

GREEN SCREEN

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILMFESTIVAL ECKERNFÖRDE
SEPTEMBER 04TH - 19TH 2021

Laudatio

Best Science Film

„To the heart of the social network: Neighbourhood quarrels of the Columbian ground squirrel“

A Film by: Aurélien Prudor

Production: WILD TALKS – EPHC - USIAS

Does stress and trouble within the family shorten your life? Behavioural scientists wanted to investigate that question based on social mammals and followed a group of meerkats over a longer period of time. They researched which animals were often and which rarely attacked and discovered for example that those females that were closely related protected each other from attacks. Interactions between animals were recorded through digital collars. Physical stress symptoms of meerkats were analysed in labs. This film is a detailed and vivid description of how scientists and researchers investigated the question based on social animals in situ, in labs and through latest technologies, and it entices you to come up with a subject for a thesis yourself. You very rarely find such a good depiction of the practical aspects of scientific work. And moreover, featuring such cute protagonists.

Fascinating images of meerkats and their social networks and deep insights into the work of zoologists, physiologists and behavioural scientists make this science film so well worth watching. Nothing is omitted, dramatized or curtailed and yet you are riveted by science in its pure form.

The Award for Best Science Film goes to “To the heart of the social network – neighbourhood quarrels of the Columbian ground squirrel”.