

Effects of urban environments on animals

Introduction

Recent urban developments represent massive environmental changes. It was previously thought that only a few animals were suitable for city life, e.g.

- the **31** – because of its general adaptability
- the pigeon – because walls of city buildings are similar to **32**

In fact, many urban animals are adapting with unusual **33**

Recent research

- Emilie Snell-Rood studied small urbanised mammal specimens from museums in Minnesota.
 - She found the size of their **34** had increased.
 - She suggests this may be due to the need to locate new sources of **35** and to deal with new dangers.
- Catarina Miranda focused on the **36** of urban and rural blackbirds.
 - She found urban birds were often braver, but were afraid of situations that were **37**
- Jonathan Atwell studies how animals respond to urban environments.
 - He found that some animals respond to **38** by producing lower levels of hormones.
- Sarah Partan's team found urban squirrels use their **39** to help them communicate.

Long-term possibilities

Species of animals may develop which are unique to cities. However, some changes may not be **40**