Information About Animals

General information about snakes

There are more than 3,000 species of snakes on the planet and they're found everywhere except in Antarctica, Iceland, Ireland, Greenland, and New Zealand. About 600 species are venomous, and only about 200—seven percent—are able to kill or significantly wound a human

Nonvenomous snakes, which range from harmless garter snakes to [the not-so-harmless python](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/facts/burmese-python), dispatch their victims by swallowing them alive or [constricting them to death](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/facts/green-anaconda). Whether they kill by striking with venom or squeezing, [nearly all snakes eat their food whole](https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/04/snakes-reptiles-animals-predators/), in sometimes astoundingly large portions.

Almost all snakes are covered in scales and as reptiles, [they’re cold blooded](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/facts/boa-constrictor) and must regulate their body temperature externally. Scales serve several purposes: They trap moisture in arid climates and reduce friction as the snake moves. There have been several species of snakes discovered that are mostly scaleless, but even those have scales on their bellies.

How snakes hunt

Snakes also have forked tongues, which they flick in different directions to smell their surroundings. That lets them know when danger—or food—is nearby.

Snakes have several other ways to detect a snack. Openings called pit holes in front of their eyes sense the heat given off by warm-blooded prey

## Habits

About once a month snakes shed their skin, a process called ecdysis that makes room for growth and gets rid of parasites. They rub against a tree branch or other object, then slither out of their skin head first, leaving it discarded inside-out.

what a snake can do?

Snakes are highly mobile creatures, able to move over sand and rocks; burrow in the soil; squeeze through cracks and crevasses in rocks; climb near vertical rock walls and the thinnest tree branches; and even swim at great speed- all without limbs!

General information about flamingo

Flamingos have slender legs, long, graceful necks, large wings, and short tails. They range from about 90 to 150 cm (3 to 5 feet) tall. Flamingos are highly gregarious birds. Flocks numbering in the hundreds may be seen in long, curving flight formations and in wading groups along the shore**.**

# Why are Flamingos Pink? And Other Flamingo Facts

There is more to a flamingo than its bright pink feathers. Get to know these delightfully unusual birds with 10 fun facts — some of which may surprise you!

### 1. Flamingo nests are made of mud.

A flamingo’s nest looks like a mini mud volcano, with room for one large egg. Flamingos are monogamous, and mom and dad are team players. Both help to build the nest and incubate the egg. Flamingo chicks hatch with white-gray, downy feathers and straight bills. It takes several years for them to acquire their signature pink color and hook-shaped bills.

The Smithsonian’s National Zoo has been home to flamingos since around its founding more than 130 years ago. Bird House keepers have worked to breed flamingos since the early ‘90s and have [**welcomed more than 120 chicks**](https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/summer-for-birds) over the years!

### 2. Flamingos get their pink color from their food.

Flamingos really are what they eat. Many plants produce natural red, yellow or orange pigments, called carotenoids. Carotenoids give carrots their orange color or turn ripe tomatoes red. They are also found in the microscopic algae that brine shrimp eat. As a flamingo dines on algae and brine shrimp, its body metabolizes the pigments — turning its feathers pink.

### 3. Flamingos are filter feeders and turn their heads “upside down” to eat.

The term filter feeder may conjure images of baleen whales or oyster reefs, but flamingos are filter feeders too. They eat algae, small seeds, tiny crustaceans (like brine shrimp), fly larvae, and other plants and animals that live in shallow waters.

When it’s time to eat, a flamingo will place its head upside down in the water with its bill pointed at its feet. It then sweeps its head side-to-side, using its tongue to pump water in and out of its bill. Comb-like plates along the edge of the bill create a filter for water to rush out, while trapping food inside.

### 4. A group of flamingos is called a flamboyance.

A group of crows is called a murder, and a group of geese is called a gaggle. So, what is a group of flamingos called? A flamboyance! Other collective nouns for flamingos include stand, colony and pat.

The [**Zoo’s historic Bird House**](https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/exhibits/bird-house-0)may be closed for renovations, but keepers continue to care for more than 60 Caribbean flamingos (also called American flamingos) behind the scenes. In the wild, flamingos sometimes gather by the thousands! Scientists estimate that there are more than 200,000 Caribbean flamingos in the wild, with populations in the Bahamas and Cuba, Mexico, and the Southern Caribbean — as well as a small group of about 400-500 in the Galápagos Islands.

### 5. There are six flamingo species.

In addition to Caribbean flamingos, there are lesser, greater, James’s (or Puna), Chilean and Andean flamingos. Greater flamingos are found in parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe. They are the largest and tallest flamingo species.

Chilean, Andean, and James’s flamingos are found only in South America. Andean flamingos are the rarest of the six species, with fewer than 40,000 birds. Lesser flamingos are found in parts of Africa and southern Asia. They are the smallest flamingos and the most abundant. There are more than 2 million lesser flamingos brightening skies and shores with their pink plumage.

### 6. Don’t let your eyes deceive you — a flamingo’s knees don’t bend backward!

Flamingo legs actually bend just like human legs. What looks like a flamingo's knee is really its ankle joint. A flamingo’s knees are located higher up the legs, hidden by the body and feathers. Confused? Think of a flamingo as standing on tiptoe. When the leg bends, it’s the ankle you see hinging.

### 7. Some flamingos live in extreme environments.

Flamingos are typically found in shallow saltwater or brackish waters (where saltwater and freshwater mix). But some flamingo species breed and raise their young in extremely salty bodies of water, called alkaline or “soda” lakes. The high concentration of carbonate salts in these lakes is so corrosive that it can burn the skin, making the water uninhabitable for most animals.

Researchers are still uncovering the unique aspects of a flamingo’s physiology — like tough leg skin — that help it survive such harsh waters. The high salt can still be deadly for some flamingo chicks if salt rings build up on their legs, making it impossible for them to walk.

### 8. Flamingo parents feed their chicks a liquid they secrete, called crop milk.

A flamingo’s “milk” is produced in its crop (part of its throat) and then brought up through its mouth. It may sound icky, but a flamingo’s crop milk is chock-full of healthy proteins and fats. Both parents can produce crop milk to feed a flamingo chick until it is old enough to eat on its own.

### 9. Yes, flamingos can fly.

You may be used to seeing flamingos gathered in large groups on the ground, but they also take flight. Some flamingos will travel to breed, migrate to a new body of water as seasons change, or move to warmer, lower-altitude areas for the winter. If flamingos are traveling long distances, they often go by night.

### 10. Flamingos can sleep standing on one leg.

Flamingos can stand on one foot for long periods of time — even long enough to fall asleep. But, why do they perform this balancing act? Research suggests that flamingos [**use more muscle power**](https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/full/10.1098/rsbl.2016.0948#sec-5) when standing on two legs, so standing on one leg may be less tiring.

Scientists also believe that a one-legged stance may help flamingos stay warm. Birds lose body heat through their limbs. By standing on one leg and tucking the other under their belly, flamingos can limit the amount of heat that escapes through their legs and feet.

General information about Deers

deer is a wild animal that belongs to the Cervidae family. It is in the order of Artiodactyla, which means mammals with even toe hooves with each one of their foot having two small and two large hooves. Deers have about 50 species such as the reindeer, red deer, elk, white-tailed deer, and moose among others.

**1. Deers’ eyes are on the side of the head.**This gives deer a wide vision angle of 310 and degrees making it almost impossible to focus on a focal point. They, however, have impressive night vision, which is essential during their feeding time and escape from predators.

**2. Deer have great hearing senses.**Deer can move their ears and make them face different directions without moving their head because of the muscles it possesses. It also picks up sound frequencies higher than humans.

**3. Great sense of smell.**Their sense of smell picks up predators from far distances. They keep their noises moist by licking them which sticks odor and improves their smelling ability.

**4. Deer walk in groups called herds, they are social animals.**They can walk in sexes or have a dominant male leader. A male herd can watch over female herds. The herd could have up to 100,000 members.

**5. Deer have special ways of communication.**They communicate through visual, vocal, and chemical means. They have a scent produced in various parts of the body that gives important information such as physique, sex, social status, and whether there is danger looming in an area.

