



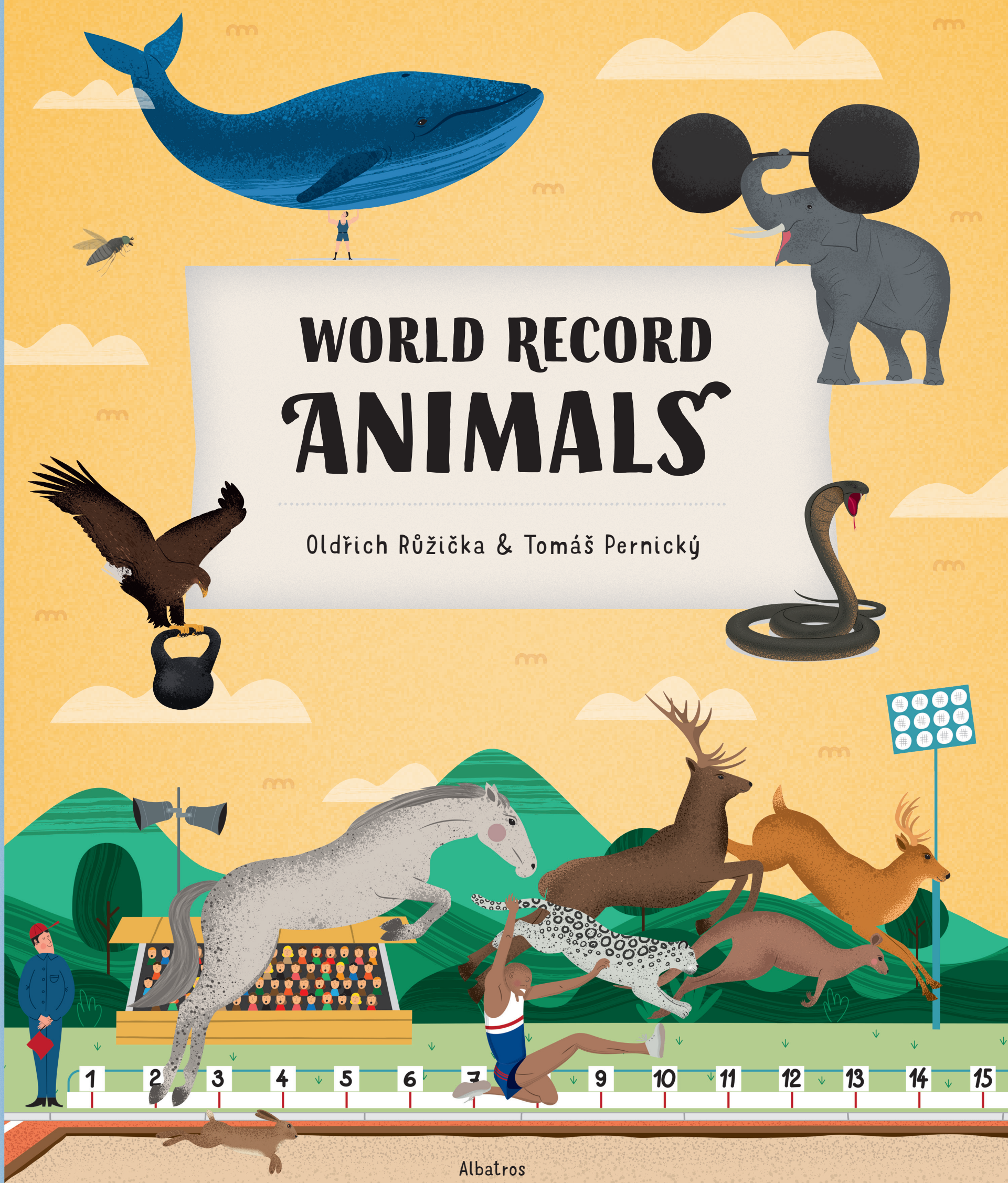
Oldřich Růžička & Tomáš Pernický

WORLD RECORD ANIMALS™



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Oldřich Růžička & Tomáš Pernický



Albatros



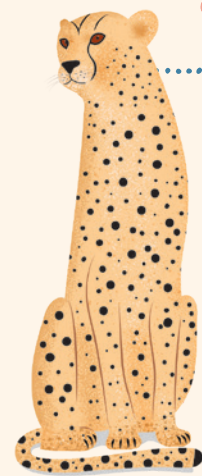
# THE WORLD'S FASTEST ANIMALS

Let's start in high gear. Some of the animals you will read about are a match for a super-fast sports car. We're about to hold a great race that will show us, for sure, which creature is the world's fastest.



