

## CAN AN AARDVARK BARK?

### Pages 2-3

Can an aardvark bark?

No, but it can grunt.

An aardvark grunts softly as it zigzags across African grasslands at night. When it sniffs out an ant nest or termite mound, it laps up thousands of insects with its long, sticky tongue.

### Pages 4-5

Lots of other animals grunt, too.

An oyster toadfish spends most of its time waiting quietly for prey to pass by. But when the fish feels angry or afraid, it makes a low, grunting sound that blows its cover.

Grunts. Growls. Chuckles. Chirps. River otters make all these sounds—and more. They usually grunt while they're playing or grooming.

A white-tailed deer grunts for all kinds of reasons. A low grunt means, "I'm the boss! Do what I say." A friendlier grunt means, "I'm over here. Where are you?"

Hamadryas baboons travel and sleep in large groups called bands. When two members of the same band meet, they greet one another with a series of low, soft grunts.

### Pages 6-7

Can a seal squeal?

No, but it can bark.

At mating time, a male New Zealand fur seal works hard to defend his spot on the beach. If another male gets too close, the seal rises up on his front flippers and barks at the intruder.

### **Page 8-9**

Lots of other animals bark, too.

Common barking geckos rest underground all day long. As the sun sets, they come out of their burrows and bark to let other geckos know where they are.

When a capybara senses danger, it belts out a series of rasping barks. His warning sends a clear message: “Head for the water and swim to safety!”

During spring rains, a male barking tree frog attracts a female with loud calls that sound like a small dog. Then the couple mates in a nearby body of water.

Woodchucks were named for their chuck-chuck call. But they often bark and squeal while fighting with one another.

### **Pages 10-11**

Can a wild boar roar?

Nope. But it can squeal.

When a wild boar feels safe and calm, it grunts softly. But when it feels excited or scared, it squeals loudly.

### **Pages 12-13**

What other animals squeal? Take a look.

A European hedgehog snorts when it's angry and purrs when it's happy. When the prickly critter senses danger, it squeals softly and rolls up in a tight ball.

After a male and female Albert's towhee spend time apart, they greet one another with a series of squeals that say: "I missed you. I'm so happy you're home."

From chirps and squeaks to whistles and whines, spotted dolphins use at least a dozen different sounds to stay in touch. They make squealing calls by opening and closing the blowholes on the top of their heads.

A margay has a trick for catching its dinner. It makes a high-pitched squeal pretending to be a baby pied tamarin monkey. When adult monkeys come to investigate, the hungry hunter attacks.

### **Pages 14-15**

Can a porcupine whine?

It sure can!

As a porcupine waddles along, it mumbles, murmurs, grunts, and moans softly to itself. At mating time, the male makes a sing-songy whining sound so that females can find him.

## **Page 16-17**

Can a dingo bellow?

No, but it can whine.

Dingoes bark less than pet dogs, but they often howl, growl, whimper, and whine. A dingo usually whines when it wants the attention of its family and friends.

## **Pages 18-19**

Lots of others animals whine, too.

Black bear cubs scream when they're upset and hum when they're happy. Some cubs get whiny when they see their mom. Others whine while wrestling with their brothers and sisters.

When a baby beaver feels hungry, it whines to its mama, and the message is clear: "I'm hungry. Can I have a snack?"

How does a mosquito make its annoying whine? By beating its wings. The pesky insects probably use the noise to find one another.

When two American martens meet, they huff, chuckle, pant, and growl at one another. If the smaller, weaker animal is smart, it whines and backs away.

## **Pages 20-21**

Can a giraffe laugh?

No, but it can bellow.

Giraffes are usually quiet animals. But if a youngster gets lost, it makes a long, sad bleating call. And its mom quickly answers with a loud roaring bellow.

### **Pages 22-23**

Lots of other animals bellow, too.

At dawn and dusk, male howler monkeys climb to the top of the rain forest and make long, loud bellowing calls. It's their way of staying in touch with members of their troop.

A male koala really makes a racket at mating time. His deep, growling bellow helps females find him.

As hippopotamuses lounge in African watering holes, they make low, bellowing calls above and below the water's surface. The sounds let other hippos know where they are and what they're up to.

Moose are usually quiet and calm. But when a female moose is looking for a mate, she belts out loud moaning bellows that say, "I'm over here! Come find me!"

### **Pages 24-25**

Can a kangaroo mew?

Nope. But it can laugh.

An eastern gray kangaroo may grunt, cough, or hiss depending on its mood. But when a joey spots its mom, it lets out an excited laughing sound.

### **Pages 26-27**

What other animals laugh? Take a look.

After catching prey, spotted hyenas celebrate by making high-pitched laughing calls. The sound invites other hyenas to come join the feast.

At dawn and dusk, laughing kookaburras call out to one another with a series of low chuckles and loud laughs. It's their way of saying, "Here I am. This is my home."

When rats play with one another, they make high-pitched chirping chortles to express their glee.

What happens when a papa gorilla tickles his baby? The little one squirms, swats playfully at his hand, and makes soft, rumbling giggles.

### **Pages 28-29**

Can an owl growl?

Yes, it can.

A great horned owl makes all kinds of sounds, from hooting and hissing to barking and screeching. It growls fiercely when enemies get too close to its nest.

### **Pages 30-31**

Animals use all kinds of sounds to communicate their thoughts and feelings. Just like you.

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