

Sparkly Poo to the Rescue!

Water voles in Wales, UK, are in trouble. These small, furry animals used to live near rivers all over south Wales but now there are hardly any left. The Wildlife Trust says they are nearly extinct in most places. A team from the Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC) is trying something new – using edible glitter to help save them! The glitter is the same that is used to decorate cakes, and it is safe for animals and the environment. The glitter is mixed with food and when the voles eat it, their droppings (poo) sparkle! This helps scientists track the voles so they can protect them. Rob Parry, the chief executive of the INCC, said his team



Pictured: A water vole eating a plant.
Source: Canva.

spoke to vets first to make sure it wouldn't harm the water voles. 'It's something we've done before to help other animals, like badgers,' said Mr Parry. 'We used special pellets with peanuts, which badgers love. So, we took that idea and made it smaller for water voles – using glitter!'

Water vole poo is very small – about the size of a pea or a little bean!

Duck and Slide – a Friendship that Glides!

A little girl in Hubei, China, made a very special friend – a tiny, yellow, fluffy duckling. A video, shared online, shows the adorable moment when the duckling hopped up the metal stairs to follow the girl. The little bird carefully climbed the steps while the girl waited at the top of the red slide, encouraging her feathered friend.

The girl then slid down. At first, the duckling seemed a little scared, but with gentle help from the girl, it soon had fun sliding down, landing safely on

its webbed feet at the bottom! Experts say that pet ducks often form strong bonds and can follow their owners closely during walks and playtime. **Watch the cute video [here!](#)**



Pictured: Girl and duck about to go down the slide! **Source:** People's Daily, China, on Facebook.

Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?



Yes, because it will make giving it more special.

Chloe

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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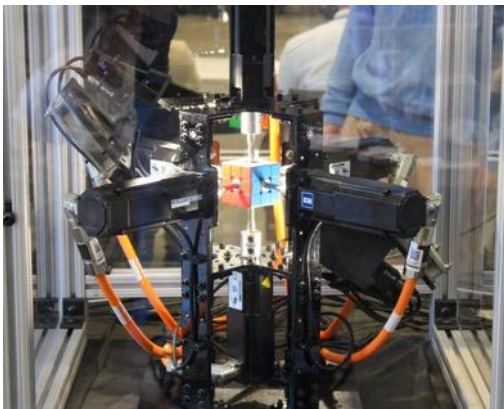
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Blink and You'll Miss It!

A team of students have built a robot, that can solve a puzzle cube faster than the blink of an eye! Brock Berta, Aden Hurd, Junpei Ota, and Matthew Patrohay, from Purdue University's Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Indiana, USA, designed the record-breaking machine. Matthew Patrohay said, 'We solve in 103 milliseconds. A human blink takes about 200 to 300 milliseconds. So, before you even realize it's moving, we've solved it!'



Pictured: Members of the Purdubik's Cube team and their record-breaking machine.
Source: Purdue Electrical and Computer Engineering on Facebook.

The robot, named Purdubik's Cube, (a play on the name of the famous puzzle, Rubik's cube) can complete a 3x3x3 puzzle cube in 0.103 seconds, two tenths of a second quicker than the previous record holder. Matthew continued, 'I always say that my inspiration was a previous world record holder... I thought, "That's a really cool project. I'd love to try and beat it someday". Now here I am at Purdue - proving we can go even faster.'

Have you ever tried to complete a cube puzzle?

Do you think it is a good idea to build robots to solve puzzles?

'Quack' Getaway

A duck has been caught speeding on camera in Köniz, a town in central Switzerland. Local authorities released the photo showing the feathered offender flying at 52km/h (32mph) in a 30-km/h (18.6mph) zone! The police also declared that, strangley, a very similar-looking duck had also been snapped by a speed camera at the same place, time and speed, exactly seven years ago! Mallard ducks can fly at speeds of up to 70mph but cruise at around 30-40mph. They are temporarily grounded for a few weeks, twice a year, after they shed their flight feathers, as it takes a little while for them to grow back! The police inspectorate initially considered 'fowl' play or a belated April Fools' joke to explain the images.



Pictured: The duck caught speeding on camera.
Source: Gemeinde Köniz on Facebook.

However, they concluded that the images could not have been tampered with, nor the machine manipulated. The computers and speed cameras are inspected and calibrated every year by Switzerland's federal institute of metrology, and the photos taken are securely sealed and stored. Köniz officials posted the image and commented, 'We wish you a lot of fun sensing about curious coincidences, criminal machinations [plots] of animals and the maximum flight speed of ducks.'

Have you seen a duck flying? How fast do you think they were going?

Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?



Yes, so you can show your love.
Aaleyah

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