

## Together or alone

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Almost every animal gets in contact with its own fellows at least once in life: in the sake of procreation. It is the safest way to ensure the genetic patrimonial exchange, which is basic to the survival of the species and to evolution itself.

In order to find a partner, even the most aggressive and solitary animals are compelled to totally modify their usual behaviour, engaging themselves in all sorts of rituals to seduce their mates.

Some species, however, not only get together during the love season, but live in herds, packs, flocks and shoals all along, impelled by biological and environmental reasons.

Many examples suggest that animals "choose" to live in groups when this solution brings undeniable advantages: defence against predators, raising off spring, obtaining food and so forth. Communal as well as solitary life-styles are never due to chance. They are always the result of a well-thought out evolutionary strategy that ensures the survival of individual species.