**6. Deer practices both monogamy and polygamy.**Since the breeding season is short for most species, they also exhibit different characteristics, a male may have a territory that has one or more females, several males may come together to protect a harem (female group) or just travel to different herds looking for mates.

**7. Some antlers grow during the spring season.**In areas where the climate is temperate, deer grow antlers that are covered with velvet which is a skin covering which has nerves and blood vessels in abundance. They shed off when the antlers reach maturity, antlers are important for male deer especially during mating season as it helps the male win female deer over.

**8. Deer have a gestation period of between 180 to 240 days.**The young one of a deer is called a fawn, they can only give birth to one or two young ones at a time, and three is very rare. Larger species of deer call their young one calves. A fawn gains the ability to stand on its own within 10 minutes of being born and walks within seven hours. This is very impressive.

**9. Deer come in different color variations.**Deer are either very light brown or really dark, the young ones of a deer have spots that act as a protection mechanism against predators.

**10. Fawns do not have a detectable smell.**Predators are not able to pick up on the smell of fawns which makes it easier to hide them. Mothers stay with the fawns for a period of 1-2 years, while they are still feeding them, they hide them in safe areas and feed them up to 6 times during the day.

What is special about a deer?

Deer are the only group of animals in the world to have antlers. Antlers are the fastest growing living tissue in the world!

what kind of animal is a deer?

ruminant mammals

Deer are the ruminant mammals forming the family Cervidae. Species in the family include white-tailed deer, mule deer such as black-tailed deer, elk, moose, red deer, caribou, fallow deer, roe deer, pudú and chital

General information about monkeys

closely related to apes, monkeys are primates that have a tail and usually live in trees. In some species, the tail is longer than the rest of the body. Monkeys have a relatively large brain and they use their nimble, grasping hands for tasks such as gathering food and picking apart fruit

## Features of Monkeys

Monkeys frequently have smiles on their faces, leaving onlookers to wonder what they are up to. Like humans, monkeys have a distinct set of fingerprints of their own. This is really intriguing and provides more evidence that all primates, including ours, are closely connected to one another.

## Characteristics of Monkeys

Monkey, any one of the Old World monkeys or the New World monkeys, two subspecies of tropical anthropoid primates. The majority of species are diurnal and tropical or subtropical. The majority of species leap from tree to tree utilising all four limbs. They can stand and sit straight. Instead of swinging arm in arm like the apes, most species run along branches. Monkeys are highly social omnivores that live in groups of up to several hundred people under the leadership of an elderly male.

## Monkey Facts

* Monkey is a familiar name for a group of primate mammals.
* They live both on the ground and in the trees.
* Most monkeys have tails.
* Apes are not monkeys.
* Groups of monkeys are known as a mission, tribe, or troop.
* They have to stay away from animals like big snake, crocodiles, and leopards.

## Fun facts about Monkeys

* Just like young children, monkeys have a high IQ.
* Illnesses can be spread to people by monkeys.
* The owl monkey's more enduring moniker is the "night monkey."
* Monkeys and apes are not the same but are related.
* To interact with one another, monkeys engage in grooming rituals.
* Monkeys as pets are popular exotic animals.
* All monkeys have opposable thumbs.
* The common cold does not affect monkeys.
* what is special about monkeys?
* Monkeys are intelligent animals that are good at solving problems. Almost all types live together in groups. A monkey group commonly includes several related females, their young, and one or more males. Monkeys use facial expressions, body movements, and various noises to communicate with each other.
* how long do monkeys sleep?
* Humans sleep less than any ape, monkey or lemur that scientists have studied. Chimpanzees sleep around 9.5 hours out of every 24. Cotton-top tamarins sleep around 13. Three-striped night monkeys are technically nocturnal, though really, they're hardly ever awake — they sleep for 17 hours a day.

General information about Lions

The lion (Panthera leo) is a large cat of the genus Panthera native to Africa and India. It has a muscular, broad-chested body; short, rounded head; round ears; and a hairy tuft at the end of its tail. It is sexually dimorphic; adult male lions are larger than females and have a prominent mane.

1. NEARLY ALL WILD LIONS LIVE IN AFRICA, BUT ONE SMALL POPULATION EXISTS ELSEWHERE

In the wild, there are two formally recognised lion subspecies. The African lion (Panthera leo leo) is found in Africa, south of the Sahara desert. The Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica) exists in one small population around Gir Forest National Park in western India. Wild lions in the west and central Africa are more closely related to these Asiatic lions in India than to those found in southern and east Africa.

2. MALE LIONS CAN WEIGH 30 STONE

On average, male lions weigh 190kg (almost 30 stone) and females weigh 126kg (almost 20 stone). They need this weight and power behind them to hunt large prey and defend their pride.

3. THEY START OFF SPOTTY

Young lions have rosettes and spots on their sandy coats, but these generally disappear as they mature.

4. THE MAGNIFICENT MANES ON MALE LIONS TELL A STORY

Male lions grow impressive manes the older they get. These manes grow up to 16cm long and are a sign of dominance. The older they get, the darker their manes go. As well as attracting females, their manes may also protect their neck and head from injuries during fights.

5. LION CUBS ARE REARED TOGETHER

A pride of lions is usually made up of related females and their cubs, plus a male or small group of males who defend their pride. The lionesses rear their cubs together and cubs can suckle from any female with milk.

6. LIONS CAN GET THEIR WATER FROM PLANTS

Lions are highly adaptable and can live in very dry areas like the Kalahari Desert. Here they get most of their water from their prey and will even drink from plants such as the Tsamma melon.

7. LIONS ARE BIG EATERS

Lions can eat up to 40kg of meat in a single meal - around a quarter of their body weight. Their tongues have sharp-pointed rasps, called papillae, which are used to scrape meat off the bones.

8. THEY HUNT DURING STORMS

Lions do most of their hunting at night as their eyes have adapted to the dark and this gives them a huge advantage over their prey. They hunt more during storms as the noise and wind make it harder for prey to see and hear them.  When hunting, lionesses have specific roles. Some play the role of 'centre' and others the role of 'wing' - the wings chase the prey towards the centres.

9. LIONS ARE THE ONLY CATS WHO ROAR TOGETHER

Lions are the only known cat species where individuals roar together - with even young cubs joining in with their mews. The calling sequence usually lasts about 40 seconds. A group of lions, also called 'a pride', often roar together to mark their territory - a roar can be heard from 5 miles away.

10. THERE AREN’T AS MANY LIONS AS YOU’D THINK

There are thought to be as few as 23,000 lions left in the wild. When you think there are around 415,000 wild African elephants, you realise lion numbers are incredibly low. In fact, lions have disappeared from over 90% of their historical range.

General information about tigers

The tiger (Panthera tigris) is the largest living cat species and a member of the genus Panthera. It is most recognisable for its dark vertical stripes on orange fur with a white underside. An apex predator, it primarily preys on ungulates, such as deer and wild boar.

TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT TIGERS

1. TIGERS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR QUITE A WHILE

Tigers were around about 2 million years ago.

2. HOWEVER, THANKS TO HUMANS, TIGERS ARE NOW ENDANGERED

Over the last 150 years, the tigers' range has shrunk by nearly 95%. There are estimated to be around 3,900 tigers left in the wild.

3. CAPTIVE VS WILD

There are more tigers in captivity in the US than are left in the wild.

4. INDIA IS THE COUNTRY WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF WILD TIGERS

Around 3,000 of the world's wild tigers are in India

5. SILENT HUNTERS

Tigers have soft toe pads which help them walk silently through their habitat. A tiger will typically travel 6-12 miles during a night’s hunting. During the day, a tiger’s stripes can act as camouflage, allowing it to blend in with its surroundings for stalking and ambushing its prey.

6. ONE MAIN MEAL A WEEK

Tigers primarily hunt deer, but as opportunistic predators, they can also eat wild boars, birds, fish, rodents, amphibians, reptiles, and even insects. A large deer can provide a tiger with one week's food, but only one out of every ten hunts is successful.

