a minute?
- How many times in a row can you flap your arms before you get tired?
- Do you think you could "flap" to 200 flowers a day?



Link: [Hummingbird Live Cam in Studio City, CA](#)