

10 Amazing Facts About Animal Mating



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You probably found out about the birds and the bees analogy, but this is far more interesting and unusual than those stories. You might be surprised to find out some of the following mating facts and oddities concerning members of the wild kingdom. These practices of animals are almost as varied as our own. Here are the most amazing facts and records in the wilderness when it comes to mating:

10. Indian cobras have one of the toughest battles to wage. They fight, fling at each other, the male trying to place its body next to the female's. Furthermore, for an hour they even strike at each other. The battle is won after the female puts its head on the ground, to sign submission, time for the male to bring one of his 2 penises into contact with her reproductive organ. This can take anywhere from 2 minutes to 24 hours.



9. The phrase "Don't let the bedbugs bite!" get a whole different meaning when it comes to mating. The bug make bug pierces a hole in the female's back to place his sperm. The eggs are rapidly fertilized and the embryos which are born alive.

8. Even though they are one of the largest animals on earth, elephants are one of the gentlest creatures when it comes to mating. At an interval or 3 to 6 months, elephants start looking for a mate. Once this has been found, the round of flirting begins, the male offering the female food or squirts of water. After a month or so, the female eventually gives in and the actual mating can begin.



7. Bisexuality is not that uncommon in the animal kingdom. However, this piece of information beats the first one. A male wrasse (or the Cleaner fish) dominates a group of females but after sometime leaves them. In a group of 6-8 cleaner wrasses there is but one male, the rest are females or juveniles. Out of the remaining females, the most dominant will change sex within a few hours.

6. Scientists have come across creatures that have both male and female reproductive organs. But a class of crustacean, Tanaids, has three sexes. Furthermore, a single-celled organism called *Paramecium amelia* is the record holder for the most number, having eight different sexes. Bisexuality may double the chances of finding a partner but with octosexuality you are bound to find one.

5. Talking about painful rituals, many animals bite each other during mating. A breed of fly scientifically called *Seromyia femorata* takes a position that resembles kissing and, at the end, the female fly drains out the body content of the male through the mouth. Similarly, the praying mantis begins to devour the male's head during mating. No worries, he can finish the copulation without it.



4. Another record holder on this subject is the tapeworm. This species has the most sexual organs of any living being, each segment of its body containing a complete set of sexual organs, both male and female. Each segment mates with itself and grows eggs, the worm copulating with itself. The largest tapeworm discovered was over 70 meters in length (230 ft.), had over 11,000 segments or over 22,000 individual sexual organs.



3. The male tick has a big disadvantage but found its way to get around. Lacking a penis, the tick uses his nose to sniff out the females vagina. Once he has enough room, he turns around and deposits his semen. And, to top it off, he then turns around and uses his nose again to push it inside.

2. If you thought "going at it like rabbits" was a lot to handle, think again. The rabbits don't come close to the capabilities of the desert rat. The desert rat can have sex up to 120 times an hour.

1. Perhaps the most amazing fact about animal mating is the size of the sex parts. The record for the largest testes in the animal kingdom is the northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), with a pair that can reach up to 2,200 lbs. Whales also hold the record for having the largest penis in the animal kingdom, up to 10 feet long, with a diameter of up to one foot.



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Class: No. Name:

Comprehension Check

Matching the factors

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| ____ 1. Serromyia femorata | A. Having the most sexual organs of any living being. |
| ____ 2. Eubalaena glacialis | B. Praying mantis begins to eat the male's head during mating. |
| ____ 3. Indian cobras | C. Using his nose to sniff out the females vagina |
| ____ 4. the mail tick | D. Having three sexes. |
| ____ 5. Tanais | E. Having the largest testes in the animal kingdom |
| ____ 6. the male Cleaner fish | F. Making bug pierces a hole in the female's back to place his sperm |
| ____ 7. the male bedbugs | G. beginning the round of flirting once founding a mate, the male offering the female food or squirts of water |
| ____ 8. the male bedbugs | H. Fighting, flinging at each other, the male trying to place its body next to the female's |
| ____ 9. the tapeworm | I. Dominating a group of females and being able to change sex within a few hours |
| ____ 10. elephants | J. Making bug pierces a hole in the female's back to place his sperm |