

Anthropomorphology:

13 Fancy Beasts

and Courtship Rituals from PG to XXXY

Introduction

Praelocuti

This is a user manual for the 'Anthropomopolyology' hanky. 'Anthropomopolyology' brings together an international gathering of thirteen fabulous species whose scientifically-observed romantic and sexual lives are queer as fuck. The texts are recklessly repurposed (hi St. Martins Press!) from 'Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity,' a deeply researched guide by Bruce Bagemihl Ph.D. that was chosen as one of the New York Public Library's "Books to Remember" in 1999. Get your own copy and dive into the wondrously non-heteronormative lives of hundreds of mammals and birds.

For this hanky, these particular critters of land, air and sea have crossed species lines to prove that a good party is an excellent foundation for mutual trust and solidarity, which they (and we) will need to get through this time of accelerating extinctions and climate crisis. Have fun, then get organized!

xo Zeph

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Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

In one study of Canada Geese, 18% of the males formed homosexual pair-bonds while 6-12% of the females did. Both male and female homosexual pairs occur, and the partners may be either adults or juveniles. Homosexual pair-bonds often persist for many years (as do heterosexual ones). Some lesbian pairs try to raise a family. One female in a homosexual pair built a nest and laid eggs while her partner stood guard, then the other female built her own nest. The females constantly rolled the eggs back and forth between their nests and broke all of them.

Spotted Hyena

Crocuta crocuta

The clitoris is nearly seven inches long and can be fully erected. During a homosexual encounter, one female approaches another with her clitoris erect. She may lick her partner on the back, then rise up and clasp her front paws around the other female, resting her head on the other's neck, and thrust against her. Females also perform a meeting ceremony where one or both of them lifts up her hind leg and allows the other to sniff, nuzzle, and lick her erect clitoris and 'scrotum'--sometimes for as long as half a minute--occasionally accompanied by a soft groaning or whining sound.

Pukeko or Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

Both male and female Pukeko engage in homosexual courtship and copulation with members of their communal group. 7% of all copulations are homosexual. One female approaches another and bows to her, initiating mutual preening, then they exchange ritual gifts of food. The courting bird approaches the other in a distinctive upright posture while making a nasal humming call; her partner adopts a hunched position and mounting takes place, often with full cloacal (genital) contact. Male homosexuality usually involves copulation and sometimes preening, but not courtship-feeding.

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

When the breeding female in a Red Fox group comes into heat, both male and female group members become sexually interested in her. Homosexual interactions involve the younger females--usually her daughters--running up to the vixen in heat, sniffing her genitals and mounting her. The younger females may also mount each other, all the while making staccato, rasping click sounds. Pairs of Red Fox females also sometimes share a den, rear their cubs together, bring food for each other, and suckle each other's young. Many female Red Foxes that mount other females may be exclusively same-sex oriented.

Bighorn Sheep

Ovis canadensis

Males live in what one zoologist has described as 'homosexual societies' where same-sex courtship and sexual activity occur routinely among all rams. Typically an older, higher-ranking male will court a male younger than him, using a sequence of stylized movements. Usually the mounting male has an erect penis and achieves full anal penetration. So pervasive and fundamental is same-sex courtship and sexuality in Bighorns that females mimic males in order to mate with them. There are also occasional 'female-mimicking' males in some populations. Transgendered males remain

in the sex-segregated ewe herds year-round and often adopt the crouching urination posture typical of females.

West Indian Manatee

Trichechus manatus

Male West Indian Manatees of all ages regularly engage in intense homosexual activities. In a typical encounter, two males embrace, rub their genital openings against each other, and then unsheathe or erect their penises and rub them together, often to ejaculation. Groups of up to four males have been seen kissing, embracing each other in an interlocked 'hug', thrusting, and rubbing their penises against one another. These homexual 'orgies' can last for hours, as participants leave and return.

Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Animals of the same sex frequently engage in affectionate and sexual activities with each other that have many of the elements of heterosexual courtship. Two males or two females often rub their bodies together. Females often take turns rubbing each other's clitoris using the snout, flippers, or flukes, or else actively masturbate against their partner's appendages. Males may display erect penises. One male may swim upside down underneath the other, pressing his genitals against the other and even inserting his penis into the other's genital slit. Male Bottlenose Dolphins often form lifelong pair-bonds with each other. In some cases, more than three quarters of all males live in same-sex pair-bonds.

Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

Flamingos form both male and female homosexual pairs. The bond is similar to that of a heterosexual mated pair: feeding and traveling together, calling in unison, helping each other and sleeping side by side. Once formed, homosexual pair-bondings are strong and may persist from one breeding season to the next. They often engage in parenting behavior. Male pairs incubate, hatch, and successfully raise foster chicks. Female pairs take turns incubating eggs on their nest.

Long-Eared Hedgehog

Hemiechinus auritus

Homosexual interactions in female Long-eared Hedgehogs involve a great deal of courtship and affectionate behaviors as well as direct sexual encounters, frequently consisting of oral sex. During sexual contact, females intensively lick, sniff, and nibble on each other's genitals. Sometimes, to have better access, one female will raise the

hindquarters of the other high into the air with her paws and lower jaw, lifting her partner's hind legs clear off the ground while she continues licking.

Warthog

Phacochoerus aethiopicus

Stable male-female pairs do not occur in this species. Warthog females often develop long-lasting bonds with each other, and same-sex mounting can be a part of these pairings. The two females associate together for many years and may even jointly raise their young, combining their litters and suckling each other's offspring. When one female is injured or temporarily unable to look after her young, the other female will take over parental duties.

Blackbuck

Antilope cervicapra

Only a fraction of the male population is ever involved in heterosexual activity. All Blackbuck males over three years old leave the bachelor herd temporarily to attempt mating with females. However this usually occurs only once or twice in each male's lifetime; for the remainder of his life, he interacts homosexually. Usually mounting happens during playfighting--friendly sparring matches with erotic overtones, sometimes involving three males at a time. In addition, adult males often perform courtship displays toward adolescent males (one-to-two-year-olds) prior to mounting them.

Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Female ostriches are occasionally transvestite, having full black-and-white male plumage (along with underdeveloped ovaries). Sexually mature adult males court other males in full nuptial plumage (black-and-white feathers, with a red flush on the face and legs). First, there is a dramatic Approach in which one male runs rapidly toward his chosen partner and stops abruptly just short of the other male. Then he launches into frenzied Pirouette Dancing. Finally, the male drop to the ground next to his partner and rocks steadily from side to side, fluffing out his tail and sweeping the ground with his wings in an exaggerated fashion.

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

Homosexual activity is common in Giraffes and in many cases is actually more frequent than heterosexual behavior. Males commonly mount each other with erect penises during or following bouts of necking and probably reach orgasm. Sometimes

liquid--presumably semen--can be seen streaming from the penises. Females also occasionally mount each other but they do not participate in necking.