

Skye McKay
Sherrod Elementary School
4th Grade, 1st Place

What if animals had feelings? How would they express those feelings? Let's look at three animals I know well, Holly, Fred and Paloma. Holly and Fred are both dogs while Paloma is a bird.

Let's start with Holly, a little miniature Schnauzer. When you walk in the door she is very excited she will start yapping and jumping around you and wagging her tail. But if you smell like a cat or are wearing a hat, she becomes angry and barks and growls because she doesn't like cats or hats. When she is sad she whimpers and cries. She gets very sad when she has to go in her kennel and she can see and hear us playing. She is sad because she wants to play too. Holly can also express when she is jealous. When we talk to Paloma, Holly will whimper, cry and scratch your leg until you notice her. The last big emotion Holly has is fear. She is scared of tennis racquets because they might hit her. She is afraid of loud noises because of her sensitive ears and hearing. You can tell she is afraid because she tucks her tail under her body. One time Cameron, my brother, held Holly under a blanket for a long time, now she becomes really mean and angry when you put her under a blanket. That's all the emotions I know for Holly, now on to Fred.

Fred is one of my Aunt Ronnie's golden retrievers. He is always happy, unless he is tired, which isn't often. Being happy all the time might be fun, but it means you'll get in trouble a lot. He crashes into people and furniture because he is always playing. I guess that's why when I play with him we stay away from the furniture. Last but not least Paloma!

Paloma as you already know is my bird, but what you don't know is she has attitude to match her beauty. Most of the time she is angry, but when I'm in the room she is happy as a smiley face. Just don't touch her cage, if you do she gets scared and starts squawking. She hates my mom or just all girls. Paloma will turn her back on my mom and sister and she will bite them when they stick their hands in her cage. Now that's attitude! Animals do have feelings, you just have to know how they express them. Maybe you should look a little more closely to see how they express them. The next time a dog barks, or a bird chirps they may be expressing their feelings.