# Study Reveals Wider Than Thought Homosexual Behaviour in Animals



A recent study led by Karyn Anderson from the University of Toronto has revealed that homosexual behavior in animals is far more common than previously thought. Homosexual activities, ranging from mounting to genital-oral contact, have been observed in over 1,500 species, but these behaviors are significantly underreported in scientific literature. This is primarily due to a perceived rarity of such behaviors and a publishing bias against anecdotal evidence.

The study, published in PLOS One, surveyed 65 wildlife researchers. It found that while 76% of respondents had witnessed same-sex behavior in their study species, only 48% collected data on these observations, and a mere 18% published their findings. Anderson and her team attribute this discrepancy to the outdated belief that same-sex sexual behavior is rare and not evolutionarily valuable.

Historically, notable figures like French entomologist Henri Gadeau de Kerville and British explorer George Murray Levick made early records of homosexual activities in animals, such as male scarab beetles and penguins. Despite these early observations, societal and scientific biases kept such reports from being embraced widely.

The study argues that same-sex sexual behavior may have social advantages, such as bonding and reducing conflict, which challenges the "Darwinian Paradox" that questions the evolutionary benefit of non-reproductive sexual activities.

The findings indicate a gap in scientific research and documentation, urging a reevaluation of common assumptions about animal behavior. This research paves the way for a better understanding of the prevalence and implications of homosexual behavior in the animal kingdom.