

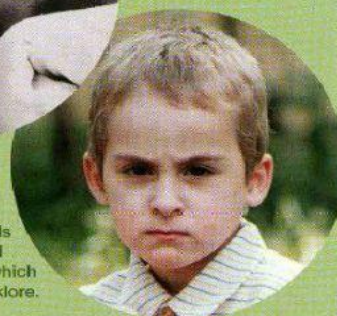
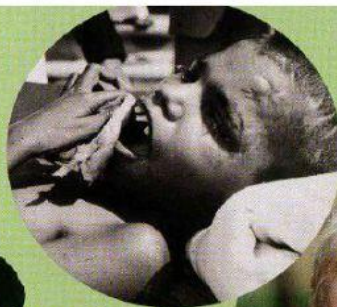
You are going to read about four children who were raised by animals. For questions 1-15, choose from the children A-D. The children may be chosen more than once.

Which child

- 1 could run and jump very fast?
- 2 looked younger when captured than he really was?
- 3 claims a group of wild animals gave him food?
- 4 hardly ever stood upright?
- 5 eventually returned to live in his family home?
- 6 had unusual feet?
- 7 was not familiar with some common kinds of food?
- 8 has been seen by many different experts?
- 9 did not go back to live with humans?
- 10 was very violent towards the people who captured him?
- 11 learned from animals how to look for things to eat?
- 12 was taken by a wild animal when very young?
- 13 only seemed to eat plants?
- 14 reacted like a wild animal to sudden sounds?
- 15 copied the social rules and body language of the animals he lived with?

BORN TO BE WILD

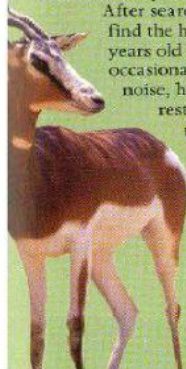
For centuries, people have told stories about children who were brought up by animals and became like animals themselves: so-called 'feral children'. *Tarzan of the Apes* and *The Jungle Book* are two famous fictional accounts. There are many other accounts which claim to be true, although it is sometimes difficult to separate fact from fantasy and folklore.



One day in 1991, a Ugandan villager called Milly Sebba went further than usual in search of firewood, and came across a little boy with a group of monkeys. She summoned help and the boy was captured and brought back to Milly's village. A villager identified the boy as John Sesebunya, last seen in 1988 at the age of two or three. Later, John claimed that he had got lost in the forest, and that he remembered monkeys coming up to him after a few days and offering him roots and nuts. The pack of five monkeys taught him, he says, to search for food and to climb trees. John has been studied by a host of scientists, who are convinced that he is a genuine feral child. When left with a group of monkeys he avoids eye contact and approaches them from the side with open palms, just as monkeys do.

Jean-Claude Auger, an anthropologist from the Basque country, was travelling alone across the Spanish Sahara in 1960 when he met some Nemadi nomads. They told him about a young boy who lived with a herd of gazelles.

After searching for several days, Auger managed to find the herd and the boy. The boy was about 10 years old and walked on all fours, only standing occasionally. Whenever there was an unexpected noise, he twitched his nose and ears, just like the rest of the herd. One senior female seemed to act as his adoptive mother. He would eat roots with his teeth and appeared to be herbivorous. When Auger chased the boy in a jeep to see how fast he could run, he reached a speed of 50 kilometres per hour, with leaps of about four metres. Unlike most of the feral children of whom there are records, the gazelle boy was never taken away from his wild companions.



A leopard-boy was reported by EC Stuart Baker in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* (July 1920). According to his report, the boy was stolen from his parents by a leopardess in the North Cachar Hills in India in about 1912, and three years later he was recovered and identified. At that time, the child, who was now five, could run on all fours so fast that an adult man could barely keep up. His knees had hard skin on them and his toes were bent upright, almost at right angles to his feet. The palms of his hands and pads of his toes and thumbs were also covered with very tough skin. When he was first caught, he bit and fought with everyone. If he came across a chicken in the village, he caught it, tore it into pieces and ate it with astonishing speed, just like a wild animal.

A feral child was caught in the Brasov region of Transylvania, Romania, in February 2002. Early one morning, shepherd Manolescu Ioan came upon a naked, wild-eyed child living in a cardboard box and covered with a plastic sheet. Manolescu reported his find to the police, who later captured the boy. It was believed he had lived alone in the forest for years, but doctors thought that he must have had some protection; perhaps he had been looked after by some of the many wild dogs in the region. He was the size of a normal four-year-old, but his missing front milk teeth suggested an actual age of seven. He ate whatever he was given, but didn't recognise fruit. About a week after his capture, he was identified as Traian Caldarar, lost three years earlier at the age of four. After being re-educated at an orphanage in Brasov, he was reunited with his mother, who lived in a remote village a few kilometres from where he had been found.



