

Amazing Animals

By Gwendolyn Hooks

Animals get a lot of help as they grow up.
Let's find out about eight amazing animals.

Polar Bear

A polar bear has thick fur.
Each hair is like a tube.
The hair has no color, like glass.
The sun makes it look white.
How does thick, white fur help?
Thick fur helps polar bears stay warm.
The color of their fur looks the same as snow.
This helps them hide.
Where does this cute young polar bear like to hide?

Elephant

An elephant has a long nose.
The nose is called a trunk.
It takes many years for an elephant to grow two big teeth.
These teeth are called tusks.
How do tusks and a trunk help?
Elephants use their tusks to scrape bark off trees.
Then they eat the bark.
These elephants are learning to use their trunks to get water.
Sometimes they will spray water at a friend!

Camel

Some camels have one hump.
Some have two. All camels have two rows of eyelashes.
How do humps and thick eyelashes help?
A camel's hump has fat inside.
On long trips, a camel's body uses the fat for food.
A camel's eyelashes keep out the desert sand.
This baby camel will follow his mother when the herd goes from place to
place.

Duck

A duck is a bird. It has two feet, and each foot has three toes.
A duck has a beak, too.
How do feet and a beak help?

Ducks use their feet to swim in the water or walk on land.

They use their beaks to eat plants and bugs.

Look! This duck uses her beak to clean her friend.

Giraffe

A giraffe has spots.

A giraffe has a long neck.

How do spots and a long neck help?

A giraffe's spot help it hide.

A giraffe's long neck helps it reach the leaves of trees.

This giraffe's long neck helps her reach her baby.

She gives him a big kiss!

Porcupine

A porcupine has soft quills when it is born.

The quills get sharp in a day or two.

How do quills help?

Quills help keep a porcupine safe.

If an animal begins to come too close, the porcupine backs into it.

The sharp quills hurt!

Quills tell this cub to stay away!

Turtle

A turtle has a shell that is very hard.

How does a hard shell help?

A turtle can hide inside its shell from an animal that may hurt it.

The turtle waits until the animal goes away.

Then the turtle comes back out.

You're safe now, turtle!

Dolphin

A dolphin's tail has two parts called flukes.

A dolphin has two flippers.

How do tail flukes and flippers help?

A dolphin flips its tail flukes up and down to swim fast.

It uses its flippers to turn to the left or right.

These two dolphins swim away fast.

Who will be first? Have fun, dolphins!