7. THEY’RE PROTECTIVE OVER THEIR KILL

Tigers don't usually eat their prey at the kill site - but instead drag their prey into cover to feed. If a tiger leaves - say to get a drink - it will cover it's kill by raking leaves, dirt, grass and even rocks over the carcass.

8. CHATTY CATS

The vocal repertoire of tigers is vast - they grunt, growl, roar, moan, snarl, chuff, hiss and gasp. It's thought that each vocalisation is used to communicate different things.

9. RUMOUR HAS IT…

It's been said that tiger urine smells like buttered popcorn

10. WWF ARE WORKING TO PROTECT THE TIGER

WWF’s goal is to help secure a viable future for wild tigers, with representation across their historic range, in coexistence with Indigenous Peoples and local communities​.

General information about horses

the horse (Equus ferus caballus) is a domesticated, one-toed, hoofed mammal. It belongs to the taxonomic family Equidae and is one of two extant subspecies of Equus ferus. The horse has evolved over the past 45 to 55 million years from a small multi-toed creature, Eohippus, into the large, single-toed animal of today

# 10 fun facts about horses

Anyone who has interacted with a horse knows they are magnificent animals. Horses have been a part of our lives for thousands of years as companions, working animals and athletes in equestrian sport, to name a few. Although horses are such well-known animals, the following facts may surprise you!

## 1. Horses can’t breathe through their mouth

Horses are obligate nasal breathers. This means that they are unable to breathe through their mouth as humans can. Horses can only breathe through their nose.

## 2. Horses can sleep standing up

Horses have a “stay-apparatus” which is a system of tendons and ligaments that allows the horse to lock their legs in position so they can relax without falling over. When not sleeping, horses also use this apparatus to rest while standing for long periods of time. This allows them to conserve energy while standing so they are ready to take flight if needed. It is a myth that horses never lay down – they do spend a short amount of time each day laying down for deeper sleep. On average, horses sleep two and a half hours per day.

## 3. Horses have excellent hearing

As a prey animal, horses need to have sensitive hearing to survive. Humans have only three muscles to control their ears, whereas horses have 10! This allows horses to rotate their ears nearly 180 degrees and move them independently of one another. Being able to rotate their ears lets horses hear sounds all around them without having to turn their head.

## 4. Horses have a nearly 360-degree field of vision

This is due to the positioning of their eyes on the sides of their head. However, they have two blind spots – one directly behind them, and the other directly in-front of their head. This means that they cannot see the grass they are grazing on, or the carrot you are sticking out to them! Instead, they will move their head or use their mobile and sensitive lips, whiskers and sense of smell to know what is in-front of them.

## 5. Horses have lightning fast reflexes

As a prey animal, horses need to react quickly should a flight-or-fight situation arise. When they need to fight, horses can go from standing still to delivering a powerful kick in just 0.3 seconds, whereas human reaction time is 1.6 seconds.

## 6. Foals can walk and run within a few hours after birth

Foals are relatively mature and mobile from birth. Foals are most vulnerable to predators after birth, so they must be able to flee from danger if necessary.

## 7. Horses are highly intelligent animals

They can be taught many different tasks through positive reinforcement and clicker training, just as dogs can. One study showed that horses have the ability to communicate their needs to their guardians; these horses learned to communicate whether they wanted a blanket on or off through touching symbols on a board.

## 8. There are many colours and patterns of horses

Horses can be spotted, have patches of colour, or be one main colour with different colours on their face or legs. Each of these horse colours has a unique name. Like dogs, the breed of the horse will influence their colour.

## 9. The earliest ancestor of the horse is estimated to have lived 55 million years ago

This ancestor was only the size of a Labrador retriever! Horses were domesticated around 6000 years ago, estimated from evidence found at archaeological sites.

## 10. Horses are very social animals

Horses find safety in a herd and form strong social relationships with each other. They use their senses to recognize familiar horses and spend time with those they have formed friendships with. In the herd, one horse will stand guard to keep watch while the other horses in the herd take time to eat, rest and sleep

General information about donkeys

the domestic donkey is a hoofed mammal in the family Equidae, the same family as the horse. It derives from the African wild ass, Equus africanus, and may be classified either as a subspecies thereof, Equus africanus asinus, or as a separate species, Equus asinus.

# 10 facts about donkeys

## 1. There are more than 50 million donkeys in the world

According to the [**National Library of Science**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7906361/), Ethiopia boasts the largest donkey population, with over 8 million donkeys by 2018. The beast of burden population is dominant in Africa, where most countries use it as a pack animal and as a source of milk and meat. A few donkeys are kept for breeding or as pets in developing countries.

## 2. Donkeys have more prominent ears than horses and ponies

Donkeys evolved from hot climates where food was often scarce in their environment. So, they go separate ways to find food, and their big ears help them hear each other from far away. The donkey’s big ears have a lot of surface area, which helps move heat away from the donkey’s body and keep it cool.

## 3. Donkeys are social animals

In their natural habitat, donkeys live in herds with lifelong and deep bonds. [**Pair-bonding**](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0168159112003541?via%3Dihub) is motivated by sexual needs and kinship. The pair bonds or social relationships between donkeys depend on each party’s ability to pick their partners using cues innate to themselves. Domestic donkeys prefer to be in the company of other animals rather than being alone.

## 4. Donkeys’ vocalization is unique

The hee-haw sound that donkeys make is called a bray. Donkeys bray as a way of communicating with other donkeys, to voice their feelings of loneliness, discomfort, or distress. They also bray when hungry or warn others of impending danger. Male donkeys bray more than their female counterparts since they are more vocal. Donkeys bray loudly in deserts to maintain contact with other donkeys over vast spaces.

## 5. Donkeys can play the role of guard animals

Donkeys are territorial and aggressive towards threatening predators. [**Sheep**](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/sheep/) farmers in the United States, Canada, and [**Australia**](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/) use donkeys as guard animals. They aren’t a threat to humans.

## 6. Donkey droppings do not make excellent manure

It takes between three and four months for donkey manure to decompose.

Donkeys are browsers and graze for long hours during the day, eating almost any plant on sight. Their diet consists of high-fiber plant material. Their digestive systems efficiently metabolize their food and absorb the maximum nutrients before passing the waste.

Composting with donkey manure is essentially the same as composting with [**horse**](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/horse/) manure. As a result, their droppings have lower nitrogen levels and lots of nutrients. It also takes between three and four months for donkey manure to decompose.

## 7. KneeHi is the world’s shortest donkey

KneeHi is a registered miniature Mediterranean donkey at 24.29 inches (about 64 cm) tall, measured to the top of the withers. As certified by Guinness World Records, KneeHi is the shortest donkey. KneeHi lives at Best Friends Farm in Gainesville, [**Florida**](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/north-america/united-states/florida/), and is owned by Jim and Frankie Lee.

## 8. Donkeys exude stubbornness for a reason

Donkeys have a reputation for standing their ground.

Donkeys have a reputation for standing their ground and are not easily startled like their counterparts, horses. This natural phenomenon birthed the saying “as stubborn as a [**mule**](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/mule/).” It is worth noting, though, that this behavior is motivated by their instinctive nature to self-preserve. In the face of danger, they stay fixed in a position to assess the situation and decide their next move.

## 9. Poitou donkey is the world’s most hairy donkey

The Poitou donkey is named after the west-central region of France where the breed is native; the Poitou donkey is super hairy and relatively large. Its body is covered in up to half-foot-long hair, and it has larger feet than other donkeys. Poitou donkeys are mainly used in the breeding of mules. It is a common belief that a mule descended from a Mulassiere and a Poitou makes the best mule for work

## 10. Donkeys’ skin demand in China is for medicinal use

Donkey hides are used in China to make a traditional medicine called ejiao, also known as colla corii asini. Collagen extracted from donkey skin is mixed with herbs and other ingredients to make beauty products, pills, and other consumables believed to have healing power.

Ejiao is believed to cure premature aging, circulatory problems, and miscarriages. The heightened demand for ejiao fueled the demand for donkey hides in China. This has led to the decimation of the donkey population in China and other countries exporting the hides to China.

