


Can animals really sense earthquakes?

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POSSIBLE, RIGHT?



MOMENTS before an earthquake, animals sometimes behave strangely. Dogs bark, birds suddenly take flight and fish become unusually active. While animals cannot predict earthquakes, scientists think they may detect warning signs that humans miss.

One clue is P-waves, the first seismic waves released by an earthquake. These travel faster than the stronger shaking that follows and may be sensed by animals with more sensitive hearing or touch. Researchers have suggested that animals may notice changes in underground gases or even subtle electrical and magnetic disturbances caused by rocks. However, there is still no evidence that animals can reliably predict earthquakes hours or days in advance.