

Use words from the list to complete the two stories below. Work with a partner.

uncovered

absorb

mystery

aggressive

observation

surroundings

theories

unharmed

Animal Mysteries

Sam the Parrot

Parrots are popular pets because they're friendly and intelligent.

Sandy, who recently married Ken, has a parrot named Sam. Sam was a loving pet . . . until about six months ago. He became (1) _____ and started biting Ken. Sandy can't understand why Sam has changed from a loving pet to an attack bird. There are a few (2) _____ to explain Sam's behavior.

Can you help Sandy by solving this (3) _____?

PARROT FACTS:

- Parrots can "talk" (say short words) like people do. They do this to fit into new (4) _____.
- Parrots form close pair bonds. In the wild, a parrot couple can stay together for decades.
- We know that parrots feel that "there's a crowd."

Acrobatic Cats

We all know from personal (5) _____ that when cats fall, they almost always land on their feet. There are stories of cats surviving long falls out of building windows virtually (6) _____.

There's a **twist** to this story, though. In a recent study, veterinarian Michael Garvey (7) _____ a mystery about cats. He discovered that cats that fall a longer distance have fewer injuries than cats that fall shorter distances.

CAT FACTS:

- When cats fall, the first thing they do is twist their heads around quickly to straighten their bodies.
- Then, they completely relax their bodies.
- Finally, they land on all four feet in order to (8) _____ the impact.