



WILD
FACTS

HEAR THE ROAR



Dear Alex

We're taught from an early age to avoid poo – it's dirty and smelly as the name suggests. But while hygiene is important, in many ways poo is essential for life. So let's take a close-up peek at poo (also known as dung, scat, droppings, faeces, excrement – and those are just the polite names!).

Did you know.... dung beetles are great at recycling!

Attracted to fresh animal droppings, dung beetles lay their eggs on poo so their larvae have plenty to eat. This helps poo break down and decompose into manure – or first-class fertiliser. Just look at the picture above!



Seed-spreading

Droppings of fruit-eating animals have seeds inside. As poo decomposes, seeds germinate aided by all that fertiliser. [Elephants](#) spread the seeds of more plant species than any other animal.



Sloths do a poo dance

Sloths chill out high up in trees, which keeps them safe as there aren't many predators. Once a week they make a special trip to the forest floor to go to the loo. Some experts call this their poo dance!



Bat poo is explosive

In World War I, soldiers used dried bat guano (poo) to make explosives! Bat guano is high in potassium nitrate, which makes it a great fertiliser in the garden but also a key ingredient for fireworks.



Penguin poo can be seen from space!

Adélie penguins in Antarctica love to eat tiny crustaceans called krill. This turns their poo pink and is so bright you can see it from space! This helps scientists monitor one of the Earth's most remote places.



Cook with cow poo!

Cow manure has many uses, including as a building material and for making paper. You can also burn dried cow poo to keep mosquitos and flies away.



Poo beach!

Sand is formed of eroded rocks, shells and coral, but some of Hawaii's beautiful white sand is actually parrotfish poo! The fish scrape algae off rocks with parrot-like beaks and then poo the ground-up rock out as sand!

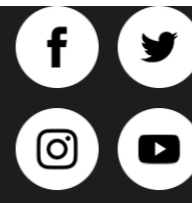
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