

## Exploring Sound 14: Animal Hearing

Humans, other mammals (like dogs, cats, cows, and monkeys), and birds all pick up sound vibrations through an ear canal which links to their brains. Some animals like insects and snakes have a different method of “hearing” vibrations. Check out this video from Professor Hallux:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EowcFKQPYcl>

This video from SciShow talks about hearing in mammals that live in the sea (dolphins and whales).

Why Don't Wales Deafen Themselves? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUQCoGfG0qQ>

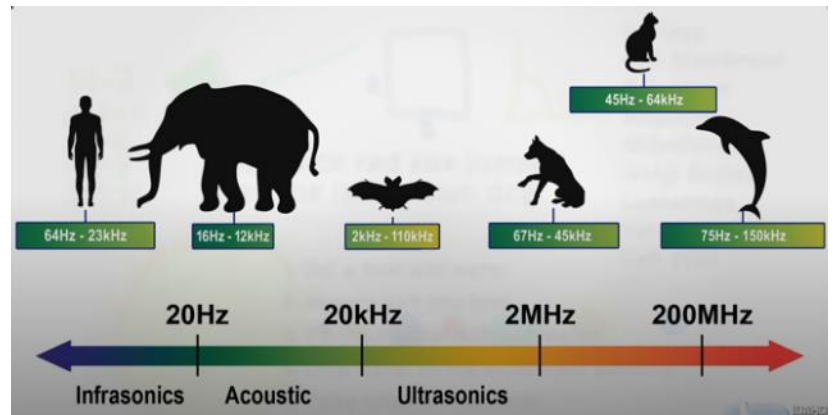
The hearing range (how low to how high) varies from animal to animal.

This picture is a still taken from the PBS video Science Trek: Hearing.

The video tells which animal has the “best” hearing (it’s not on the picture!)

Here’s the link:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/hearing-which-animal-hears-best-vnwtlx/>



Elephants can communicate over very long distances with sounds lower than those that we can hear.

This picture is from a short BBC video showing how elephants react to the sound of an approaching thunderstorm that is inaudible to humans.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQfDazQ9Rkg>

Here’s a longer video showing how elephants react to an elephant call warning of a nearby predator:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nII9yngRuac>

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Whales can also communicate over long distances with their singing.

This picture is from a TED Talk about whale songs.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/stephanie\\_sardelis\\_why\\_do\\_whales\\_sing/transcript?language=en#t-46785](https://www.ted.com/talks/stephanie_sardelis_why_do_whales_sing/transcript?language=en#t-46785)



Birds do not have an outer ear, but otherwise they hear pretty much the same way we do.

This picture was taken from this video about bird hearing, which has some amazing audio examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVUUU3f6taw>

Can you identify a bird by its song? This page from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology can give you some help: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/>

Bats may have the most amazing “hearing” of all animals since they use the echoing of sound off of objects to locate things.

This picture is from a video that shows bats using echolocation to locate water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZxLUNHEmPw>



This video from the Smithsonian Channel explains the echolocation of bats and shows what their echolocation sounds like slowed down: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJOliWvB8>