## \* RACEHORSE

A racehorse is bred and trained to run fast. It has 252 bones in a huge, muscular body that weighs **1,300 pounds**. Horses can reach speeds of **35 mph**.



## \* CHEETAH

A beast of prey, the cheetah would be happy to see some of its rivals in today's competition on the menu. We must hope that the race will end with the full number of competitors. A cheetah reaches speeds of up to **75 mph**—making it as quick as a car driving on a highway.

## \* BROWN HARE

Although it mainly inhabits fields and the edges of forests in Europe, the brown hare can also be found in Asia and elsewhere. It feeds on herbs and buds and tends to travel at around **25 mph**. In an emergency, though, it can run almost twice as fast.



## \* OSTRICH

The flightless ostrich is the world's largest living bird and quickest creature on two legs. It lives in Africa. Its typical speed is **35 mph**, although it can briefly maintain a speed of **55 mph**.



## \* PRONGHORN

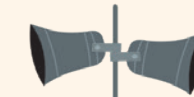
The pronghorn, which lives in North America, is aptly named: its horns are shaped like prongs. One of the world's fastest mammals, it can reach a speed of **50–55 mph** and maintain it for many miles. The pronghorn is a great long-distance athlete.

## \* FASTEST HUMAN

The fastest recorded speed achieved by a human is **27.79 mph**. This record is held by Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt, whose specialty was the 100-meter sprint. Shortly, we will see how Bolt's achievement compares with those of our planet's fastest creatures.



And the first to reach the finish line is ... the cheetah!



# RECORD-BREAKING RUNNERS

1



CHEETAH  
**75 mph**

2



OSTRICH  
**55 mph**

3



PRONGHORN  
**50–55 mph**

4



HORSE  
**35 mph**

5



HARE  
**25–50 mph**

6



FASTEST HUMAN  
**27.79 mph**

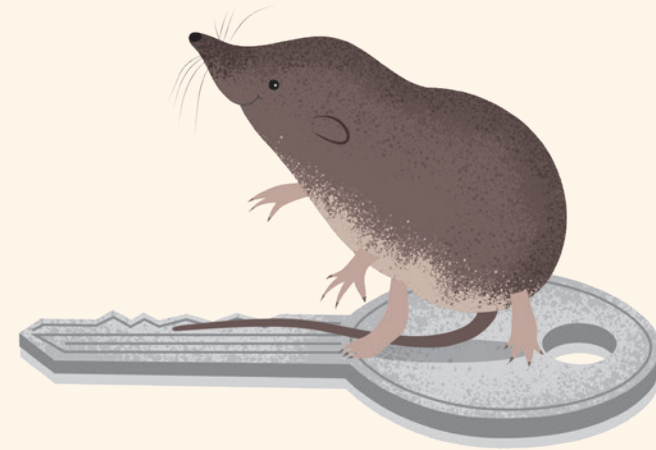


# WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE ONES?

That's quite enough of the giants. After all, the very smallest also have a right to life. Let's look now at creatures that haven't grown much. If you happen to be in their vicinity, be careful not to tread on them. They have their records, too, you know—concerning how small they are.

## \* ETRUSCAN SHREW \*

At only **2 grams** (the weight of less than half a bag of sugar), it is the world's smallest mammal in terms of body weight. And as its body is only about **1.5 in** long, it could fit inside a matchbox comfortably. This shrew has a life span of about one year. We find it in Europe, Africa and certain parts of Asia.



## RECORDS HELD BY THE ETRUSCAN SHREW

By mass, the smallest known mammal. Though tiny, it can jump a distance of 8 in.



## \* BUMBLEBEE BAT \*

This bat is the world's smallest mammal in terms of body size; at only **1 in** long, it is not much bigger than a human fingernail. It lives in Thailand and Burma.



## \* EASTERN PYGMY POSSUM \*

It lives in Australia and Tasmania, weighs about **25 grams** and is a little less than **4 in** long. Although tiny, in terms of body size it is not the very smallest mammal. It holds a different interesting record, however. To save energy from the food its body has taken in, it falls into a very long sleep.



## RECORD HELD BY THE EASTERN PYGMY POSSUM

It can sleep for over a year.



# MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY ANIMALS

The very smallest are lovely, aren't they? So let's stay with little cuties for a while. These may not be the world's smallest, but for many readers they are the most beautiful. So here they are—the world's cutest baby animals.

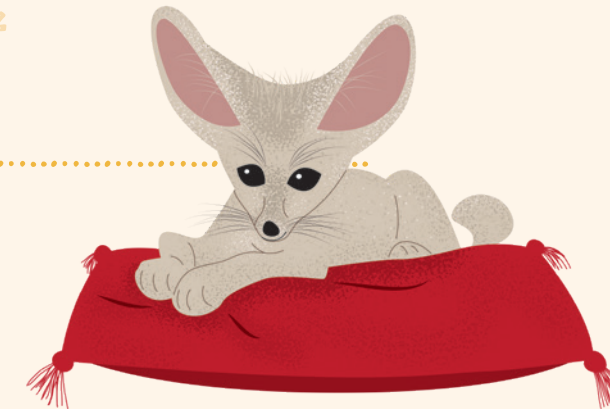
## \* BABY GORILLA \*

At birth, a gorilla weighs about **5 lbs**. Its mother takes care of it until it is about **3 years old**. Gorillas are brought up by their parents in a similar way to humans, and they are highly intelligent. Some gorillas kept in a zoo can communicate in sign language. The western gorilla can live up to 60 years.



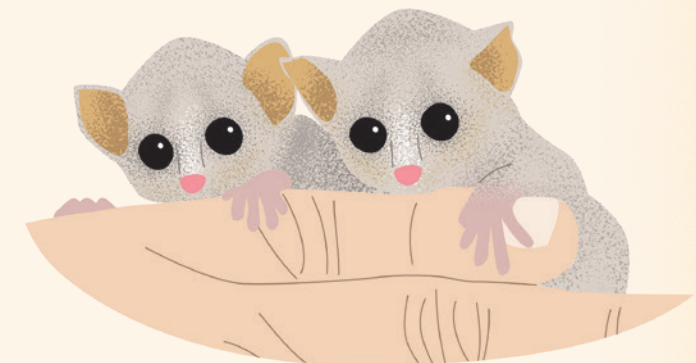
## \* BABY FENNEC \*

This lovely pointy-eared creature is most active at night, as it prefers a lower air temperature. It reaches adulthood at around **9 months** of age.



## \* GREY MOUSE LEMUR \*

The grey mouse lemur is one of the world's smallest primates—in adulthood it is only about **4 in** long. It lives in Madagascar and gives birth to two or three young at a time. Its baby weighs only **6 grams**.



## \* BABY MEERKAT \*

Born blind, it begins to see after about **14 days**. Young are cared for by the whole meerkat colony, comprising up to **30 individuals**.



## \* LION CUB \*

Lions give birth to between one and four cubs at a time. When these cubs grow up, the leader of the pack drives them away; lions must make their own way in life.





## \* BABY GOLDEN EAGLE

The female lays two eggs, which she heats with her body for **45 days** before the eggs hatch and lovely, snow-white chicks emerge. Sadly, in many cases only the stronger sibling survives; in the fight for food, the weaker is pushed from the nest by the stronger. The golden eagle has a life span of about **25 years**.