General information about elephants

elephants are the largest land mammals on earth and have distinctly massive bodies, large ears, and long trunks. They use their trunks to pick up objects, trumpet warnings, greet other elephants, or suck up water for drinking or bathing, among other uses

TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT ELEPHANTS

1. THEY’RE THE WORLD’S LARGEST LAND ANIMAL

The African Savanna (Bush) elephant is the world's largest land animal – with adult males, or bull elephants, standing up to 3m high and weighing up to 6,000kg on average. Males only reach their full size at 35-40 years - that’s well over half their lifespan as wild elephants can live for up to 60-70 years. And it’s not just the adults – even calves are huge! At birth, a baby elephant can weigh 120kg - that’s almost 19 stone.

2. YOU CAN TELL THE THREE SPECIES APART BY THEIR EARS

There are three species of elephant: African Savanna (Bush), African Forest and Asian. The ears of African elephants are much larger than their cousins and are described as being shaped like the African continent, whereas the ears of Asian elephants are shaped like the Indian subcontinent. There’s also a trunk difference - African elephants have two ‘fingers’ at the tip of their trunks, whereas Asian elephants have one

3. THEIR TRUNKS HAVE MAD SKILLS

Elephants have around 150,000 muscle units in their trunk. Their trunks are perhaps the most sensitive organ found in any mammal. Elephants use their trunks to suck up water to drink – it can contain up to 8 litres of water. They also use their trunks as a snorkel when swimming.

4. THEIR TUSKS ARE ACTUALLY TEETH

Elephant tusks are actually enlarged incisor teeth which first appear when elephants are around 2 years old. Tusks continue growing throughout their lives. Tusks are used to help with feeding - prising bark off trees or digging up roots - or as a defense when fighting. But these beautiful tusks often cause elephants danger. They're made from ivory; a much desired object. Read on to find out why elephants are under threat.

5. THEY’VE GOT THICK SKIN

An elephant’s skin is 2.5cm thick in most places. The folds and wrinkles in their skin can retain up to 10 times more water than flat skin does, which helps to cool them down. They keep their skin clean and protect themselves from sunburn by taking regular dust and mud baths.

6. ELEPHANTS ARE CONSTANTLY EATING

Elephants eat grasses, leaves, shrubs, fruits and roots depending on the season and their habitat. When it’s particularly dry, elephants will eat more woody parts of trees and shrubs like twigs, branches and barks. They need to eat up to 150kg of food per day – that's around 375 tins of baked beans – although half of this may leave the body undigested. Elephants eat so much that they can spend up to three-quarters of their day just eating.

7. THEY COMMUNICATE THROUGH VIBRATIONS

Elephants communicate in a variety of ways - including sounds like trumpet calls (some sounds are too low for people to hear), body language, touch and scent. They can also communicate through seismic signals - sounds that create vibrations in the ground - which they may detect through their bones.

8. A BABY ELEPHANT CAN STAND WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF BIRTH

Amazingly, elephant calves are able to stand within 20 minutes of being born and can walk within 1 hour. After two days, they can keep up with the herd. This incredible survival technique means that herds of elephants can keep migrating to find food and water to thrive.

9. AN ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS

The elephant's temporal lobe (the area of the brain associated with memory) is larger and denser than that of people - hence the saying 'elephants never forget'.

10. AROUND 90% OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT IN THE PAST CENTURY

Around 90% of African elephants have been wiped out in the past century - largely due to the ivory trade - leaving an estimated 415,000 wild elephants alive today. Asian elephants are also under threat, having declined by at least 50% in the last three generations. There are only around 48,000–52,000 individuals left in the wild. As their habitat changes, fragments and is lost to human settlements and agriculture, populations of Asian elephants are finding it harder to follow their traditional migration routes to reach water, feeding and breeding grounds, and they’re coming into often dangerous contact with people.

General information about dulphins

dolphins are small-toothed cetaceans easily recognizable by their curved mouths, which give them a permanent “smile.” There are 36 dolphin species, found in every ocean. Most dolphins are marine and live in the ocean or brackish waters along coastlines.

TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT DOLPHINS

1. DOLPHINS CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD AND IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS

There are 36 species of marine dolphins - living in nearly all aquatic environments, including oceans, coastal, estuarine and freshwater - and in temperatures ranging from less than 0°C to more than 30°C. In Britain, bottlenose dolphins are concentrated around west Wales and eastern Scotland - with the coasts of Devon and Cornwall also having pods. Scotland is home to the most northerly pod of bottlenose dolphins in the world.

2. FRESHWATER DOLPHINS

The Amazon river is home to four species of river dolphin that are found nowhere else on Earth.

3. UNDERWATER NOISE POLLUTION IS A REAL THREAT TO DOLPHINS

Marine traffic around the British Isles is amongst the most intense of anywhere in the world. Noise pollution from naval activity, the oil and gas industry, seismic surveys and underwater construction can stress and injure cetaceans. It also severely interferes with their ability to communicate, reproduce, navigate and find prey - sometimes proving fatal.

4. THEY’RE FAST SPRINTERS

Bottlenose dolphins are usually fairly slow swimmers, travelling at about 2 mph. However they can reach speeds of over 30 mph for brief periods!

5. HOW DO YOU EAT A FISH?

Probably not the same as a bottlenose dolphin, that’s for sure! They swallow a fish head first so the fish's spines don't catch in their throat.

6. THEY LIKE TO BLOW BUBBLES

When hunting dolphins produce bubbles to herd their prey to the surface. They sometimes also use a hunting technique called 'fish-whacking', where they use their tail to hit fish and so stun them - making them easier to catch.

7. DOLPHINS ARE CHATTY ANIMALS

Dolphins have some of the most elaborate acoustic abilities in the animal kingdom. They make a variety of sounds including whistles, clicks, squawks, squeaks, moans, barks, groans and yelps.

8. THEY’RE INTELLIGENT, LIKE US

Bottlenose dolphins are one of the few species, along with apes and humans, that have the ability to recognise themselves in a mirror. This is considered 'reflective' of their intelligence. Dolphins are also among the few animals that have been documented using tools. In Shark Bay in Western Australia, dolphins fit marine sponges over their beaks to protect them from sharp, harmful rocks as they forage for fish.

9. THEY CAN TURN OFF HALF OF THEIR BRAIN

Bottlenose dolphins sleep with one half of their brain at a time, and keep one eye open. It's believed they do this to keep an eye out for their group - to make sure they stick together - and to look out for predators like sharks.

10. FISHING GEAR IS A MAJOR THREAT TO DOLPHINS

Bottlenose dolphins are often killed accidentally in gillnets, driftnets, purse seines, trawls, long-lines and on hook-and-line gear used in fisheries. In UK waters, bottlenose dolphins are one of the species most threatened by bycatch. WWF and its partners are working with fisheries across the world to test and encourage the use of sustainable fishing gear. One solution is attaching acoustic alarms, or 'pingers', to fishing nets alerts cetaceans to the presence of fishing gear helping them avoid it.

General information about camels

camels are working animals especially suited to their desert habitat and are a vital means of transport for passengers and cargo. There are three surviving species of camel. The one-humped dromedary makes up 94% of the world's camel population, and the two-humped Bactrian camel makes up 6%.

what are 3 facts about camels?

Camels have three sets of eyelids and two rows of eyelashes to keep sand out of their eyes.  
...

* Mother camels carry their calves up to 14 months before giving birth.
* Some calves are born completely white and turn brown as their adult coat comes in.
* There are over 160 words for camel in Arabic alone.

what is special in camel?

One of the camel's most notable physical traits is its hump or humps. While the dromedary camel has one hump, the Bactrian camel has two humps. They store fat in these humps, which later can be used as an energy source.

### Size and Weight:

The Bactrian camel is 10 to 11.5 feet long, 5.2 to 5.9 feet tall at shoulder height, and weighs 990 to 1,100 pounds. Meanwhile, the dromedary camel is 7.2 to 11.2 feet long, 5.9 to 6.6 feet tall at the shoulder height, and weighs 880 to 1,320 pounds.

