# 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

### Enjoy

##### Verb (used with object)

* To experience with joy; take pleasure in
* To have and use with satisfaction; have the benefit of
* To find or experience pleasure for (oneself)
* To undergo (an improvement)
* To have intercourse with.

### Maturity

##### Noun

* The state of being mature; ripeness
* Full development; perfected condition
* Finance. the state of being due. the time when a note or bill of exchange becomes due.

### National

##### Adjective

* Of, relating to, or maintained by a nation as an organized whole or independent political unit
* Owned, preserved, or maintained by the federal government
* Peculiar or common to the whole people of a country
* Devoted to one's own nation, its interests, etc.; patriotic

##### Noun

* A citizen or subject of a particular nation who is entitled to its protection
* Often nationals. a national competition, tournament, or the like

### Recently

##### Adjective

* Of late occurrence, appearance, or origin; lately happening, done, made, etc.
* Not long past
* Of or belonging to a time not long past.
* (initial capital letter) Geology. noting or pertaining to the present epoch, originating at the end of the glacial period, about 10,000 years ago, and forming the latter half of the Quaternary Period; Holocene.

##### Noun

* Also called Holocene. (initial capital letter) Geology. the Recent Epoch or Series.

### Usually

##### Adjective

* Habitual or customary
* Commonly met with or observed in experience; ordinary
* Commonplace; everyday

##### Noun

* Something that is usual

### Ventured

##### Noun

* An undertaking involving uncertainty as to the outcome, especially a risky or dangerous one
* A business enterprise or speculation in which something is risked in the hope of profit; a commercial or other speculation

##### Verb (used with object),

* To expose to hazard; risk:
* To take the risk of; brave the dangers of

##### Verb (used without object),

* To make or embark upon a venture; dare to enter or go
* To take a risk; dare; presume

##### Adjective

* Of or relating to an investment or investments in new businesses

### Reading Comprehension

##### Fill in the blanks

-: (CNN)If \_\_\_\_\_\_ thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ donkeys were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wait until you \_\_\_\_\_\_ a load \_\_\_\_ this zonkey!

-: A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the Chyulu Hills National Park in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was recently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ foal \_\_\_\_ her side. \_\_\_\_ had stripes, but they weren't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ covered \_\_\_\_\_\_ body.

-: When caregivers at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rescue and rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ examined the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ close, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ wasn't a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after all -- \_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a zebra-donkey hybrid.

-: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ learns to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rescue group said in a news release \_\_\_\_ Wednesday. "Even the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seemingly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story can eventually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ surprising us all."

-: The mama zebra, which doesn't have a name, was a stray who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of Kenya's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ East National \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and into a community \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ herself at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amongst a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cattle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group.

-: The group, which usually takes care \_\_\_\_ baby \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zebras, transferred the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_ Chyulu National Park.

-: Since \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 12 months, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was quickly able to figure out \_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_ happened. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ time with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last year, she had "obviously become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ amorous donkey," the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ release said.

-: "The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ combines the sturdy body \_\_\_\_ its donkey \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of its zebra mother, which makes \_\_\_\_\_\_ a striking creature," the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust said. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ otherwise lead a normal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zonkeys \_\_\_\_\_\_ mules, meaning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ unable to successfully breed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ reaches maturity."

-: The zebra and her baby zonkey are "thriving" in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ new habitat, which isn't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and has enough food and water to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happy. Until they're \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ a group \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zebras, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy the park.

What is the best summary for this article?  
  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:

According to the article, what is true?  
 1:  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:  
  
 2:  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:  
  
 3:  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:

What is NOT true?  
 1:  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:  
  
 2:  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:

In the article, who said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:

Why does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ think that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?  
 a:  
 b:  
 c:

### 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?