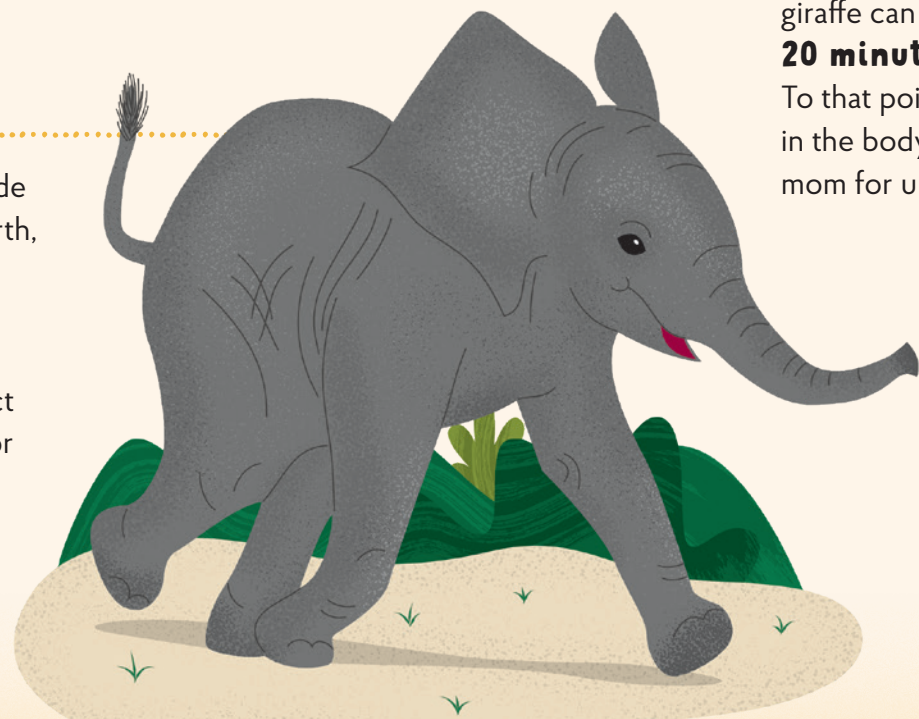
## \* BABY EMPEROR PENGUIN

The female presents one of her eggs to the male, who keeps it warm between his legs for a period of 64 days. An adult emperor penguin can dive to a depth of over **1,600 ft** and stay underwater for **30 minutes**. Some penguins can achieve an underwater speed of **25 mph**. Where they live, the temperature can drop to **-40°F**, so it's not surprising they have the densest feathers of all birds.



## \* BABY ELEPHANT

An unborn elephant grows inside its mother for 22 months. At birth, it is over **3 ft** tall and weighs around **220 lbs**. The female feeds her calf for 2 years, and she will do all she can to protect it from danger. Elephants live for about **70 years**.

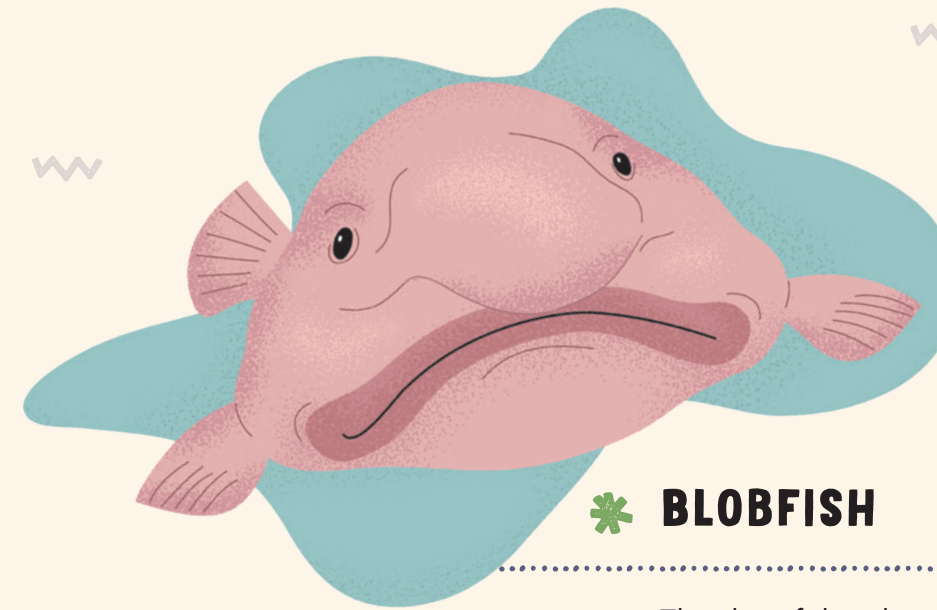


## \* BABY GIRAFFE

About **6 ft** tall, a new-born giraffe can stand within **20 minutes** of its birth. To that point, it has grown in the body of the giraffe mom for up to **460 days**.

# THE UGLIEST ANIMALS

What a fascinating place our world is! It contains animals large and small, animals fast and slow, animals that weigh tons and animals that weigh but a few grams. Alongside the magnificent creatures, however, we find some that are less than beautiful. But these, too, have a place in the bizarre animal world. Let's look at them now.



## \* BLOBFISH

This slimy fish is the **winner of the World's Ugliest Animal competition**. Too lazy to hunt for food, it just lies on the seabed with its mouth open, swallowing up whatever comes its way.

## \* PROBOSCIS MONKEY

This monkey with a cucumber-shaped nose lives on the island of Borneo. You wouldn't be the first to laugh at its appearance. The nose of the male is **4 in** long. For comparison, if the human nose and body were in the same proportion, the nose would be almost **1 foot long**.



