



## E-Haven Email™ from griefHaven

Where Hope Resides™

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E-Haven™  
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### Grief: As Natural As ... Well ... A Giggle

Are animals closer to humans on an emotional level than some would have us believe? The scientists, researchers, and other animal experts interviewed for the Discovery Channel's amazing documentary, *Why Dogs Smile and Chimpanzees Cry*, answered with a resounding "yes!" They made their case documenting real-life stories: dogs who were deeply depressed after being used to recover bodies following major tragedies; chimps who grieved for the rest of their lives or quickly died themselves when a family member died; a herd of elephants who wailed and cried when coming upon a watering hole where, 20 years earlier, much of their group had been slaughtered by poachers. Or even, on the other side of grief, lab rats who giggled when tickled. As I thought back on that documentary, I decided to share a few of these stories with you.

One incident of chimpanzees exhibiting grief was reported by Laura Tanglely in *U.S. News Magazine*. "In Tanzania, primatologists studying chimpanzee behavior recorded the death of Flo, a troop's



Jodi (Mommy), Alvin (Daddy), Baby

50-year-old matriarch. Throughout the following day, Flo's son, Flint, sits beside his mother's body, occasionally taking her hand and whimpering. Over the next few weeks, Flint grows increasingly listless, withdrawing from the troop and refusing food, despite his siblings' efforts to bring him back. Three weeks after Flo's death, the formerly healthy, young chimp is dead, too."

In another videotaped incident, a seal colony had recently increased its population with hundreds of baby pups. As the parent seals sat atop rocks watching their pups frolicking and diving into the surf, a great white shark appeared out of nowhere and grabbed one of the pups. Chaos ensued as the adults frantically ran everywhere trying to find their own pups, whom they recognize by their sounds. We see one father seal looking back and forth, toward the ocean and then the rocks, until he realizes it is his pup who isn't coming home. He throws his head back and forth, letting out loud, plaintive wails, over and over again.

See our special  
tribute to  
fathers  
on  
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Then, there is the sweet story about the first chimpanzee birth ever witnessed. A scientist reports, "Unexpectedly, the entire chimp colony of about 200 animals gathered in silence around the mother-to-be. She squatted and delivered the newborn into her own hands. The mother's closest companion, an elder female named Atlanta, screamed excitedly in reaction to the birth, jumping up and down, embracing two other chimpanzees, and spending the next several weeks closely attending the mother and her offspring."

Accumulating evidence suggests that animals experience grief and other emotions. Grieving over their own is as natural and irrepressible as, well, a giggle when being tickled!

Do animals have an innate emotional wisdom? Hmm . . . maybe we, too, can learn something from the natural, uninhibited grieving of our fellow species.





## *DEAR MR. HALLMARK (A Father's Day Message)*

*by Wendell and Susan Whitmore  
(adapted from the original for mothers)*

*It's me again from Heaven  
Where clearly everything is seen,  
And so it just occurred to me,  
It's nearly June fifteen.*

*I know we just discussed  
A card for Mom this year,  
And how no cards there were  
For a child like me to share.*

*And now I found no card again  
For me to reach down from above  
To thank my Dad who gave me life  
And really needs my love.*

*He's still the father I call Dad,  
No matter where my soul resides;  
He tries so hard to comfort Mom,  
And so his tears he hides.*

*I need some way to tell him  
He can be sad and cry with Mother—  
It's good for him to cry—at times,  
We all cry for each other.*

*Yes, I see Dad as he talks to me,  
To my picture in his wallet—  
You see I really need a way  
To let him know I got it!*

*Some say that Mom and Dad,  
They grieve in different ways,  
And so it looks from the outside,  
But I see through that worldly haze.*

*My Dad he cries while in the car,  
The shower washes all those tears;  
He thinks, "A better Dad I could've been  
Than I was throughout those years."*

*And so you see, dear Hallmark man,  
I need your help to let him know  
Just what a wonderful Dad he's been—  
He's given all he can bestow.*

*My dad, my friend, the one with whom  
I could walk and talk and play—  
He needs to be remembered, too,  
Like other fathers on Father's Day.*

*Please help me find that special way  
To tell him all to me he's been—  
That by his side each day I'll stay  
Until, one day, we meet again.*

*May You Have  
Peace of Heart™  
On  
Father's Day*