



Can You Hear What I Hear?

Barn owls are sometimes called “monkey-faced owls.” They have white, heart-shaped faces and dark eyes. They don’t have ear tufts like other owls. That doesn’t mean barn owls don’t have ears. Ear tufts are just feathers. The owls’ real ears are behind their facial feathers, which help direct sound into the ears.

Barn owls’ ears are different sizes. One ear is located higher on the head than the other. Each ear can hear a different range of tones. When hunting, this helps the birds to sense the direction and distance of their prey. Barn owls can locate prey by sound alone. They can catch mice in complete darkness, even those hidden under vegetation or snow!