## \* AYE-AYE

It has ears like a bat's, lives in Madagascar and is the world's **largest nocturnal prosimian**. Its long fingers end in nails. It uses its longest, middle finger to pick out its food—larvae from tree bark, the milk of the coconut and the contents of birds' eggs.

## \* PHILIPPINE TARSIER

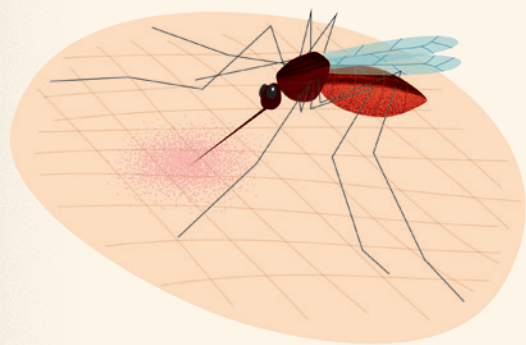
This small, large-eyed animal comes from the rainforests of the Philippines. Active at night, it is about the same size as the human palm. It weighs about **100 grams** and can jump a distance of **16 ft**.





# THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Over the next few pages, we will look at animals you should be very wary of. These animals are considered to pose the greatest danger to human life. Reasons for this danger include a tendency to attack, to act in self-defense or to rely on deadly venom.

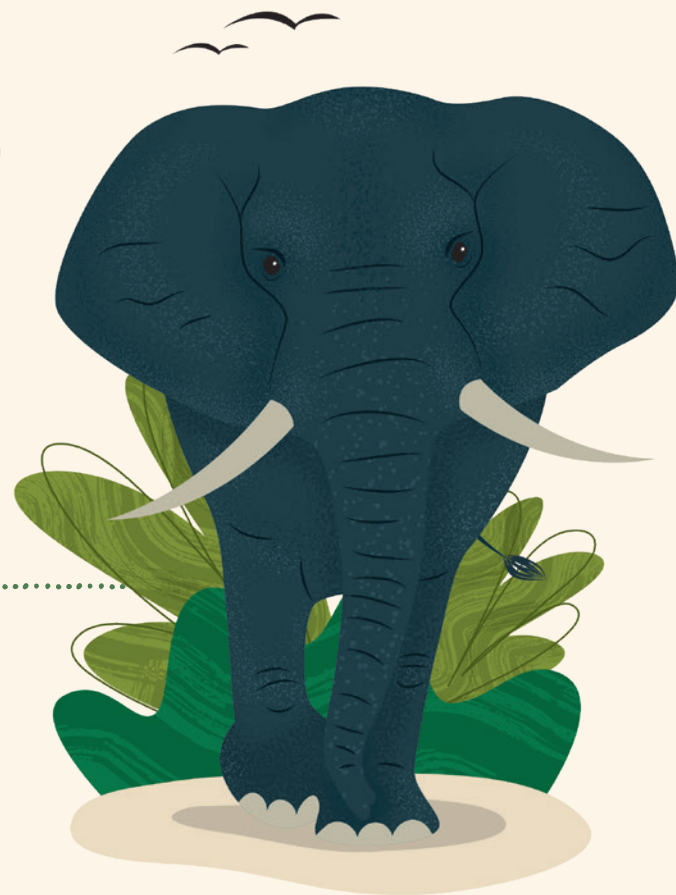


## \* MOSQUITO

How strange it is that this small creature should top the list of the world's most dangerous animals! It is said to cause the deaths of over **1 million** people a year. This is because it is a carrier of infectious diseases, such as malaria, West Nile virus and yellow fever.

