

Weird members of the animal kingdom

The Zoological Society of London published a list of the world's weirdest animals, including a black purple frog that lives 12 feet underground. But as a new website shows, there are plenty of other bizarre facts about the animal world...

* Dolphins sleep with one half of the brain at a time, and one eye closed.

* A dolphin's hearing is so acute that it can hear an underwater sound from 15 miles away.



* A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out, because it is attached to the bottom of its mouth. This is why they appear to gulp their food down.

* Certain Chinese and American alligators can survive the winter by freezing their heads in ice, leaving their noses out to breathe, for months on end.



* A cat uses its whiskers to determine if a space is too small to squeeze through. The whiskers act as feelers or antennae, helping the animal to judge the precise width of any passage.

* Many hamsters blink only one eye at a time.

* Penguins can jump as high as six feet in the air.

* A snail can sleep for three years if conditions are adverse (such as during a drought).

* Slugs have four noses - well, actually a pair of gills for breathing and a pair of rhinopores (chemosensory organs) used for smelling.



* If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground, it can't hop - it uses the tail for balance.

* Dalmatians are the only breed of dog that gets gout or inflammation of the joints because they are the only mammals, other than humans, that produce uric acid.



* Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.

* Camel milk does not curdle, because it has adapted to the desert heat.

* Polar bears are the only mammals with hair on the soles of their feet. It helps them to get a good grip on icy surfaces, and also acts as a heat insulator.

* Polar bears can swim 60 miles without posing for a rest.

* A full-grown bear can run as fast as a horse.



* You can hypnotise a frog by placing it on its back and gently stroking its stomach.

* The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot.

* The last animal in the dictionary is the Zyzzyva, a tropical weevil.

* The leg bones of a bat are so thin that they cannot walk.

* Great white sharks can go as long as three months without eating.



* Bees have five eyes - three small ones on top of their heads and two larger ones in front.

* A bee must visit 4,000 flowers to make one tablespoon of honey.

* Honeybees have hairs on their eyes to help them collect pollen.

* For every person, there are roughly 200 million insects.



* When two dogs approach each other, the dog which wags its tail very slowly - showing anger - is in charge.

* The left leg of a chicken is more tender than the right one, which it uses most, therefore increasing muscle development.

* The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

* The average laying hen produces 257 eggs a year.



* Goldfish lose their colour if kept in dim light. Much like humans getting a tan, they need sunlight to keep their pigment.

* Albatrosses have a wingspan of up to 14 feet and need to land only once a couple of years to breed. They can travel hundreds of thousands of miles each flight.

* A flamingo can eat only when its head is upside down. Its tongue pumps water through the sieve-like ridges that line its beak to trap microscopic algae.

* Goats' eyes have rectangular pupils, which enable them to watch over their broad, flat grazing area for predators.

* Kiwi birds are blind and hunt by smell.

* Giraffes have no vocal cords and communicate by vibrating the air around their necks.

* A female oyster may produce over 100 million young over her lifetime.



* No two zebras have the same markings.

* About 600 species of plants are carnivorous. Most eat insects, but also on the menu are frogs, birds and even small monkeys.

* Butterflies taste with their hind feet.

* Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.

* Elephants have been found swimming miles from shore in the Indian Ocean.

* Elephants are the only mammals that cannot jump.

* More human deaths have been attributed to fleas than all the wars ever fought. As carriers of the bubonic plague, fleas were responsible for killing one third of the population of Europe in the 14th century.

* Female fleas drink 15 times their weight in blood every day. * Mosquitoes are attracted to the colour blue twice as much as to any other colour.

* By swallowing water, the puffer fish becomes too big for other fish to swallow.

* A dragonfly can spot an insect moving 33 feet away.

Courtesy: Daily Mail

