



CAT ISLAND

Aoshima in Ehime Prefecture, Japan, is the *purr*-fect destination for cat-lovers. The little island – only one mile (1.6 km) long – is home to just a handful of people but an entire colony of cats!



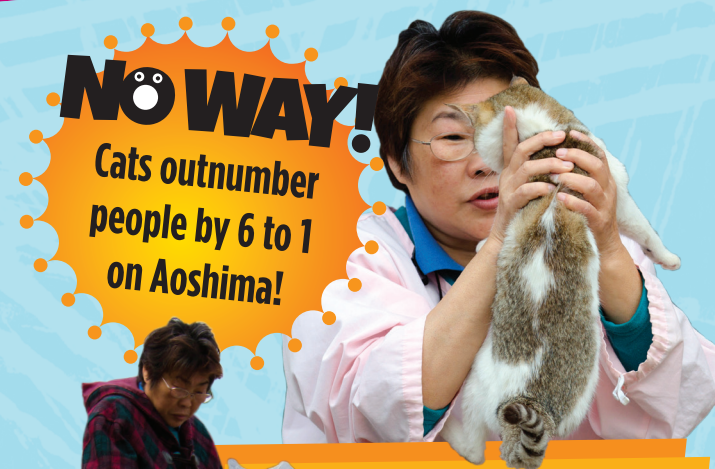
As soon as visitors step off the ferry, they're greeted by a whiskered welcoming party. The cats often patrol Aoshima's harbour, on the off-chance of receiving a free lunch. Most of the cats are semi-tame and know exactly how to catch the attention of tourists – many of whom venture to this island solely to see them.



So why are there so many cats on Aoshima? A few felines were originally introduced to hunt mice on the islanders' fishing boats. However, many of the pets became feral as more and more residents left the island (there were 900 people in 1945 and only about 20 today). With fewer owners to keep the cat community in check, the population was left to its own devices and boomed.

NO WAY!
Cats outnumber people by 6 to 1 on Aoshima!

The public are discouraged from feeding the cats. But there are set areas where islanders do offer food. One of the few people to live on Aoshima is Atsuko Ogata, the village nurse. Here, she dishes out biscuits to a hungry horde at one of the designated "feeding stations", while above she gives one cat a check-up.



Christmas Island: Once a year, around 50 million red crabs on Australia's Christmas Island embark on a mass migration from the forest to the shore to breed. They travel in regimented columns, generally following the same routes annually.

Pig Island: The uninhabited isle of Big Major Cay in The Bahamas is famed for its beach-dwelling pigs. The feral swine love nothing more than to take a dip to cool down in the Caribbean heat.



Aoshima is the most famous "cat island", but it's not unique. In fact, there are more than 10 dotted around Japanese waters, including Enoshima in Kanagawa Prefecture and Genkaishima in Fukuoka Prefecture. They are all former fishing colonies that have declined, leaving the moggy populations to soar!

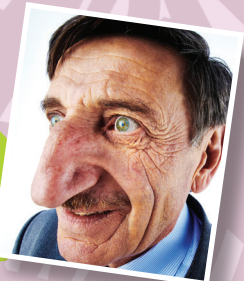


Rabbit Island: If cats aren't for you, Japan also offers Okunoshima in Hiroshima Prefecture. Although no one's certain how the bunnies first arrived, the current population is in the hundreds. They are now one of the island's biggest attractions.



SUPER SNOOTS

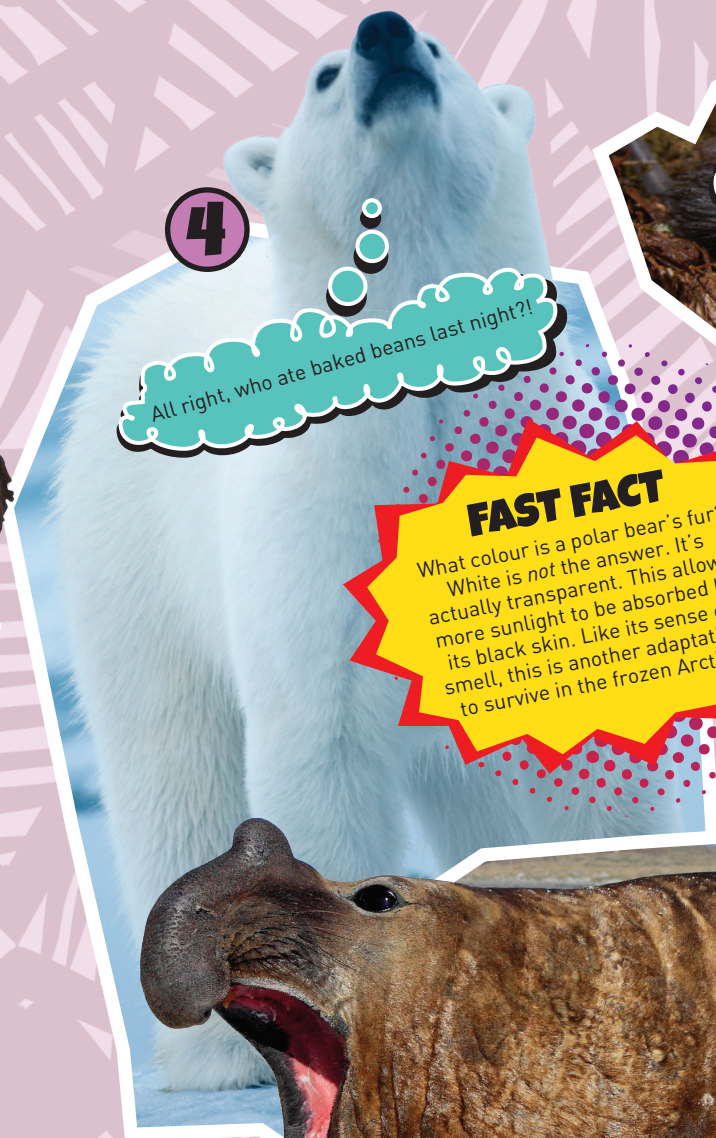
The longest human nose belongs to Mehmet Özyürek (right) from Turkey, measuring 8.8 cm (3.4 in). But in the battle of the snouts, these creatures blow away all the competition!