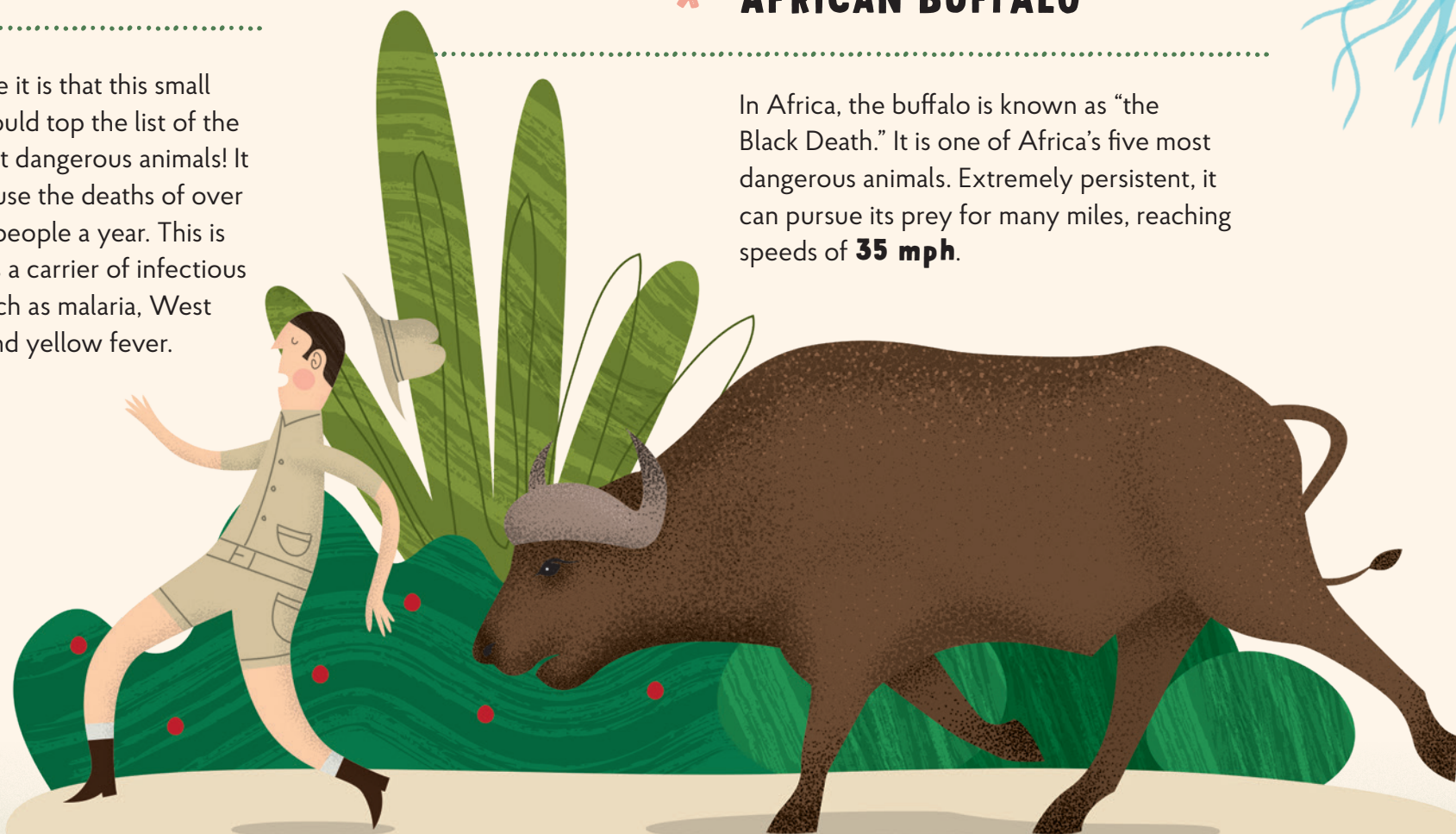
## \* ELEPHANT

Most of the time, the world's largest animal is very peaceful. When angered or—in the case of the female—protecting its young, however, the elephant can get really upset. When it does, we must get out of its way immediately.