### Habitat:

Camels typically live in deserts, where it is hot and dry.

### Geography:

Bactrian camels are native to the Gobi Desert in China and the Bactrian steppes of Mongolia. Domesticated dromedary camels are found throughout desert areas in North Africa and the Middle East. A feral population of dromedary camels lives in Australia.

### Conservation Status:

The Bactrian Camel is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There are currently about 650 Bactrian camels in China and about 450 in Mongolia.

### Conservation Efforts:

The Wild Camel Protection Foundation was established in 1997, with the sole aim of protecting wild Bactrian camels. They set up a natural reserve in China for wild Bactrian camels. Their aim is to protect its habitat in the fragile and unique desert ecosystems in the Gobi and Gashun Gobi deserts in north-west China and south-west Mongolia.

General information about crocodiles

Crocodiles have powerful jaws with many conical teeth and short legs with clawed webbed toes. They share a unique body form that allows the eyes, ears, and nostrils to be above the water surface while most of the animal is hidden below. The tail is long and massive, and the skin is thick and plated.

# **Facts To know About Crocodiles**

## They Are the Largest Reptiles on Earth

Cros were around before the dinosaurs; and while they might not be as big as a T-Rex, they have lasted a lot longer.

The saltwater crocodile is the largest aquatic reptile on Earth. It can reach lengths of more than 23 feet (7m) and weights over 2,200 pounds (1,000kg).

## Crocodiles Really Do Produce Tears

Ever heard about the expression ["Crocodile tears"](https://www.newsweek.com/kyle-rittenhouse-trial-crying-crocodile-tears-1648297)? In our culture, it means showing insincere remorse and comes from the fact that crocodiles produce tears when they eat their prey. However, it doesn't mean they actually cry.

UF zoologist Kent Vliet carried out a study and found the tears in crocodiles may occur as a result of the reptiles hissing and huffing, a behavior that often accompanies feeding. Air forced through the sinuses may mix with tears in the crocodiles' lacrimal, or tear, glands emptying into the eye.

The glands produce a fluid that helps to clean the eye and lubricate the passage of the nictitating membrane across the eye's surface.

## The Oldest Crocodile Lived 140 years

The saltwater crocodile has an average lifespan of 70 years. The Nile crocodile can live up to 100 years. But over the years, some crocodiles have broken those records.

Mr. Freshie was a freshwater crocodile residing in the Australia Zoo. He lived to be 140 years old, making him the oldest known crocodile to be put in captivity. He lived long despite being shot twice in the tail and left eye, leaving him blind and badly injured, [Oldest](https://www.oldest.org/animals/crocodiles/) reports.

## They Can't Chew Food

Crocodiles' jaws can't move sideways, meaning these reptiles can't grind food down in a traditional chewing motion.

Most of them tear off chunks from their prey and then swallow them whole. It isn't difficult for them, since crocodiles have the strongest bite in the animal world.

## They Can Hold Their Breath for an Hour

Crocodiles can hold their breath underwater for at least one hour without coming up for a breath of air as they can reduce their heart rate to 2-3 beats per minute. Researchers found that the reptiles can adjust their oxygen consumption, enabling them to dive for longer.

The longest recorded time a crocodile held its breath is eight hours in cold water, as they use less energy and oxygen compared to when they are in warm water.

## They Swallow Stones to Improve Digestion

Crocodiles swallow stones to help with basic digestion, according to the Miami Science Museum. Rocks in a crocodile's stomach help crush and grate food and are particularly useful for those who eat whole prey.

The stones, known as 'gastroliths' when they settle in the reptile's stomach, can remain in the stomach for years.

## They Have Special Hearts

A crocodile's heart has four chambers with two atria and two ventricles. Unlike birds and mammals, which have a single aorta - the main artery that supplies blood to the circulatory system - crocodiles have two.

It is considered to be the most sophisticated heart in the animal world.

## It Is Illegal To Hunt Crocodiles for Their Skin

In most parts of the world, it is illegal to hunt crocodiles for their skin. Under the Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to bring into the United States many products made from the skin of alligators, crocodiles or related reptiles called caimans.

Items made from the American alligator can be brought into the country as long as they are for personal, non commercial use. The skins of most crocodile species are prohibited.

General information about Guinea pigs

guinea pig, (Cavia porcellus), a domesticated species of South American rodent belonging to the cavy family (Caviidae). It resembles other cavies in having a robust body with short limbs, large head and eyes, and short ears. The feet have hairless soles and short sharp claws.

# 12 fun facts about gorgeous guinea pigs

1. **They don’t come from Guinea.** In fact, guinea pigs originate from the Andes region of South America. The ‘guinea’ in their name is a bit of a mystery. One theory is that they were first brought to Europe by Spanish explorers in the 1500s via Guinea in Africa, so people thought they came from there, or that it could be a corruption of ‘Guiana’, an area in South America.
2. **They are not related to pigs at all**. Even though male guinea pigs are called boars and females are called sows, they are rodents. Their scientific name is ‘Cavia porcellus’, which is why they are sometimes referred to as ‘cavies’. The word ‘porcellus’ is latin for ‘little pig’. This name may have come about because of the pig-like squeaking noises they make.
3. **They don’t get on with rabbits.** It’s a popular myth that you can happily keep guinea pigs and rabbits together. Not only will rabbits bully guinea pigs, they have very different needs. Rabbits can also carry diseases which can be very harmful to guinea pigs.
4. **They like to chat to each other.** While they enjoy human affection, guinea pigs need to be with others of their own kind and should always be kept in pairs or small groups. They communicate using several noises, including the well-known ‘wheek-wheek’ call – a sign of excitement or to find a friend – and a low ‘purring’ sound, which they make when they are feeling content and chilled out. They also emit a series of short ‘putt-putt’ noises when they are exploring.
5. **They scent mark their stuff.** Guinea pigs scent mark by rubbing their chin or cheeks across things, which helps keep their home smelling familiar and reassuring. This is why it’s important to make sure that you transfer some of the old bedding back into their accommodation when cleaning. They also drag their bottoms across the ground to leave scent secretions as messages, which are only understood by other guinea pigs.
6. **They only sleep for short periods.** Although crepuscular creatures, who are most active during dusk and dawn, guinea pigs are awake for up to 20 hours of the day. This means they need constant access to food, water, companion guinea pigs, safe hiding places and toys to keep them occupied, as well as an exercise area with tubes to tunnel along, shelters to hide in and deep areas of hay to forage in and nibble on.
7. **They can break dance.** Well, not quite, but when they are excited, guinea pigs can jump straight up and down, often turning 90° in mid-air, performing a slick little move known as ‘pop corning’.
8. **They have an odd number of toes.** Guinea pigs have four toes on their front feet, but only three on their back ones. While this may be good for tunnelling and burrowing, it means they are not very agile and are very poor climbers who will only manage to scale low-pitched ramps. They are, however, very inquisitive, so make sure there are no hazards within their environment that will cause curious cavies to injure themselves.
9. **They are fast learners.** Baby guinea pigs, known as pups, are born with fur and their eyes open and are able to run when only a few hours old – something that comes in very handy for a prey species. At three weeks, babies are weaned, and they are fully mature in three months, although they will keep growing in size until they are around a year old.
10. **They need vitamin supplements.** Just like humans, guinea pigs are not able to make or store Vitamin C. Feeding good quality, grass-based guinea pig [nuggets](https://www.burgesspetcare.com/shop/guinea-pig-food/excel-adult-guinea-pig-nuggets-with-blackcurrant-oregano/), which are high in fibre and Vitamin C and rich in nutrients, is the best way to ensure they’re getting everything they need, along with a small handful of leafy greens, such as dandelion, spinach, kale and broccoli. Avoid ‘muesli’-style food as these have been shown to cause digestive problems and dental disease. Find out more [*here*](https://www.burgesspetcare.com/shop/guinea-pig-food/excel-adult-guinea-pig-nuggets-with-blackcurrant-oregano/)
11. **They need to eat lots and lots of hay**. Good quality [feeding hay](https://www.burgesspetcare.com/shop/rabbit-food/excel-feeding-hay-with-dandelion-marigold/) should be the main part of a guinea pig’s diet. As mini grazers, not only does this help their digestive system to work properly, gnawing on hay keeps their constantly-growing teeth the right length. [Gnaw sticks](https://www.burgesspetcare.com/shop/rabbit-food/excel-snacks-gnaw-sticks/) can be an additional tasty treat to help keep guinea pig gnashers in good shape.
12. **They can lead quite long lives.** With the right nutrition, suitable accommodation, company, care and kindness, guinea pigs can live for up to seven years. However, the oldest recorded guinea pig, called Snowball, lived to the ripe old age of 14 years, 10 months, earning a place in the Guinness Book of Records!