Be sure to check out the proboscis monkey in our chimera on pp.28–31!



An elephant's trunk contains some 150,000 muscle "fascicles" (bundles of muscle fibre).

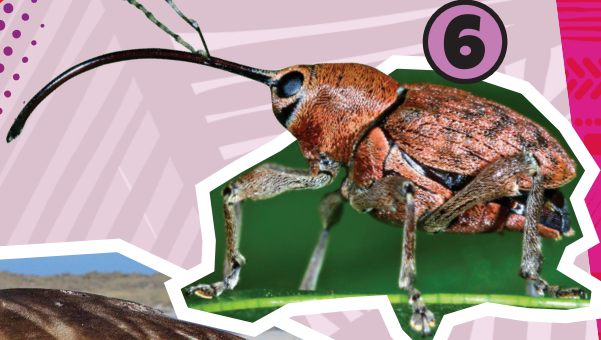


All right, who ate baked beans last night?!

FAST FACT
What colour is a polar bear's fur? White is not the answer. It's actually transparent. This allows more sunlight to be absorbed by its black skin. Like its sense of smell, this is another adaptation to survive in the frozen Arctic.



Whoever smelt it dealt it!



Elephant seals can hold their breath underwater for two hours!

DATA FILE

COMMON NAME: Southern elephant seal

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Mirounga leonina*

TYPE: Mammal

LOCATION: Argentina, subantarctic islands, Antarctica

LENGTH: 5 m (16 ft 4 in)

LOL
WHAT DID ONE EYE SAY TO THE OTHER?
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, SOMETHING SMELLS...

1 The **longest primate nose** belongs to the proboscis monkey from Borneo. Its appendage can reach 17.5 cm (6.8 in), most commonly in elderly male monkeys. As well as making their honking calls louder, it also turns red to indicate agitation or excitement.

2 The world's **largest land mammal** can certainly blow its own trumpet. It boasts the **heaviest nose**, weighing up to 200 kg (440 lb 14 oz). An African elephant's trunk is the **most muscular nose**, too; beyond smelling, it's also used as a tool for eating and lifting objects.

3 Noses don't come much weirder than this... The 22 mini tentacles at the end of the star-nosed mole's snout are packed with nerve endings. This makes it six times more sensitive than a human hand. In fact, it's the **most sensitive animal organ**.

4 When you live in the vast, barren wilderness of the Arctic Circle, it pays to be able to pinpoint your next meal from afar. Polar bears can sniff out prey such as seals over 30 km (18 mi) away! Among land mammals, this bear has the **most powerful sense of smell**.

5 Weighing 700 g (1 lb 8 oz), the grey-faced sengi from Tanzania is the **largest elephant shrew**. Its long nose isn't the only thing it shares with its namesake. Scientifically speaking, sengis are more closely related to elephants than they are to true shrews!

6 This cute bug is an acorn weevil, commonly found living on oak trees. At the end of what looks like its snout – but is actually something called a "rostrum" – is its mouth! It's a feature shared by all weevils, whose 60,000-plus species make up the **largest animal family**.

7 The 3,500-kg (7,720-lb) southern elephant seal is not just the **largest pinniped** but also the **largest member of the carnivore family**. When staking a claim to mates or territory, the male inflates its trunk-like proboscis to amplify its roar and scare off rivals.



