

TATTOOED FISH

Tattooed goldfish are sold at a pet market in Changchun, China, for around \$12 each. Laser-inscribed decorations on the fish include flowery patterns and the Chinese characters for sentiments such as "wealth," "longevity" and "happiness." Personalized messages are also available.

HAPPINESS

WEALTH

KEYCHAIN CREATURES

Live fish, tiny tortoises and young giant salamanders, all sealed in plastic pouches, are sold as keychains at a roadside stall in Beijing, China. The vendor says that a special liquid inside the pouches provides all the necessary oxygen and nutrients for the creatures.

SHAGGY DOG STORY

Norman, a shaggy Briard dog owned by the Cobb family of Canton, Georgia, has been riding a scooter since he was a puppy. He balances on the scooter unaided with his front paws resting over the handlebars while he pushes himself along using his hind leg. Videos of his tricks have been a massive hit on YouTube, and he even has his own Facebook page.

ODDSCAN

HIDDEN MENACE People swam about in a public pool in Darwin, Australia, unaware that a 20-in (50-cm) baby saltwater crocodile was lurking in the deep end. The reptile, which was thought to be a rubber toy until it tried to bite a handler, was rescued and released back into the wild.

REINDEER REFLECTIONS In an attempt to reduce the number of car crashes that kill around 500 reindeer each year in Norway, 2,000 of the animals were fitted with reflective yellow collars or small antler tags, making them more visible in the dark.

FISHY TALE Two goldfish survived 134 days without food or electricity to power their tank filter following the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. Shaggy and Daphne—named after Scooby Doo characters—spent over four months left unattended in an accountants' reception area, but pulled through by eating algae growing on the side of the tank.

DRUNKEN OWL A brown owl was spotted sitting by the side of a busy road in Pforzheim, Germany, seemingly oblivious to passing traffic. The feathery friend did not appear to be injured, but one of its eyelids was drooping noticeably. Looking around, police found two empty bottles of Schnapps nearby and realized that in fact the bird was drunk. So the police took the owl into custody and gave it plenty of water until it sobered up.

COPYCAT SQUIRREL Jim Watkins of Carthage, Mississippi, rescued a stranded baby squirrel that his pet cat and her kittens then adopted. The squirrel soon learned how to purr for affection like a cat.

ALBINO ACTORS Showbiz manager Tom Beser has set up the world's first acting agency for albino animals. From his base in Rheinfelden, Germany, he leases his collection of albino creatures—including lizards, minks and a raccoon—to moviemakers for films and TV commercials.

CRACKING CROWS Crows in Japan have been seen placing walnuts on roads, waiting for cars to drive over them to crack open the shells, and then flying back to feast on the nuts' contents.

ANCIENT TORTOISE Jonathan, a giant tortoise on the South Atlantic island of St. Helena, is at least 178 years old. His life has spanned eight British monarchs and 37 U.S. Presidents, yet he still has the energy to mate with three younger females. The St. Helena five-pence coin has a picture of Jonathan on its reverse.

MIMICKING MOM A keeper at China's Wuhan Zoo has to wear a black-and-white-striped T-shirt every day to persuade a newborn, orphaned zebra that he is its mother. Chen Nong realized that whenever he wore black and white the baby zebra became excited, and soon it would take milk from him only if he wore that zebra-like shirt.

