In this paper, I aim to discuss von Uexküll’s influence on Cassirer’s philosophical anthropology to explain why Cassirer considers von Uexküll’s biology a source of both inspiration and friction. In short, I will show that two theses coexist in Cassirer’s thought: on the one hand, Cassirer underlines that to understand what is human we should assume that there is a qualitative shift which brings from animals to human beings; on the other, humans are living beings and biology plays an important role in determining such a switch. Finally, I will deal with the definition of consciousness and Cassirer’s use of von Uexküll’s concept of “Gegenwelt”, which he exploits to structure the relationship between “subjectivity” and “objectivity”. Also in this respect, I will suggest that Cassirer adjusts von Uexküll’s theory to strengthen his philosophical anthropology, while emphasising its biological heritage.