

MEERKATS BODY LANGUAGE

1. Read the following paragraph about meerkats body language.

Meerkats are curious small mammals that live in South Africa. Its scientific name is *Suricata suricatta*. They are intelligent creatures that communicate in different ways, one of them is through the use of body language which is very important to convey alert messages to the gang. By the use of body language, meerkats can survive every day.

One of their roles is the duty guard where adults take turns acting as sentinels while the other look for food without worries. The sentinel can stand upright on the highest rock with their tail in a downward posture, which means the beginning of the duty guard, which is the moment when they monitor the presence of predators such as jackals and eagles.



Also, they put their tail in an upright position when they want to fight against another mob. The tail in this position can be seen in the famous "war dance" where meerkats are angry or defending their territory. For that reason, body language can help meerkats to convey messages such as signals for survival or to indicate fighting moments.

Taken from Woburn Safari Park. <https://www.woburnsafari.co.uk/discover-your-safari/meet-the-animals/meerkat/>

2. Now, answer the questions below.

1. Which is one of the ways that meerkats can communicate their messages?

2. What are two examples of how meerkats can convey messages through the use of their tail, and which are their meanings?

3. What is the meaning of the "war dance"?
