

LANGUAGE LEVEL: **BASIC**

# STRANGE STORIES

## ANIMAL LIFE

Las historias curiosas de este mes son el fruto de tres descubrimientos científicos inusuales, relacionados con la vida de las vacas, de los monos y de las moscas.

**T**he curiosity of scientists is never-ending<sup>1</sup>. Here are several<sup>2</sup> of their more unusual discoveries:

### MONKEY BUSINESS

Scientist Jessica Flack of the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico, USA discovered that monkeys have their own police force. Apparently, the dominant male<sup>3</sup> monkeys patrol<sup>4</sup> their groups and stop arguments and fights. In an experiment, the monkey police were removed from the group and soon arguments turned into<sup>5</sup> fights, and the monkeys' normal social routines of

playing, grooming<sup>6</sup> and simply sitting together stopped. The monkey police were quickly returned to restore order.

### PARTY TIME

On a walk in the countryside we often come across<sup>7</sup> sudden swarms<sup>8</sup> of irritating fruit flies<sup>9</sup>. They hover<sup>10</sup> in their hundreds in one place for no reason at all, or so it seems to us as we wave our hands<sup>11</sup> and pass through them. Well, scientists have discovered this is actually a mating ritual<sup>12</sup>: male flies carefully choose a spot<sup>13</sup> for high visibility and wait for the females to arrive. So the

next time you come across such a swarm, perhaps you should walk carefully around it.

### HOLY COW!

Finally, scientists from Bristol University in England have discovered that cows don't spend their days simply chewing grass: they also have complex mental lives. The researchers set the cows tests<sup>14</sup> in which food was kept behind a closed door. The cows managed to open the door and one cow actually jumped into the air in celebration<sup>15</sup>. The researchers also observed how cows formed small groups of friends, disliked other cows in the herd<sup>16</sup>, and remembered grudges<sup>17</sup> for months.

### GLOSSARY

- 1 NEVER-ENDING:** infinito
- 2 SEVERAL:** algunos
- 3 MALE:** macho
- 4 TO PATROL:** patrullar
- 5 TO TURN INTO:** convertirse en
- 6 GROOMING:** acicalamiento
- 7 TO COME ACROSS:** encontrarse con
- 8 SWARM:** enjambre
- 9 FRUIT FLY:** mosca de la fruta
- 10 TO HOVER:** situarse, ponerse
- 11 AS WE WAVE OUR HANDS:** mientras sacudimos las manos
- 12 THIS IS ACTUALLY A MATING RITUAL:** esto en realidad es un ritual de apareamiento
- 13 SPOT:** lugar, zona
- 14 SET THE COWS TESTS:** hicieron unas pruebas a las vacas
- 15 JUMPED... CELEBRATION:** saltó de alegría
- 16 HERD:** manada
- 17 GRUDGE:** rencilla