

# Animals and Noise

**Objective:** Students will be able to recognize an animal's physical response to sudden noise.

**Concept:** All living things have different physiological responses to sound and light. This could affect any of the senses (hearing, touch, sight, smell, taste). Many animals are very sensitive to sound (example: a dog hears a car in the driveway before humans). Sudden or loud noises can frighten an animal, causing a "fight or flight" response.

**Targeted Age:** Elementary

**Materials:**

- ▶ Inflated balloon
- ▶ Sharp object

While discussing the key concepts about animals' senses, have someone else pop the inflated balloon, startling the students while they are speaking.

**Q: How did each person involuntarily respond to the loud noise? Point out the differences among the group.**

**A:** Yelling, jumping, increased heart rate, dilated eyes, release of endorphins

**Q: How do animals react to similar situations?**

**A:** Animals are similar to humans when they hear loud noises, except they are much larger and can hurt people around them when they move suddenly.

**Q: Give examples of how farm animals are affected by other senses.**

**A:** A horse slapped on the back side is more likely to be startled than one touched firmly. A carnivorous animal (dog) can become tense when blood is present. A flapping or brightly colored cloth or flag may startle a bull.

