

## **The Weight of Love**

by Jocelyn Weiss

All animals are capable of love, correct? Humans- undeniably so. I know so because my chest tells me. I'm not sure if other species love like we do, but they make a compelling case. Licking each other's ears, picking leaves out of each other's fur, protecting their young, and hunting to feed their own, the list of love is arguably endless. For other species, love is primal, perhaps. I'm just not sure if other species love like we do. Place an elephant's heart on a scale; it will read 30 pounds. Remove the elephant's heart and replace it with a human's; it will read 10 ounces. Is this comparison worth questioning? Not to most- I'd assume- what an obvious comparison. I'd question it, however. I don't think it can be true because then I wouldn't make sense. I wouldn't make sense because my 10 ounce heart is unfathomably heavy. My 10 ounce heart currently holds more weight than the elephant's heart and the elephant itself, so how can it be that their hearts are heavier than ours? Wait, this is an unfair assumption for me to make. I don't know if some elephant out there has a heart that aches too loudly for the quiet he needs to sleep. I don't know if some days elephants can't lift their trunks because they're too busy keeping their hearts afloat. Maybe elephants are truly capable of "love." But until an elephant walks over to tell me directly, I simply can't believe it to be true. I think human hearts are 10 ounces to leave room for extra pounds of love and elephant's hearts get to 30 pounds because they don't have to compensate for the weight of heartache. I guess I don't think all animals are really capable of love.