

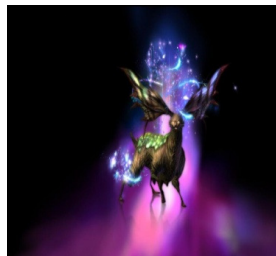
ISSUE

Do you think animals can predict the weather or other natural events? Farmers living in the countryside think so. For hundreds of years, they have observed conditions or events. For example, if swans fly into the wind, a **hurricane** is coming. Or, if cows lie down, a rainstorm is coming. There are many traditional stories connecting animals and natural events. Many people think that these stories are just **folklore**, traditional stories and beliefs without **scientific evidence**. Scientists, however, are beginning to take another look at some of these ideas.

Kiyoshi Shimamura is a Japanese earthquake researcher. He noticed an increase in dog bites a short time before earthquakes hit. Then, he did an **investigation** of twelve public health centers in Kobe, Japan. These health centers treated people after the 1995 earthquake. He noticed some interesting information about the month before the big **earthquake**. Treatment for animal bites had increased. In fact, **aggressive** behavior in dogs, such as biting and barking loudly, jumped 60 percent!. People noticed other changes in animal behavior before the earthquake as well. For example, fish began swimming together in large groups, only in the middle of the water and not near the edges. Also, birds flew away from their nests for many days, leaving their eggs **unprotected**. This animal behavior suggests that animals may be able to **predict** natural events better than people.

Vocabulary

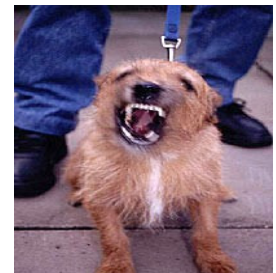
Earthquake



folklore



hurricane



Aggressive dog

## Response

1. What are some evidences pointed in the passage to justify the claim that animals can forecast?
2. What is the purpose of the author in writing the text? to entertain or to inform?
3. How could you support or negate the claims of the article?

## Express Yourself

- 1) **As a person existing in highly technological period, how will you explain the behavior of animals in connection to the weather?**
- 2) **They said there is no harm in believing. Do you think this maxim applies in this issue? Why? or Why Not?**
3. **Tell an experience which was very beneficial to you because you believe in traditional beliefs.**