General information about fishes

all fish share two traits: they live in water and they have a backbone—they are vertebrates. Apart from these similarities, however, many of the species in this group differ markedly from one another. Fin fish like salmon have gills, are covered in scales, and reproduce by laying eggs.

# **Top 10 Facts About Fish!**

## 1. There are over 30,000 species of fish.

There are lots of fish in the sea and some haven’t even been discovered yet.

Currently there is just over 30,000 species of fish that exist!

That’s a lot of fish and if you see a big group of them together, that’s called a school!

## 2. Fish breathe through their gills.

Fish use their gills for breathing.

They are often found on the side of their bodies.

Their gills have a very important job of extracting oxygen out of the water.

## 3. Most fish don’t have eyelids.

Imagine swimming in the sea and not being able to blink.

The only fish that can blink is a shark.

## 4. Fish are cold-blooded!

Most fish are cold-blooded unlike us who are warm-blooded.

There is an exception though…

Tuna and mackerel sharks have warm blood like us.

An Opah fish also has warm blood.

## 5. Scales help fish to swim.

Scales are very useful to fish.

They are often slimy which helps them glide through water more easily.

## 6. Fish are vertebrate animals.

A vertebrate animal is an animal with a spine and bones.

However, you can find invertebrates in the sea too.

For example, a jelly fish and star fish both have no spine.

## 7. Fish are speedy!

Fish are very speedy swimmers.

Some of the fastest ones are sailfish, marlin and tuna.

A sailfish can swim up to 68 miles per hour.

A marlin can swim 50 miles per hour… and a tuna can swim up to 47 miles per hour.

## 8. Fish talk to each other!

Fish might not talk to each other like we do.

However, studies show that they do communicate!

They communicate through sound, colours and even motions.

## 9. Fish live in all sorts of waters.

You can find fish in lots of different places.

As long as it has water, of course!

They can be found in the sea, lakes, rivers, streams and ponds.

## 10. Some fish are huge!

The biggest fish on the planet is a whale shark.

It can grow up to 12 metres long and can be as heavy as 18.7 tonnes.

That’s as heavy as a double decker bus!

General information about turtles

turtle, (order Testudines), any reptile with a body encased in a bony shell, including tortoises. Although numerous animals, from invertebrates to mammals, have evolved shells, none has an architecture like that of turtles. The turtle shell has a top (carapace) and a bottom (plastron).

# 10 Tremendous Turtle Facts

Sea turtles are amazing creatures. To celebrate Sea Turtle Week, check out these tremendous turtle facts to learn something new.

### 1. **Green sea turtles are what they eat!**

Green sea turtles are unique among sea turtles in that they are primarily herbivores, eating mostly seagrasses and algae. This diet is what gives their cartilage and fat a greenish color (not their shells), which is where their name comes from.

### 2. **Sea turtles lay their eggs in a nest they dig in the sand with their rear flippers. The group of eggs is called a clutch.**

They usually lay 100-125 eggs per nest and will nest multiple times, about two weeks apart, over several months. As soon as the eggs hatch (roughly 2 months later), the hatchlings dig out of their nest. This process generally takes a few days. Once they emerge, the tiny turtles hurry to the sea and make their way offshore into the open ocean. Sea turtles face many threats, but those that survive to become adults are decades old

### 3. Sand temperature is very important.

The sex of sea turtles, like many other turtles, is determined by the temperature in the nest. Cooler incubation temperatures produce male hatchlings and warmer incubation temperatures produce female hatchlings. Temperatures that fluctuate between the two extremes will produce a mix of male and female hatchlings.

### 4. Hawksbill turtles use their beaks to help extract their favorite prey.

Hawksbill turtles are typically found on coral reefs which are home to their preferred food—sponges. The shape and sharpness of their beak enables them to reach into small holes and crevices in coral reefs to find food.

### 5. One sea turtle species nests during the day.

Most sea turtles nest at night—Kemp’s ridleys are the only sea turtles that routinely nest during the day.

### 6. Leatherback sea turtles have existed in their current form since the age of the dinosaurs!

Leatherbacks are highly migratory, some swimming more than 10,000 miles a year between nesting and foraging grounds. They are also accomplished divers with the deepest recorded dive reaching nearly 4,000 feet—deeper than most marine mammals. They have spiny “papillae” lining their mouth and esophagus—these spines help them trap and consume their main prey species, jellyfish.

### 7. Loggerheads spend the first 7 to 15 years (average 12 years) of their lives in the open ocean.

Then they migrate to nearshore coastal areas where they continue to grow and mature. Through satellite tracking, researchers have discovered that loggerheads in the Pacific have a highly migratory life stage. Hatchlings enter the ocean from nesting beaches in Japan and Australia. Some individuals undertake a trans-Pacific developmental migration across the Pacific Ocean to feeding grounds off the coast of Baja California, Mexico, Peru and Chile. That's nearly 8,000 miles!

### 8. Sea turtles don’t retract into their shells.

Unlike other turtles, sea turtles cannot retract their flippers and head into their shells. Their streamlined shells and large paddle-shaped flippers make them very agile and graceful swimmers. In the water, their rear flippers are used as rudders, for steering

### 9. Some turtles nest in large groups, called "arribadas," Spanish for "arrival." Only the two ridley turtles, Kemp’s ridley and the olive ridley, display this arribada nesting behavior.

During an "arribada," large groups of females gather offshore and come onto the beach to nest in large numbers, generally over a period of several hours. There are many theories on what triggers an arribada, including offshore winds, lunar cycles, and the release of pheromones by females. Many turtles come ashore together and many nests are laid and hatch at the same time. This reduces the numbers of eggs and hatchlings that can be killed by predators.

### 10. Sea turtles are deep divers and can stay underwater for long periods of time.

As reptiles, sea turtles breathe air, but they have the ability, under natural conditions, to [remain submerged](http://seaturtlestatus.org/learn/turtles/leatherback) for hours at a time. They even sleep underwater. Most sea turtles spend their entire life at sea, only returning to nesting beaches to lay eggs. However, in the Pacific Islands, green turtles often come ashore to bask on the beach.

General information about Mouses

 mouse (PL: mice) is a small rodent. Characteristically, mice are known to have a pointed snout, small rounded ears, a body-length scaly tail, and a high breeding rate. The best known mouse species is the common house mouse (Mus musculus). Mice are also popular as pets

# 10 Fun Facts About Mice You May Not Have Known

### 1. Their Urine Has a Fluorescent Glow

Mouse urine has a fluorescent glow that can be seen by using a black light. The next time you are suspicious that one of these pests is invading your home, break out the black light and get to work! If you find any areas that glow, consider placing a [Stay Away® Rodent](https://www.earthkind.com/product/stay-away-rodent/) pouch there. This plant-based mouse repellent works to repel mice from your home and then prevents them from coming back.

### 2. They Don’t Love Cheese

Although mice are best known for their love of cheese, this is actually more fiction than fact. They have a strong sense of smell and they aren’t attracted to many types of cheese that give off a strong odor. They much [prefer to eat grains, seeds, and even rotting fruits and vegetables](https://www.earthkind.com/blog/7-things-mice-love-most/) over cheeses.

