



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.

The curiosity of scientists is never-ending¹. Here are several² 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 male³ monkeys patrol⁴ their groups and stop arguments and fights. In an experiment, the monkey police were removed from the group and soon arguments turned into⁵ fights, and the monkeys' normal social routines of

playing, grooming⁶ 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 across⁷ sudden swarms⁸ of irritating fruit flies⁹. They hover¹⁰ in their hundreds in one place for no reason at all, or so it seems to us as we wave our hands¹¹ and pass through them. Well, scientists have discovered this is actually a mating ritual¹²: male flies carefully choose a spot¹³ 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 tests¹⁴ 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 celebration¹⁵. The researchers also observed how cows formed small groups of friends, disliked other cows in the herd¹⁶, and remembered grudges¹⁷ 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