

Some Interesting Facts.....!!!!

Cats always land on their feet

While cats have been known to fall 20 storeys without any ill effect, a safe trip is by no means a given, and experts claim few cats can survive a fall of more than 60 fts. They do, however, have a 'righting reflex' governed by a complex organ in their inner ear, which allows them to twist and spread out like a parachute as they plummet. Even if they do land upright, they can sustain severe injuries from impact.

The Cats Protection League says fractured jaws and pelvises are the most common high-dive breakages. One feisty feline did, however, survive a 46 storeys fall after bouncing off a happily placed canopy and into a plant pot.

Cats can't swim

Given that they evolved from the barren desert climates of Eurasia, it's little surprise that cats are not instinctive water lovers. However, studies have shown that those exposed to water from kittenhood soon grow to love a good soaking.

Others need no training. Abyssinian cats like water so much, they've been known to join their owners in the showers; Turkish angoras and Manxes adore a dip; and the Bengali Mach-Bagral, known as the swimming cat, catches fish with its extra long hooked claws in the rivers of Burma, Nepal and southern China.

Bats are blind

Despite the saying 'as blind as a bat' most bats can see perfectly well. In fact, some have excellent vision, which they use for navigation and hunting. The myth arose from the discovery that many species, such as cave-dwelling and nocturnal bats, use echolocation – natural sonar – to 'feel' their way through the air and 'spot' prey and predators. But bats use their sight over long distances, where echolocation does not work effectively.

Sharks never sleep

The great white, mako, basking and blue sharks belong to a family, which have to keep moving to stay alive. But thanks to the central pattern generator – an organ that governs swimming and allows them to swim unconsciously – this doesn't mean they're not sleeping. According to Richard Pierce, Chairman of the Shark Trust, other species such as the nurse shark, zebra shark, cat shark and skates and rays have special spiracles to pump oxygenated water across their gills, allowing them to breathe while stationary.

Elephants have long memories

Numerous studies have confirmed that elephants do have an extraordinary ability to remember individual animals.

In 2001, a team led by Dr. Karen McComb of Sussex University found that the success of an elephant family, measured in terms of the number of calves born, depended on the age of the senior females.

Those with several old, experienced matriarchs spend more time reproducing because these females are able to listen for familiar and unfamiliar calls from nearby herds.

An extraordinary memory for several generations 'local' elephants mean these matriarchs aged 55 or over, can spot possible aggressive animals (usually lone males) before they can cause any trouble and then instruct their fellows to huddle together for protection until danger has passed.

Ostriches bury their heads in the sand

Though remarkable in many ways – it is the largest and heaviest living bird, with a kick that can kill a lion and top running speed of 43 mph – the ostrich's talents do not extend to burying its head in the sand. These myths arose because, when sensing danger, it flops to the ground and presses its neck flat along with ground. Because both are lightly coloured and blend in with the sandy soil, it can appear from a distance as though the bird has buried its head.