



## Animals Run Free during Lockdown across World



### What is bio-logging?

- Bio-loggers are small devices attached to animals either directly, under the skin or using a collar or harness.
- They record information about the animal, such as heart rate or location. Sometimes, they can even take photos or videos.

People recently spent more time at home to help during the coronavirus lockdown. This has had an interesting effect on local animals and has allowed some to be tracked by scientists.

With fewer humans around, animals have been investigating the quieter **urban** habitats.

Goats were caught strolling into the Welsh town of Llandudno. They scampered over walls and fences and even nibbled the flowers in people's gardens.

Goats also gave the people a surprise in San Jose, USA. They were seen trotting along the roads and also eating people's garden plants!

Zach Roelands filmed the goats and posted the video online. He wrote on social media, "This is the craziest thing to happen all quarantine".

In Japan, deer have been exploring the city of Nara looking for a bite to eat too. Wild boar have been recorded boldly roaming the city streets of Barcelona, Spain.

In Thailand and in Florida, USA, they have seen an increase in leatherback turtles nests. In fact, in Thailand, there's been a record number of baby leatherback turtles hatching. In both places, they think this is due to fewer tourists.

In Adelaide, Australia, an **audacious** kangaroo hopped along the main roads.

Some scientists have decided that now is a good time to examine the impact we have

Photo: A goat on a bench.

on nature. A group called the International Bio-Logging Society plans to track as many animals as it can during this period.

To do this, they will use **data** collected from small gadgets called 'bio-logging' devices. These are attached to animals and can help track their movements and behaviours.

The scientists want to compare the data from lockdown with that from other years and see what changes they can spot.

They hope that the information will help us to learn how we can better **coexist** with the animal world.

### Glossary

**urban** A built-up area of a town or city.

**audacious** Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.

**data** Measurements or facts that are recorded.

**coexist** Exist at the same time or in the same place.

# Questions

1. Tick whether the statement is true or false.

	True	False
Wild boar have been roaming around Nara, Japan.		
Goats have been exploring Barcelona, Spain.		
Record numbers of baby leatherback turtles have hatched in Thailand.		
Record numbers of baby leatherback turtles have hatched in Australia.		

2. 'Goats were caught strolling into the Welsh town of Llandudno.' Which word is closest in meaning to 'strolled' as it is used in this sentence?

- ran
- walked
- skipped
- flew

3. Which of the following **would not make** a suitable alternate headline?

- Animals Out and About during Lockdown
- Lockdown Effects on Wildlife
- Scientists Investigate the Changes to Animals in Lockdown
- Street Parties for Lockdown Animals

4. Using evidence from the text, what might the scientists spot when they compare the movements and behaviour of animals during lockdown with those from other years?

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5. Tick **three** animals mentioned in the article which have been exploring city centres.

- kangaroos
- turtles
- deer
- wild boar

6. Summarise the key information from the story in 15 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Tick whether the statement is true or false.

	True	False
Wild boar have been roaming around Nara, Japan.		✓
Goats have been exploring Barcelona, Spain.		✓
Record numbers of baby leatherback turtles have hatched in Thailand.	✓	
Record numbers of baby leatherback turtles have hatched in Australia.		✓

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4. Using evidence from the text, what might the scientists spot when they compare the movements and behaviour of animals during lockdown with those from other years?  
**Accept an answer which references the movements and behaviour of animals mentioned in the story, e.g. I think they will see that some animals have spent more time in towns and cities than normal.**

5. Tick **three** animals mentioned in the article which have been exploring city centres.

- kangaroos**
- turtles
- deer**
- wild boar**

6. Summarise the key information from the story in 15 words or fewer.

**Accept any sensible summary which includes the key information from the article in 15 words or fewer, e.g. Animals have been exploring cities during the lockdown and scientists are studying them.**