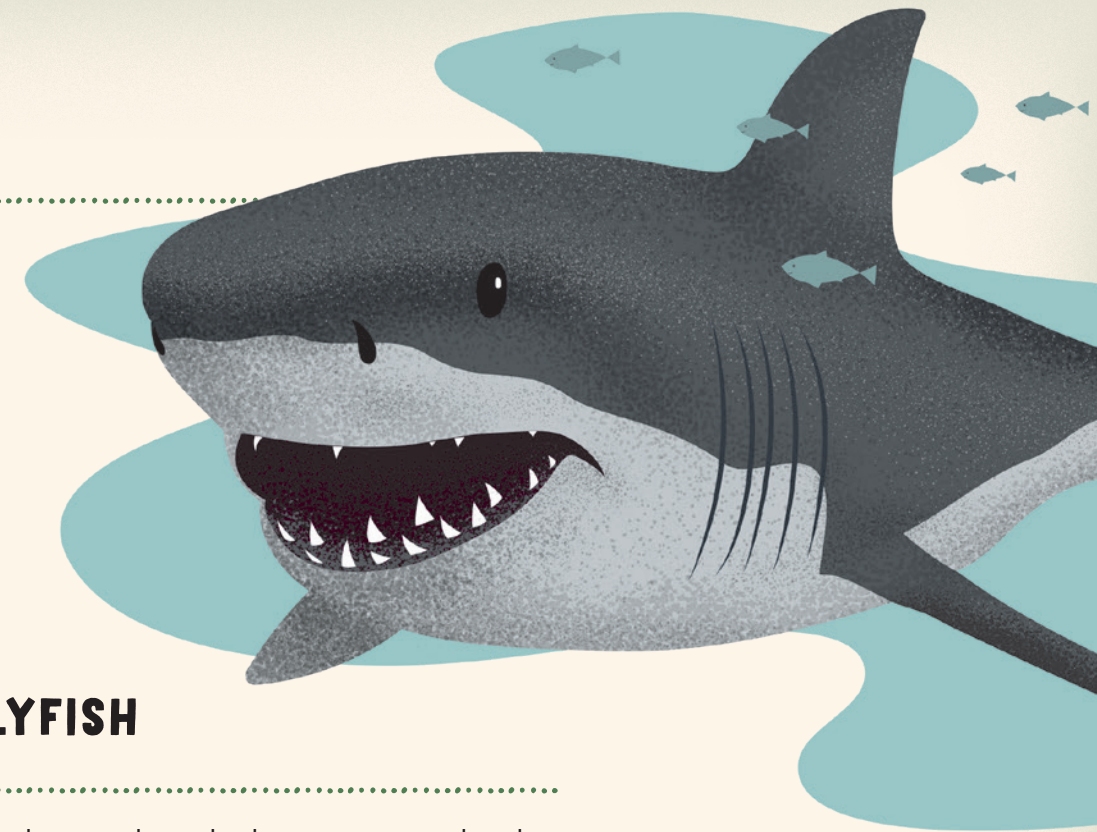
## \* AFRICAN BUFFALO

In Africa, the buffalo is known as “the Black Death.” It is one of Africa's five most dangerous animals. Extremely persistent, it can pursue its prey for many miles, reaching speeds of **35 mph**.



## \* SHARK

The shark can smell a single drop of blood from a quarter of a mile away. There are many shark species, only a few of which are a threat to humans. The most dangerous of all is the great white shark, which is around **16 ft** in length and **2,200 lbs** in weight. Hundreds of attacks on humans by white sharks have been recorded.



## \* JELLYFISH

The shark is not the only dangerous animal in the sea—far from it. Jellyfish are beautiful and magical to look at. But there are species of jellyfish (notably the box jellyfish and the Portuguese man-of-war) whose tentacles are armed with venomous cells. If stung by such a jellyfish, a human will not survive without medical treatment.



## \* LION

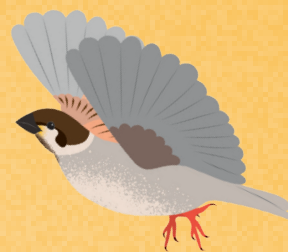
Sharp claws and teeth, an ability to run at very high speed, the hunter's instinct of a meat-loving predator—all this makes the lion very dangerous to the human. Although lions rarely attack humans, such cases happen, so we must take great care around them.



### ATTACK ON A RAILWAY LINE

Late in the 19th century, two cannibalistic lions appeared on a railway line in Kenya. By the time they were shot, over 100 people were dead.





Immerse yourself in the world of super animals!

The animal world has almost infinite variety.  
Many of its creatures have strengths similar to superheroes.

The world's fastest animals can move at the speed of a race car; one small creature has the strength of a trained weightlifter; the world's strongest animal can lift many times its own weight and the longest-lived animal survives for several hundred years. Fastest, slowest, strongest, largest, smallest, longest living, furthest jumping, most dangerous, most beautiful, ugliest, deepest diving—these and many other record holders from the animal kingdom fill this book with unexpected, fascinating facts.



### **The world's fastest animals**

### **Record-breaking flyers/runners/swimmers/jumpers**

### **The slowest slowpokes**

### **The world's strongest animals**

### **The largest animals**

### **The smallest of the small**

### **The most beautiful baby animals**

### **The ugliest animals on the planet**

### **The most dangerous animals**

### **Longest-living animals**

### **World-record travelers**



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