

### **Are humans and wolves similar?**

Are humans and wolves similar? According to the 'Oxford Dictionary of English' something similar is "having a resemblance in appearance, character, or quality, without being identical". Knowing that, can we say that humans in wolves or similar? In what ways are they similar? My thoughts are that: while wolves and humans are different in some ways the two are similar in terms of their way of caring for their infants and the way that they act or interact with each other.

There are different ways that humans and wolves are alike, it could be something as simple as our similar tastes in food. Wolves and humans both enjoy eating sheep, cattle, deer, elk. So even on the "insignificant" things, we have some similarities with wolves. We know that wolves are very territorial creatures, but humans are also territorial, and sometimes need to claim our territory and for that, we draw lines on maps and kill thousands of animals because we feel the need to "protect" it. Wolves do the same, they defend their territory by any means possible. Humans and wolves have evolved and families, have found strength in numbers. In both families, human and wolf, members assume specific roles. Human parents are similar to alpha wolves in the way that they make decisions and control of the pack. Other members help or add to the pack's survival. As well as humans, wolves in families play, show affection, feed, discipline their young and mourn their dead.

Wolves have different personalities, like humans; some are loners, some are lovers, some are leaders. They also use facial expressions and posture to express joy, sadness, aggression, fear, dominance, and submission. And that in humans is what we call non-verbal communication. Humans tend to show how they feel physically, using body language or showing emotions. According to evolutionary biologist Mark Bekoff, in his book, 'The Emotional Lives of Animals', says that wolves "have more varied facial expressions and that they use these expressions to communicate their emotional states to others. Wolf tails are more expressive, and wolves use more tail positions than dogs or coyotes to express their emotions". We, humans, experience grief, and it is one of the times we tend to show our emotions the most. Bekoff states that the wolves use body language to express how they felt after losing a low-ranking female, while grieving wolves lose their spirit and playfulness; they do not howl together as a group. Instead, they all sing alone in a slow mournful cry; they held their heads and tails low and walk softly and slowly when they are on the place their pack mate died. These changes in behavior is similar to human behaviors after they've lost a loved one.

A group of prominent scientists considers that both humans and wolves were moral creatures, so they signed the 'Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness'. They state that scientific evidence confirms that many animals are conscious and aware in the same way humans are. And their animals act with intentions. Consciousness, awareness, and intention are keystones of morality. When Bekoff and bioethics Jessica

Pierce wrote their book "Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals" they reported that "the staggering amount of information that we have about the animal intelligence and animal emotion" is now inclining more scientists to say that animals can act with compassion, altruism, forgiveness, trust, and empathy.

To review, there is more than one way in which wolves and humans or alike. Beginning with the most basic thing like a similar taste in food, up to the deeper things which are emotions in moral. After all my research I discovered that even though I was right about two of the many similarities, I was shocked when I discover other ones. I did not know wolves had a non- verbal communication skill, and that they would mourn their losses and would even change their way of acting after that happened.