# It's a zonkey! Zebra gives birth to rare baby after mating with a donkey

(CNN)If you thought baby donkeys were cute, wait until you get a load of this zonkey!

A zebra at the Chyulu Hills National Park in Kenya was recently found with a peculiar-looking foal by her side. It had stripes, but they weren't dark and barely covered her body.

When caregivers at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an animal rescue and rehabilitation organization, examined the foal up close, they were excited to discover it wasn't a zebra after all -- but a zonkey, a zebra-donkey hybrid.

"Working with wildlife, one learns to expect the unexpected," the rescue group said in a news release on Wednesday. "Even the most seemingly straightforward story can eventually reveal its true stripes and end up surprising us all."

The mama zebra, which doesn't have a name, was a stray who ventured out of Kenya's Tsavo East National Park and into a community where she "made herself at home" amongst a local cattle herd, according to the rescue group.

The group, which usually takes care of baby elephants, rhinos and sometimes orphaned zebras, transferred the zebra to the Chyulu National Park.

Since zebra pregnancies last 12 months, the team was quickly able to figure out how it all happened. During her time with the cattle herd last year, she had "obviously become acquainted with an amorous donkey," the news release said.

"The zonkey combines the sturdy body of its donkey sire and the striped legs of its zebra mother, which makes for a striking creature," the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust said. "While it should otherwise lead a normal life, zonkeys are mules, meaning that it will be unable to successfully breed once it reaches maturity."

The zebra and her baby zonkey are "thriving" in their new habitat, which isn't swarmed with predators and has enough food and water to keep them happy. Until they're discovered by a zeal, or a group of wild zebras, the pair will continue to enjoy the park.

## Vocabulary

### Donkey

##### Noun,

* The domestic ass, Equus asinus.
* (since 1874) a representation of this animal as the emblem of the U.S. Democratic Party.
* A stupid, silly, or obstinate person.
* A woodworking apparatus consisting of a clamping frame and saw, used for cutting marquetry veneers.

##### Adjective

* Machinery. auxiliary

### Local

##### Adjective

* Pertaining to or characterized by place or position in space; spatial.
* Pertaining to, characteristic of, or restricted to a particular place or particular places

##### Noun

* A local train, bus, etc.
* A newspaper item of local interest.
* A local branch of a union, fraternity, etc.

##### Verb (used without object)

* Informal. to travel by or take a local train or the like.

### Mama

##### Noun

* Informal. mother1.
* Slang. a sexually attractive, usually mature woman. one's wife.

### Normal

##### Adjective

* Conforming to the standard or the common type; usual; not abnormal; regular; natural.
* Serving to establish a standard.
* Psychology. approximately average in any psychological trait, as intelligence, personality, or emotional adjustment. free from any mental disorder; sane.
* Biology, Medicine/Medical. free from any infection or other form of disease or malformation, or from experimental therapy or manipulation. of natural occurrence.

##### Noun

* The average or mean
* The standard or type.

### Predators

##### Noun

* Zoology. any organism that exists by preying upon other organisms.
* A predatory person.

### Cloze Questions

##### Fill in the blanks

-: (CNN)If you thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were cute, wait \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you get a load \_\_\_\_ this zonkey!

-: A zebra at the Chyulu Hills National Park \_\_\_\_ Kenya \_\_\_\_\_\_ recently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ foal by \_\_\_\_\_\_ side. It had stripes, \_\_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dark \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ covered \_\_\_\_\_\_ body.

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ caregivers \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, \_\_\_\_ animal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ examined the foal up close, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ excited to discover it wasn't a zebra after all -- but a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hybrid.

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ learns \_\_\_\_ expect the unexpected," the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group said in a news release on Wednesday. "Even the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story can eventually reveal \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ end \_\_\_\_ surprising us all."

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_ mama zebra, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have a name, was a stray who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of Kenya's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ National Park and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a community where she "made herself at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ herd, according to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group.

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_ group, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ usually takes care of baby elephants, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ orphaned zebras, transferred the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Chyulu \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Park.

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was quickly able to figure out how \_\_\_\_ all happened. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her time with \_\_\_\_\_\_ cattle herd \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she had "obviously become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with an amorous donkey," \_\_\_\_\_\_ news \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ said.

-: "The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ sturdy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the striped legs \_\_\_\_ its zebra mother, which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ a striking creature," the Sheldrick \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Trust said. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ otherwise lead a normal life, zonkeys are mules, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it will be unable \_\_\_\_ successfully breed once it reaches maturity."

-: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zonkey \_\_\_\_\_\_ "thriving" in their new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ swarmed with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food \_\_\_\_\_\_ water to keep them happy. Until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ discovered by a zeal, or a group \_\_\_\_ wild zebras, \_\_\_\_\_\_ pair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the park.

### Discussion Questions

1: Summarise the article in your own words

2: How do you feel after reading the article?

3: Do you agree with the article's point? Why/why not?

4: Can you come up with an argument against this article's point?

5: After reading the article, is there anything you are wondering about?

6: Does the article relate to something else you read or watched recently?