GETTING TO KNOW... JIFF



"Jiffpom" takes the weight off his paws and reveals what it's like to be the planet's most popular Pomeranian

Above: Jiff demonstrates his fancy footwork as well as his ability to pull off some strong knitwear

"Hi, everyone! It's Jiff here. People are always *hounding* me on Facebook and Instagram to find out what it's like to be one of the world's most famous dogs, so I thought: why not give the readers of *Pawple* a snapshot of my life?"
"I'd like to start by saying, I love my job!"

I get to appear on primetime TV, hang out with celebrities and share my favourite snaps with fans online. By the way, it was a great honour to be voted social media's Best Animal at the 2016 Shorty Awards. I was sure Doug the Pug would get it! "But, you know, my life isn't all galas and taking selfies with the stars. I spend a lot of time backstage – and some places don't even provide

TELEVISION



Hanging out with the presenters on *Good Morning America* in 2014

MUSIC VIDEOS



I had to act like I was scared of her, but Katy Perry was lovely to work with on "Dark Horse"

FILM PREMIERES



Getting my vampire on at the opening night of *Hotel Transylvania 2* with Alli Simpson in 2015

BOOKS



I first appeared in the 2015 edition of *Guinness World Records*

Fastest 10 m on hind legs by a dog

Jiff the Pomeranian covered 10 m (32 ft) in 6.58 sec at TOPS in Grayslake, IL. The plucky Pomeranian, can also cover 5 m in a record 7.76 sec – the fastest 5 m on front legs by a dog.

AWARDS



Rocking a bow-tie with Griffin Gluck at the 2016 Kids' Choice Awards



As the most followed dog on Instagram, it was an honour to accept my 2016 Shorty Award with PrankvsPrank's Jeana Smith and Jesse Wellens

Getting the VIP (very important *paw*-son) treatment at 2015's NYX FACE Awards



TOP 10 BIZARRE BUDDIES



1 TORTOISE & HIPPO

Mzee the tortoise and Owen the hippopotamus met after the young hippo was traumatically washed out to sea during the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Thankfully, he was rescued from a reef and taken to Haller Park wildlife sanctuary in Mombasa, Kenya.

Here, he formed a bond with 130-year-old Mzee, the resident Aldabra tortoise. As well as eating together and snuggling up to sleep, they loved nothing better than to share a mud bath! Now Owen is fully grown, the pair have been separated for safety, but they will remain bizarre buddies for life.

2 CAT & MOUSE

If Tom and Jerry have taught us one thing, it's that cats and mice do *not* mix! But Auan and Jeena from Thailand seem to have ironed out their differences. The peculiar pair have been working wonders for cat-mouse relations; as well as playing and eating together, Auan protects his small companion from larger animals such as dogs.



3 DOLPHIN & DOG

After losing her mate in 2007, Duggie the dolphin found a four-legged friend in Ben the Labrador, who lived in a seaside hotel on Tory Island, off the coast of Ireland. On spotting his flippered fan, Ben would leap off the pier into the sea, where the two would splash and play for hours.

4 BABOON & BUSHBABY

Keepers at Nairobi Animal Orphanage in Kenya were very surprised to see two residents become the best of friends. On arriving at the sanctuary in 2011, a young bushbaby called Gakii was quickly adopted by a female yellow baboon – as if he were her own infant. The primate pals spent virtually all their time together, even sharing meals.



5 TIGER & DOG

Proving that dogs *can* get along with cats – even really big ones – are Suria the Siberian tiger and Jenny the German shepherd (below). The pair are very close, having grown up together at a sanctuary in Slovakia. In 2015, their friendship passed down to the next generation when their kids met (above).



6 MONKEY & CAT

Fate brought together Piek the macaque and Pom the cat, who met at a temple near Bangkok in Thailand. The unlikely duo spent most of their time hanging out, with Piek often grooming Pom's fur for bugs. Monkeys are considered sacred in Thailand, so temples offer a refuge where they are left in peace and are often given free food by the monks.



9 DEER & DOG

In 2015, a real-life Bambi who was found abandoned in a field in Germany at just one week old was rescued by farmers. Knowing that he wouldn't survive on his own, a local family adopted the deer and named him Hansi. The fortunate fawn was an immediate hit with the family's 12-week-old Australian shepherd puppy, Lia; the two have since become the *deer*-est of friends.



LOL
WHAT IS A HORSE'S
FAVOURITE US STATE?
NEIGH-BRASKA!

7 HORSE & CAT

You won't catch Dakota the horse with a long face when his pal Sappy is nearby. The pair have had a "bromance" ever since Sappy was a kitten. Their owner – Denice Kinney from Illinois, USA – says that Sappy lies on the horse's back and sometimes even runs behind when she and Dakota go out riding.



10 FOX & HOUND

Dogs and foxes are famous enemies, but Juniper and Moose clearly weren't told about past hostilities. Their adorable friendship has played out on social media, where Juniper is the **most followed fox on Instagram**. Juniper's adoptive owners are convinced that she now sees herself as more of a dog than a fox!

