

ANIMAL NEWS

FELINE LONELY

A NEW study has shown that cats, like dogs, can feel sad when we leave them at home alone.

Several studies have been carried out on dogs, confirming that some have problems if they are separated from their owners. It has always been assumed that cats were not bothered about being on their own, so very little research has been done to see whether

it is true.

Although the study carried out in Brazil was small, it showed that 13.5% of cats behaved in a way that suggested they were distressed, such as crying, scratching, being aggressive or weeing in the house.



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The scientists who set up the research say the results show more work is needed so we have a better understanding of how cats behave.

THE SMELL OF LOVE

SCIENTISTS have discovered that male ring-tailed lemurs like to smell nice to attract females.

A study by Kazushige Touhara, professor and biochemist at the University of Tokyo, found that the males release a fruity-smelling perfume from glands on their wrists when they want to impress a female. They rub their tails against the gland, before waving their tail around so that females can

smell their "perfume". The behaviour is known as "stink flirting".

Ring-tailed lemurs are known for using different smells to communicate with each other. They use scent for marking their territory and to show where each animal ranks in their social group. Scientists now plan to further investigate



Chigusa Tanaka, Japan Monkey Centre

the smells that the lemurs use to attract females, and how successful it makes them when it comes to securing a mate.

The full report is published in the nature journal *Current Biology*.

FLAMINGO FRIENDS

FLAMINGOS are friendly and loyal birds, research has shown. Exeter University studied four flamingo flocks for four years. They found that, despite being in giant flocks of up to two million, flamingos form small friendship groups, teaming up to help with feeding and nesting.



SIPHONO-WHAT?!

THIS bit of string floating in water could actually be the longest animal ever recorded! It's called a siphonophore, a long stringy, stinky creature related to jellyfish. Biologists from the Western Australian Museum spotted it and, although not officially measured, it is believed to be around 50m long, which would make it three times as long as a humpback whale!



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JUST LION AROUND

LIONS in the Kruger National Park in South Africa are taking over tourist areas. A pride that is not usually seen by tourists has moved out of their normal range in the empty park. The lack of visitors due to border and flight restrictions has given the animals the chance to explore further afield and even have a lie down on the warm, traffic-free roads.



ANCIENT AMPHIBIANS

SCIENTISTS from the Swedish Museum of Natural History have uncovered the oldest known remains of modern amphibians in Antarctica. The 40-million-year-old fossils are the remains of helmeted frogs, a species still found in South American rainforests. They say the discovery is further proof that Antarctica was once home to a massive rainforest, similar to the ones in South America today.



ANIMAL NEWS



1. Match the animal to the news story it features in and to the place where the news story originated.

ANIMAL	HEADLINE	LOCATION
Lion		
Pet cats		
	The smell of love	
Helmeted frogs		
		Exeter, UK
	Siphono-what?!	Australia

2. Quick statistics quiz. Which creature...

- 2a. is around 50m long?
- 2b. lives in groups of up to two million?
- 2c. lived 40 million years ago?

3. Look at the story 'Siphono-what?!'

- 3a. What three **adjectives** does the journalist use to describe the siphonophore?
- 3b. How does the journalist use two other creatures to help the reader picture the unusual siphonophore?

ANIMAL	REASON FOR COMPARISON

4. Look at the story 'Flamingo friends'.

Why do the flamingos form friendship groups?

5. Look at the story 'Ancient amphibians'.

What do scientists think the Antarctic was like 40 million years ago, when the helmeted frog would have been alive?

6. Look at the story 'Feline lonely'.

When scientists were studying the cats, what behaviour did they observe that suggests some cats left on their own get distressed and lonely?

7. Look at the story 'The smell of love'.

- 7a. Explain "stink flirting".
- 7b. How else do ring-tailed lemurs use scent?

8. Look at the story 'Just lion around'.

Why are the lions venturing out of their normal range in the park?

9. Identify the **headline techniques** used by the journalist.

- Flamingo friends:
- Ancient amphibians:
- Feline lonely:
- Just lion around:

10. Which of these six news stories would you like to investigate further?

Headline: _____

What questions would you like to ask to find out more about this story?

- Q1
- Q2
- Q3