



# NATURE



Press Contact:

Donald Lee, WNET.ORG

212.560.3005, [LeeD@wnet.org](mailto:LeeD@wnet.org)

**THIRTEEN's *Nature* explores the evolving relationships between parents and their babies in *Born Wild: The First Days of Life*, November 1, 2009 on PBS**

*Viewers are invited to enter a baby animals photo contest at Nature Online ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)).*

From the moment of their birth, baby animals in the wild can face anything from a large social group of interested caregivers, to a potentially deadly group of relatives, to one or two devoted parents, to complete abandonment and no available help at all. Yet they all have something in common. They must learn whom to trust, what to fear, and when to act – all in the first days of life. This fall, find out how being born in the wild has evolved over time in *Nature's Born Wild: The First Days of Life* premiering Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). Mothering involves instinct, but also experience and choices, some of which can be devastatingly hard. As we observe animals interacting with their young, and wrestling with the feelings and dilemmas that come with raising a baby, we see that the parental instincts for creatures big and small mirror our own experiences. Academy Award-winning actor F. Murray Abraham narrates. *Nature Online* ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) invites viewers to enter a baby animals photo contest.

*Nature* is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

*Born Wild: The First Days of Life* looks at a wide variety of animals' unique parental strategies, from the bizarre to the familiar. Surinam toads have eggs that hatch in pockets on

their backs, pockets that protect their young until the tiny toads are big enough to leave home, looking for lunch. Sometimes, lunch is closer to home. In the case of Amourobious spiders, a mother offers herself as the ultimate sacrifice. She gives births to hundreds of cannibalistic monsters who not only devour their unborn siblings but also eat her alive. Yolk in her eggs saves a Caiman crocodile mother from a similar fate. And once her babies are hatched, she guards them, day and night, for weeks, while they forage for food. Birds also provide yolk in their eggs for sustenance, but once their young are hatched, most bird parents must work hard to feed them.

Mammals revolutionized childcare with the development of milk to feed their babies. Milk allows for young to be born at any time of year and for them to be fed and cared for longer. Long lasting bonds develop between babies and their mothers. Parenting becomes more demanding and protecting young becomes more complicated.

Sometimes, the cooperation of a group works best. Elephant matriarchs unite and rule large families of protective sisters and aunts, enabling calves to have long, safe childhoods, up to a decade long. Chimpanzees spend their long childhoods learning about themselves and their families within an extended family group that protects and defends them. But not all groups of mammals are safe havens. And sometimes the pressures of a group create the need for deadly choices – who will live and who will die often comes down to the decision of a mother with few options, none of them good.

The apparent feelings and basic parental instincts of animals in the wild resonate with our own inherent need to nurture and protect our children. ***Born Wild: The First Days of Life*** traces this unique bonds between parent and newborn in ways that remarkably reflect our own.

Visit ***Nature Online*** ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) to watch previous programs and get updates about the series. Viewers can sound off about issues explored on ***Nature***, take polls, and share animal photos with the ***Nature*** community.

***Nature*** has won more than 450 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees* and received two Emmy nominations for *Crash: A Tale of Two Species* and *White Falcon, White Wolf*.

***Nature's Born Wild: The First Days of Life*** is a co-production of THIRTEEN and BBC in association with WNET.ORG. Produced, written and edited by Mark Fletcher. ***Nature*** is produced by WNET.ORG for PBS. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for ***Nature*** is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. Additional support is provided by the nation's public television stations.

***Nature Online*** ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) is the award-winning web companion to the broadcast series and is spearheading ***Nature's*** distribution to new media platforms. At ***Nature Online***, visitors can stream full episodes of ***Nature*** programs, watch behind-the-scenes video exclusives with filmmakers and producers (also available at iTunes), view program excerpts (also available on YouTube), and find fun interactive content, teacher lesson plans, and more. Join Nature on Facebook ([Facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature)) and follow the series on Twitter ([Twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature)) to keep up with the latest videos, photos, program alerts and more.

**About WNET.ORG**

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as [Worldfocus](#), [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Wide Angle](#), [Secrets of the Dead](#), [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#), [Visions](#), [Consuelo Mack WealthTrack](#), [Wild Chronicles](#), [Miffy and Friends](#), and [Cyberchase](#) to national and international audiences. Through its wide range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information, visit [www.wnet.org](http://www.wnet.org).

###