

MORALITY STARTS AT HOME AND IN THE PACK

Hypothesis All moral animals spend considerable time in family life and are social.

Morality starts at home, caring for the mate and the young. Indeed parenthood calls for altruism. And morality is widened and strengthened by life in the pack: the lone wolf needs no morals, but the pack wolf needs them if he is to discharge his social duties.

Problem: Discharging certain duties is automatic (genetically programmed), i.e. the animal has no choice, hence no moral problem. Can one speak of morality in such cases, or only where there is recognition of duties and the possibility of not performing them? Nothing wrong with assuming that morality starts at the gene and develops with the family, the group, the whole society:

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