

Super Senses

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Sight

In this episode we'll explore the animal sense of sight, and you'll see there's a lot more to this than meets the naked eye. The human imagination is limited when it comes to animal senses. People with good vision are sometimes called "eagle eyed", but eagles can see a fish from many dozen metres away. Only you won't believe how some animals see the world....

Species: Nankeen Kestrel, Eagle Owl, Cheetah, Chameleon

2. Hearing

On this episode we travel from the desert, to the forest, Australia to Borneo and back to learn how species as diverse as Bat-eared Foxes, the Bilby, Deer, Kangaroo Rats, cicadas, Proboscis Monkeys and other creatures never miss an auditory trick.

Species: Kangaroo, Bilby, Bats

3. Touch

On this episode of Animal Super Senses, we get in touch with the feelings of wild animals. Really in touch. Because animals, just like humans, rely heavily on their sense of touch, every day in every way. There may be a fine line between pleasure and pain, but not knowing the difference between the two can be absolutely fatal.

Species: Elephant, Trapdoor Spider, Leopard, Octopus

4. Taste & Smell

On this episode of Animal Super Senses, we examine how things taste, and how vital scent is from the animal perspective. But their sense of smell will also detect the scent of odorants carried through the air. In mammals, taste receptor cells are scattered over the tongue. In other creatures, they can be located in some fairly odd places. How taste and smell receptors work underwater, well, it's a whole other world.

Species: Rattle Snake, Tapir, Salmon, Bolas Spider

5. Superhuman Senses

There are senses we share with most animals, but what about those senses that human is equipped with? Infrared light, electromagnetic waves and ultrasound, are all found within a spectrum of sensory information that just passes by ordinary humans. This episode is all about those 'super human' senses – animal sensory systems that can detect magnetic fields (magneto-reception), electric fields (electroreception) and infrared radiation.

Species: Monarch Butterflies, Turtles, Shark, Echidna

6. Sixth Sense

There's a whole world and more than one spectrum of sensations that animals are aware of, yet which just pass humans by. And yet, while it's widely known that, for example, a dog's sense of smell is dozens of times more acute than humans', or that goats have close on a 360 degree field of vision, there's a kind of "sixth sense" that some animals have which still defies explanation. Call it extra-sensory perception – animal abilities we can't entirely explain but which leave us wondering - and in awe.

Species: Frog, Dog, Blacktip Shark, Thai Elephant

7. Sense of Timing

In this episode, we examine how every animal has what could be called a sense of rhythm – the human animal included. To give an obvious example, there's our internal body clock which responds to the so-called Circadian rhythm. That's the 24 hour night and day cycle.

Species: Lizards, Cricada, Bears, Artic Ground Squirrel

8. Underwater

While all life began in the oceans, human beings now rely on technology to navigate the seven seas – left to our own devices; we're like the proverbial fish out of water. Only the other way around. Once underwater our vision becomes blurred, with light diminished, our hearing becomes muffled and distorted, and our sense of smell is rendered useless.

Species: Whale, Black Tip Shark, Coral

9. Sky

Animals that live life on the wing, have a vast expanse of sky to navigate, find mates, locate food, and avoid predators in... Living in this aerial realm requires a unique set of senses, specialized to cope with life above ground... In this episode of Super Senses, we find out more about when senses take flight... and animals become masters of the sky! The speed and precision of a bird of prey captures our attention...and leaves us awestruck. From a soaring height they scan the ground for a pigeon-sized meal.

Species: Falcon, Dragonflies, Vulture, Flying Fox, Pelicans

10. Night

In this episode of Animal Super Senses, we find out more about the animals that live in the shadows and the adaptations they need to survive... Nocturnal animals have taken to this dark world for good reason: they escape predators, avoid the heat of the day, and take their turn sharing food and resources in their 'niche'. But to navigate life in the dark, you need some special abilities to cope with the lack of light.

Species: Ring-tailed possum, Kangaroo Rat, Quoll, Tasmanian Devil

11. Earth

In this episode of Animal Super Senses, we find out more about the animals that have their feet firmly planted on or under the ground... and find out how their senses are tuned to survive. What we see above the ground is only a small part of the natural world, ...a busy, complex web of life lies just beneath our feet. Fossorial animals are well adapted to life underground. They live in burrows, tunnels, and mounds using the earth, or whatever substrate they live in, to build their homes, find their food and friends, and stay safe from enemies.

Species: Wombat, Taipan, Short-beaked Echidna, Huntsmen Spider, Brush Turkey

12. Communication

Animals use communication to attract mates, warn off predators, defend territory, or trick their prey. And of course, it's the senses that play the key role - Sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing - all are employed to send signals to others...in the hope actions speak louder than words. In this episode of Animal Super Senses, we find out more about the sensory powers used by animals to make messages loud and clear.

Species: Hippo, Baboons, Elephant Seal, Kangaroo, Koala

13. The Most Amazing Senses

In this last episode of animal Super Senses we take the grand final tour to see the greatest of all the special weapons that help some animals to govern the wilderness. In this episode we literally see it, hear it, touch it, smell it and taste it like animals do. Come and see the champions of the animal supremeness yourselves.

Species: Lion, Elephant, Kangaroo, Bear, Monarch Butterfly, Black Tip Shark, Arctic Fox, Dragonfly, Bat, Echidna