

13 × 26 min. HD

SUPER SENSES



YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT'S POSSIBLE...



A TV
DOCUMENTARY
SERIES

The superior senses of animals reveal the secrets of animal perception. All animals have their own ways of sensing, many very different to our own. Sharper sight, keener smell, super-sensitive touch or even senses that are completely beyond our experience.

Have you ever wondered why some animals have such crazy looking sense organs? Why do snakes have a split tongue? Why do elephants have such huge ears? Why do some bats have different looking ears and noses? Why do moths have antennae that look like feathers? Every feature has a special purpose that has evolved to ensure the survival of the animal. Just like us, animals rely on their senses to communicate with each other, to find their way around, to find food and to stay safe.



EP1 SIGHT

In this episode we'll explore the animal sense of sight, and you'll see there's a lot more to this than meets the naked eye. The human imagination is limited when it comes to animal senses. People with good vision are sometimes called "eagle eyed", but eagles can see a fish from many dozen metres away. Only you won't believe how some animals see the world...



EP2 HEARING

On this episode we travel from the desert, to the forest, Australia to Borneo and back to learn how species as diverse as Bat-eared Foxes, the Billy, Deer, Kangaroo Rats, cicadas, Proboscis Monkeys and other creatures never miss an auditory trick.



EP3 TOUCH

On this episode of Animal Super Senses, we get in touch with the feelings of wild animals. Really in touch. Because animals, just like humans, rely heavily on their sense of touch, every day in every way.



EP4 SMELL & TASTE

On this episode of Animal Super Senses, we examine how things taste, and how vital scent is from the animal perspective. But their sense of smell will also detect the scent of odorants carried through the air. In mammals, taste receptor cells are scattered over the tongue. In other creatures, they can be located in some fairly odd places. How taste and smell receptors work underwater, well, it's a whole other world.



EP5 SUPERHUMAN SENSES

There are senses we share with most animals, but what about those senses that no human is equipped with? Infrared light, electromagnetic waves and ultrasound, are all found within a spectrum of sensory information that just passes by ordinary humans. This episode is all about those "super human" senses – animal sensory systems that can detect magnetic fields (magnetoreception), electric fields (electroreception) and infrared radiation.



EP6 SIXTH SENSES

There's a whole world and more than one spectrum of sensations that animals are aware of, yet which just pass humans by. And yet, while it's widely known that, for example, a dog's sense of smell is dozens of times more acute than humans', or that goats have close on a 360 degree field of vision, there's a kind of "sixth sense" that some animals have which still needs explanation. Call it extra-sensory perception – animal abilities we can't entirely explain but which leave us wondering – and in awe.



EP7 SENSE OF TIMING

In this episode, we examine how every animal has what could be called a sense of rhythm – the human animal included. To give an obvious example, there's our internal body clock which responds to the so-called Circadian rhythm. That's the 24 hour night and day cycle.



EP8 UNDERWATER

While all life began in the oceans, human beings now rely on technology to navigate the seven seas – left to our own devices; we're like the proverbial fish out of water. Only the other way around. Once underwater our vision becomes blurred, with light diminished, our hearing becomes muffled and distorted, and our sense of smell is rendered useless.



EP9 SKY

Sensory ecology episode. How the environment dictates sense evolution in animals; some overlap with other shows. What senses are important in the air? Vision and smell over long distances. Touch?



EP13 THE MOST AMAZING SENSES



EP10 NIGHT

Sensory ecology episode. Can include caves, some overlap with sight episode. Again bring it back to how an animal lives in its environment, and how its senses have to cope with it.



EP11 EARTH

Sensory ecology – where an animal lives dictates sense use. Wombats – largest burrowing mammal, small eyes, but excellent hearing. Plains rat and Inland Taipan. Pack rats and Gila monster. insectivores like echidna have highly tactile snouts. Bulldog ants in chamber. Golden wheel spider. Star nosed mole – extreme example of highly sensitive nose.



EP12 COMMUNICATION

How animals use their senses to communicate: social groups, finding mates, deterring predators.

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