### 3. A House Mouse Isn’t So Quiet

The cliche ‘as quiet as a mouse’ is mistaken. Although this is misleading, it should come as no surprise that the house mouse, [also known as Mus Musculus](https://www.earthkind.com/blog/pest-of-the-month-house-mouse/), is actually a pretty loud critter! This ruckus becomes an issue when they pass the time in your attic or walls, making it nearly impossible to ignore. They use their claws to dig for food sources, find water, and nesting materials. Not to mention, male mice “sing” when trying to attract a mate!

### 4. They’re Good Jumpers, Climbers & Swimmers

Mice can jump up to 18 inches in the air. This may not seem like a huge distance to you and me, but given the size of a mouse, 18 inches is an impressive leap for their little bodies. [Mice are quite the acrobats](https://www.earthkind.com/blog/can-mice-climb-exactly-can-fit-go/)as well; they are very efficient at swimming and climbing. If you suspect that your house has rodent invaders, keep your perishables sealed and put away.

### 5.  They’re Notorious Thieves

The name ‘mouse’ comes from the Sanskrit word ‘mus’, meaning ‘thief’. Ever wonder why these little pests invade your home and space?  It’s because they steal from you! They need food, water, shelter, and warmth just like the rest of us, and your home may be an easy target. They are like greedy, little trespassers, living off of you without paying their fair share!

### 6. They Can Produce Vitamin C

Mice can make their own Vitamin C. Are you asking yourself how? So am I! The ability to make Vitamin C comes from their genes; a lot of animals can produce this themselves. Humans, however, do not have this ability and must maintain our own Vitamin C intake. Studies have shown that when the genes in them are switched off, they quickly begin showing signs of heart disease.

### 7. They Have Relatively Short Lifespans

Depending on the species of mouse, their lifespans can vary. A house mouse, the common type found invading homes, can [live approximately two years](https://www.earthkind.com/blog/how-long-do-mice-live/) in ideal living conditions.

### 8. A Few Can Turn Into a Full-Blown Mouse Infestation Fast

The average female house mouse produces a litter of babies every 6-8 weeks. Each litter can contain 2-12 babies. This means they reproduce at an astonishing rate. If you’re dealing with either one of these creatures or an infestation, pest control should be your top priority.

### 9. They Sleep When They Can

Though [mice aren’t necessarily nocturnal](https://www.earthkind.com/blog/mice-sleeping-habits/), they are typically the most active at night because this is when the least amount of danger is present. They sleep in a nest and typically leave to go look for food when the sun goes down, as this is typically when fewer people and predators are present.

### 10. Mice Can Fit Through an Opening the Size of a Pencil

Mice do have bones and their bones don’t collapse, however, they can fit through a tiny opening. Their skull is the biggest part of their body, so wherever their head can fit, they can go. This includes openings that are as small as a pencil. This means sealing gaps around the house is a necessary part of pest prevention!

General information about chameleons

Chameleons mostly live in the rain forests and deserts of Africa. The color of their skin helps them blend in with their habitats. Chameleons that hang out in trees are usually green. Those that live in deserts are most often brown.

# **Top 5 Chameleon Facts**

Chameleons are one of the most interesting lizards to learn about within the reptile species. Living in today’s world from the past, the oldest findings of them are from over 60 million years ago. Below are 5 more fun facts about this creature.  
1. Chameleons always have their eyes on you.  
Chameleons’ eyes are capable of being adjusted individually, with each eye having a rotational capacity of 180 degrees. This means that they can keep one eye straight while the other looks around, or even have both rotate to get a 360-degree scope of their surroundings.  
2. Their color change is not just a survival instinct.  
Most people are under the impression that chameleons only change colors to blend in with their environment, but that’s not entirely the case, according to chameleon breeder Elan Miller.  
“A lot of people think if they put a chameleon on a color, they’ll change to it. That is false rumor. They change color with mood,” Miller stated.  
The different color tones can also help regulate the chameleon’s body temperature.  
3. Chameleons’ tongues are their secret weapon.  
A chameleon’s tongue is incredibly fast, catching prey within a fraction of a second and exceeding speeds of 41g force, according to ExoticDirect, the lead exotic pet insurer in the UK, making it nearly impossible for their next meal to escape.  
4. Chameleons cannot regrow their tail.  
Most lizards have the ability to regenerate a severed tail, but not chameleons. Their tail essentially acts like another limb and is not designed to be able to break off, so if it does they will, unfortunately, never have another.  
5. Chameleon spit is incredibly sticky.  
Like a spider using its sticky web for prey, chameleons use their spit to coat the prey they catch with their tongues and pull them inwards to their mouth. Their spitis400 times stickier than a human’s, according to ExoticDirect.  
These 5 facts are just a few of the interesting things to learn about chameleons but there is still so much more to explore about the species.

General information about dogs

 A dog is a domestic mammal of the family Canidae and the order Carnivora. Its scientific name is Canis lupus familiaris. Dogs are a subspecies of the gray wolf, and they are also related to foxes and jackals. Dogs are one of the two most ubiquitous and most popular domestic animals in the world.

# 10 amazing facts about dogs

## Their sense of smell is at least 40x better than ours

* The area of cells in the brain that detect different smells is around 40 times larger in dogs than humans. This means that your dog can pick up on way more smells than we ever could. This is why dogs are often used to sniff out people, drugs and even money!
* In fact, a number of our own hero hounds were awarded PDSA medals for their noses! Arms and explosives search dog Buster (pictured above) was awarded his PDSA Dickin Medal in 2003 for his remarkable service in Iraq – he located a large amount of weapons and explosives linked to an extremist group, saving the lives of many civilians and service personnel.

## 2. Some have such good noses they can sniff out medical problems

Yup, medical detection dogs are a thing. Because their sense of smell is so great, some dogs can be trained to sniff out medical conditions. They are used to diagnose a particular condition or to alert their owners if they need more medication. Some are even being trained to sniff out Covid-19!

## 3. Dogs can sniff at the same time as breathing

Dogs rely a lot on their sense of smell to find food, potential dangers, and friends, so needless to say they sniff a lot. Their noses are designed so smells can stay in their nose while air can move in and out of their lungs at the same time, which means they can breathe freely and still work out what that smell is!

## 4. Some dogs are incredible swimmers

So, not all dogs like water, but the ones that do tend to be pretty good swimmers (but again, not all are so always keep an eye on your dog in case they decide to take a dip out and about).

## 5. Some are fast and could even beat a cheetah!

Most dogs could easily outrun a human – they’re built to run and chase! The fastest breed of dog by far, though, is the [**Greyhound**](https://www.pdsa.org.uk/pet-help-and-advice/looking-after-your-pet/puppies-dogs/large-dogs/greyhound). These speedy sight hounds can reach a top speed of 45mph within seconds of starting to run

‘But how does this beat a cheetah?’ we hear you ask. Well, while a cheetah can get up to almost 70mph, they can only keep this going for around 30 seconds. Greyhounds, on the other hand, could easily run at speeds in excess of 35mph for seven miles. So despite the cheetah’s head start, they’d soon overtake!

## 6. Dogs don’t sweat like we do

While dogs do sweat, don’t expect them to be getting damp armpits any time soon. Where humans sweat watery liquid to cool down, dogs produce a pheromone laden oily substance that us humans can’t detect (dogs know it’s there because of that great sense of smell). The only place that dogs sweat like us is on their paws, so instead they pant to cool down. This is why it’s so important to [**keep your dog cool on those warmer days**](https://www.pdsa.org.uk/what-we-do/blog/five-tips-to-keep-pets-cool) to make it easier on them.

## 7. Your dog could be left or right-pawed

There have been a few studies around this and it turns out that just like us, dogs have a preferred hand (well, paw) to lead with. You can find out whether your dog is left or right-pawed by giving them their favourite toy or interactive game and seeing which paw they use to help them first.

## 8. Along with their noses, their hearing is super sensitive

We all know dogs can hear much higher frequencies than us, but did you know they can also hear further? Generally, dogs can hear much softer sounds than we can, so they can hear things that are much further away.

