personal english



Topic of the Month #18

Animal Monogamy?



A lot of human beings claim to be monogamous, but as the animal world we belong to shows us, monogamy is far from being the standard. In nature, monogamous pairing refers to mating systems where **a pair of animals stick together to raise their offspring**. However, this isn't quite the same thing as **sexual monogamy**. According to the National Science Foundation, scientists currently estimate that only about **3-5% of the mammal species on Earth practice sexual monogamy**, whether for the short or the long term. The **diplozoon paradoxon**, a parasite commonly found on the gills of cyprinids, may be the only completely monogamous creature detected in the animal world thus far. Many animals are serially monogamous, meaning they pair up with one partner at a time to raise offspring, but then pair up with a new partner the next year. These animals may be the wisest of them all, possibly aware to some extent of the numerous perks of **short-term love**.

Click on the Pictures for four **VIDEOS** on, respectively, ANIMAL MONOGAMY, HUMAN MONOGAMY, THE SCIENCE OF CHEATING and SHORT-TERM LOVE