



Animal Adaptations for Love

In the animal world, males often do amazing things to attract females. Many animals use their bodies to show off. Let's look at some cool examples!

The **peacock** is famous for its beautiful (1)..... The male has long, colorful feathers that it spreads out like a fan. This tail is called a "*train*." The brighter and (2)..... the tail, the more females it can attract. The male shakes his tail to get attention.

The male **bird of paradise** has long, colorful feathers on its (3)..... and tail. It dances and waves its feathers in front of the female. Its (4)..... are very graceful, almost like a performance.

Another bird with a special trick is the **bowerbird** from Australia. The male does not have colorful feathers like a peacock or a bird of paradise, but it uses its beak to collect pretty objects like blue (5)....., shells, or bottle caps. It builds a "*bower*," a little house, and decorates it. The female visits and decides if she likes the bower.

Other animals use their teeth or horns. The **stag beetle** has large, sharp jaws called *mandibles*. Males use these jaws to (6)..... other males. The winner gets the female! Similarly, the male **deer** has big antlers. It uses its strong antlers to (7)..... and fight other males.

Some fish have unique ways to show off, too. The male **betta fish**, or **Siamese fighting fish**, has long, flowing fins. It swims in circles to display its fins to the female. Its colors become (8)..... when it is trying to impress her.

Even frogs have a special way to attract females. The male **tree frog** uses its throat. It inflates its throat like a (9)..... and makes a loud croaking sound. The bigger the balloon and the louder the croak, the more females will listen.

Animals have many ways to find a mate. Whether they use (10)....., teeth, or tails, they show how creative nature can be! Which animal's adaptation do you like the most?

Word Bank

balloon, fight, bigger, find, wings, flowers, feathers, brighter, tail, movements, push