## 9. Dogs have 18 muscles controlling their ears

If you have a dog, you might notice that their ears move around a lot. They actually have around 18 muscles responsible for moving their ears. These help them to change the direction of their ears slightly to hear noises around them better, and play a really big part in telling us how our dogs are feeling. A lot of a dog’s body language is expressed through what their ears are doing so a dog’s ears are vital in helping them communicate both with us and other dogs.

## 10. Dogs are about as intelligent as a two-year-old

Studies have shown that dogs can learn over 100 words and gestures, which puts their intelligence and understanding of us on a par with a two year old. However, dogs are much easier to train than a two year old! They’re used for all sorts of jobs, from military roles to assistance dogs, because they’re both clever and extremely loyal animals.

General information about cats

Cats are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness. Cats are nearsighted, but their peripheral vision and night vision are much better than that of humans. Cats are supposed to have 18 toes (five toes on each front paw; four toes on each back paw). Cats can jump up to six times their length.

# **Top 10 Facts About Cats!**

## 1. Cats can jump up to 6 times their height.

That’s right!

Cats are really good jumpers and can jump really high.

## 2. They have a total of 18 toes.

That’s a lot of toes!

Cats have 5 toes on each of their front paws.

They then have four toes on their back paws.

## 3. There are over 500 million pet cats!

There are lots of cats across the world as they are one of the most popular pets to have.

According to PDSA, in the UK, 51% of adults own a cat!

## 4. Cats sleep for around 13 to 16 hours a day (70% of their life).

Have you ever noticed that cats are always sleeping?

They do this to save their energy.

In the wild they would be saving their energy to go and hunt for their food.

House cats obviously don’t need to do this but it just comes naturally to them.

## 5. 1 year of a cats life equals to 15 years of a humans live.

Cats age much faster than humans and live for a shorter amount of time.

This means that when a cat is 1 year old, that actually equals to 15 human years!

## 6. One of the largest domestic cat breeds is a Maine Coon.

The Maine Coon is one of the largest domestic cat breeds there is.

In fact, the Guinness World Records gave Barivel, a Maine Coon, the award for being the longest domestic cat ever!

## 7. The smallest cat breed is a Singapura.

The smallest cat breed is the Singapura.

It originates from Singapore.

They are around half the size of a normal house cat.

## 8. Purring means a cat is content.

Most of the time a cat will purr when it is happy and content.

This is mostly when it is getting a nice stroke from it’s owner.

They use their purr as a way of communication.

## 9. A cat can run up to 30mph.

Cats are very speedy.

They can run up to 30mph.

That’s about as fast as a car will travel on a typical road!

## 10. The oldest cat was 38 years old.

The oldest recorded living cat lived up to 38 years old.

He was called Creme Puff!

Most domestic cats live for around 16 – 17 years.

General information about birds

birds are a group of warm-blooded vertebrates constituting the class Aves (/ˈeɪviːz/), characterised by feathers, toothless beaked jaws, the laying of hard-shelled eggs, a high metabolic rate, a four-chambered heart, and a strong yet lightweight skeleton.

Bird Claws

Birds have different types of claws. Birds of prey such as the Osprey, Falcon and Eagle have sharp, curved claws called talons that help them catch and carry prey. Birds who cling to vertical surfaces such as tree trunks have long curved claws like the Woodpecker. Birds like Ducks, Geese and Swans have webbed feet which they use like paddles for swimming.

Bird Feathers

All birds have feathers that they use to help them fly as well as for keeping the bird warm, camouflage and mating displays. Feathers evolved from reptilian scales and these still can be seen on the lower parts of birds such as their legs and feet. Feathers need to be replaced regularly through the process of molting which occurs every 1 – 2 years. There are 4 types of bird feathers:

Contour feathers – these feathers are the largest feathers and cover the birds body closely making the bird more streamlined for flight. Contour feathers also give birds their coloring and shape and they are very important in that they give the birds their first level of defence against the sun, wind and rain.

Down feathers – these feathers help to trap warm air next to the birds body as in Penguins who live and cold regions. Down feathers are soft and fluffy and smaller in size than contour feathers. Because they provide such warmth for the birds, they have been used to fill quilts and pillows to be used by humans.

Wing feathers – these feathers help the bird to fly by giving it life through the air currents.

Tail feathers – these feathers help the bird to control their flight and to change direction.

### How do birds fly?

Most birds take off by flapping their wings to produce thrust and lift. While in flight, the flapping wings make circular and up and down movements with their wing tips pushing forwards on the up strokes. Some birds such as Geese run into the wind to generate enough lift to take off. The shape of a birds wings determines how they take off. For example, broad, rounded wings give the best lift and acceleration. Birds with long, thin wings such as a Swallow, only take off from high points, falling onto the air currents and allowing the air to carry them.

## What types of birds are there?

#### Flightless Birds

A small amount of birds species cannot fly even though they have wings. Some flightless birds run or creep around the ground in search of food, while others have adapted to the water and use their wings to swim instead of fly. The worlds largest bird is a [flightless bird](https://animalcorner.org/blog/flightless-birds/), the Ostrich who lives in Africa. The Ostrich can measure 2.5 – 2.7 metres in height and can [run as fast as a racehorse](https://animalcorner.org/blog/how-fast-can-an-ostrich-run/) reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour.

General information about rabitts

1) A baby rabbit is called a kit, a female is called a doe and a male is called a buck.

2) Rabbits are very social creatures that live in groups. They live in warrens — a series of tunnels and rooms that they dig underground.

3) A rabbit's teeth never stop growing!

Facts about rabitts

1. A single bunny is a lonely bunny

Rabbits are social creatures and are happiest in the company of their own species. The best combination is a neutered male and neutered female. They can become extremely sad and depressed if kept on their own.

2. They can live for up to 12 years

Pet rabbits can live between eight to 12 years. So it's good to think about whether you can look after them for this amount of time before getting rabbits.

3. They're masters of hearing

Most rabbits can actually turn their ears 180 degrees. This rotation can pinpoint the exact location of a sound. Wow.

4. Their eyesight isn't bad either

Rabbits have almost 360 degree vision, but they are born with their eyes shut.

5. They're closer to wild rabbits than you might think

These pets may come in domesticated colours and breeds, but their perspective on the world remains very close to that of their wild relatives. Because they're a prey species (they're hunted by other animals in the wild), life is all about survival and they are in a constant state of alert. This explains why many rabbits don’t like being picked up and may run away, hide, nip or bite if you try – your hands are not too dissimilar to the claws of a bird of predators swooping down to catch them.

6. Rabbits communicate using a secret code

Well, it’s not actually a secret code, but you could be forgiven for thinking it is because their body movements are so subtle. Rabbits clench their facial muscles and change their body position when they are feeling worried; signs you wouldn’t notice if you weren’t looking out for them. This is one of the main reasons they’re so often misunderstood and don't get the correct care.

7. Baby rabbits are called ‘kittens’

Cute. Female rabbits are called 'does' and male rabbits are called 'bucks'... in case you're wondering.

8. Rabbits and guinea pigs don’t make good pals

These small pets used to be sold as a perfect match. But experts now agree that the species should be kept apart. Both animals use different methods of communication, so they can’t understand each other and they also need different diets. Plus, rabbits can and do injure guinea pigs.

9. Rabbits are banned from some ferries

Legend has it that rabbits being transported for food chewed through the hull of a 17th century ship, causing the deaths of many sailors. To this day, you cannot bring your rabbit with you should you wish to cross the Channel on Brittany Ferries. (Not that you would want to as rabbits find travelling even on short car journeys extremely stressful.)

10. Overgrown teeth are common in rabbits

But most overgrown tooth problems are preventable. Many owners end up making multiple trips to the vet because their rabbit has developed a tooth or associated mouth problem, like abscesses. But the vast majority of rabbit tooth troubles can be prevented simply by feeding them the right diet, although some are genetic.

Rabbits need a constant supply of hay or fresh grass to nibble on – in fact, 90 per cent of their daily diet should be made up of the stuff. An endless supply of hay and grass is essential if they're to maintain digestive and dental health.