

ANIMAL NEWS

LONDON ZOO ANIMAL COUNT

EVERY year, London Zoo counts all the animals it looks after and the count for 2024 has just been completed.

From penguins and camels to axolotls and flamingos, about 14,000 animals from 300 different species were counted in total.

Some animals were easier to count than others! Thankfully, the ants were counted in colonies instead of individually, and the 74 Humboldt penguins were counted while they ate breakfast, when they weren't moving around as much as usual.

This year, the zoo's two playful Sumatran tiger cubs, Crispin and Zac, were spotted turning the tally board into

their new chew toy!

Dan Simmonds, the zoo's operations manager, said: "The annual count takes quite a few days, and the zookeepers are very busy. This formal process of looking at every single animal does take some time. The information is incredibly important. It all gets shared on to an international database and zoos from around the world are able to use that information."

The information that's collected is especially useful for conservation, as it's a way to keep track of the numbers of endangered species in zoos all around the world.



A London Zoo keeper counting Galápagos tortoises



Capuchin monkeys only grow to about 55cm high

Monkey escapes to find love

A CHEEKY monkey named Charlie has escaped from a sanctuary in Ireland... and it's thought he's in search of a mate!

The capuchin monkey lived on an island at Rathdrum Monkey Sanctuary. However, when the sanctuary's owner Willie Heffernan tried to relocate him, Charlie jumped off the boat and ran away.

Heffernan has urged locals to keep an eye out for Charlie, who he says is likely to be looking for a mate, warning that the monkey is shy around humans and likely to run or bite if he is approached.

Questions on: 'London Zoo animal count'

Look at the story 'London Zoo Animal Count'.

1) Match up the two halves of each sentence.

The ants...

...were counted in total.

The Humboldt penguins...

...were counted in colonies.

14,000 animals and 300 species...

...were spotted chewing on the tally board.

Two Sumatran tiger cubs called Crispin and Zac...

...were counted while they ate breakfast.

2a) Why are some animals more difficult to count than others?

2b) Which animals do you think would be the easiest to count and which would be the most difficult?

3) Which of these is not a point that's made by Dan Simmonds?

- The animal count keeps zookeepers busy
- The information is not that important
- Zoos around the world can use the information

4) Explain why it's important to keep track of the numbers of endangered species.

Look at the story 'Monkey escapes to find love'.

5) Think of an adjective that could replace the word 'cheeky' to describe Charlie.

6) Fill in the details on the 'Missing' poster. (You will need to look at the story, the photo and the photo caption.)

MISSING!

Name:

Type of animal:

Fur colour:

Height: around

7) Which of these is Charlie likely to do if he is approached by a human (choose TWO)?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> run | <input type="checkbox"/> blow a raspberry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jump | <input type="checkbox"/> bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blow a kiss | <input type="checkbox"/> cuddle |

Look at both stories.

8) For what reasons are some animals kept in zoos and sanctuaries? Do you think it's right or wrong to keep animals in captivity? Explain your reasons.