

PHOTOFEATURE

Unveiling the Truth: Debunking Common Animal Myths and Misconceptions

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FROM ancient folklore to modern-day urban legends, myths and misconceptions about animals have pervaded human culture for centuries. While some of these stories may seem harmless or entertaining, they often distort our understanding of the natural world. Let's explore some of the most prevalent animal myths and misconceptions, separating fact from fiction.

Bats are Blind: this is one of the most persistent misconceptions regarding bats. The majority of bat species have excellent vision, and many of them use echolocation to navigate prey in the dark. While some species have relatively poor eyesight, attributing blindness to all bats is a gross oversimplification.



The Colour Red Provokes Bulls: in contrast to what is commonly believed, red does not irritate bulls. The red cape of the matador is mostly used for dramatic effect in bullfighting, but the cape's movement — not its colour — elicits the bull's reaction. Bulls are colour-blind to red; they react to the motion of the cape, not its hue.

Ostriches Bury their Heads in the Sand: ostriches do not bury their heads in the sand. They may flatten their necks against the ground and lie flat on the ground when they perceive danger, although this is a protective position rather than an attempt to cover their heads.



Goldfish have a Three-second Memory: contrary to popular belief, goldfish have been demonstrated to have considerably superior memory capacities. Their ability to identify their owners, find their way through mazes, and recall feeding regimens suggests that they have far longer memories than three seconds.