

Lucky tortoise enjoys his homemade scratcher device crafted from broom heads

Zoo keepers made a tortoise a homemade scratching station, and an adorable video shows the creature wiggling while trying it out.

Morgan Brem, a Dallas Zoo intern, created the scratching device for Sunny the radiated tortoise, according to goodnews-network.org.

Made from broom heads, it's perfect for the little animal to itch the impossible-to-reach spots on the top of his shell.

Robin Ryan, supervisor of ambassador animal experiences at Dallas Zoo in the US state of Texas, said: "She made it adjustable to see if our ambassador armadillo would also be interested, but so far, we have only seen Sunny use it."

"The base is wood with a turf mat cover for belly scratch opportunity, the frame is PVC, and the brush heads are held on with conduit fittings."

To "maximize scratching abilities", the top brush was lowered twice for Sunny, who has been at the Dallas Zoo since 1980.

Robin said tortoises' shells are part of their spine and they have nerve endings which run on the top.

Ryan explains that: "The name 'radiated tortoise' comes from the pattern on Sunny's shell. The top part of his shell has yellow lines that radiate out from the center."

"They kind of look like sun bursts, hence the name. His engaging personality helps inspire guests to want to create a better world for animals."



SWNS

Maths determines whether you can actually go 360 degrees over a swing

It's the stuff of playground legend, at a time when only the kids with the wild imagination spread the rumor that 'a cool kid from year six' managed to swing all the way over the top of the bar on a swing in the local park.

Indeed, it's the ongoing urban myth deliberating whether anyone could actually have so much momentum that they would manage to sail 360 degrees over the top without stopping, mirror.co.uk wrote.

It's something firmly-footed in the likes of 'The Adventures of Inside Out Boy'. A Nickelodeon animation from the early 90s depicting a young boy who gained 'incredible powers beyond any superhero' because he swung over the bar on a swing and, you guessed it, turned inside out. Nightmare fuel if you ask us.

With references to this illusive playground goal splashed across our screens, it comes as no surprise that many of us were deeply fascinated by the possibility of swinging in a perfect circle. Some of us still are.

For generations, this mystery has been circulating but we've decided to finally uncover whether you can in fact complete a 360-degree arc.

The long and short of it is that you can actually swing 360 degrees on a swing... if there are a few specific elements in place.

If there are rigid poles in place of the traditional chains and the swing has a bearing that is able to go all the way round, then it's possible to complete an arc of victory.

What is the reasoning then that such a maneuver can't be executed on your every day, run of the mill swing that graces every playground?

According to Geoffrey Widdison - a chemical engineer and keen brainbox when it comes to answering questions on Quora - in order to understand this, you have to contemplate the basics of how a swing works.

Geoffrey said: "Your body wants to fall straight down, and it picks up speed as it does, but the chain won't let you go straight down, it turns that downward motion into forward (or backward) motion."

"When you hit the lowest point of the swing, you have some forward momentum, which the chain then pulls into upward motion. When your momentum is exhausted, you fall back down, and the whole thing repeats."

"If you get to the point where the chain is horizontal, you're at a theoretical maximum. If you go a little bit higher, then you're going to fall straight down, and the chain is going to go slack."

"When you get to the point where the chain tightens again, your force will jerk against it, and a lot of the kinetic energy will be lost. If, however, you're using rigid bars, then you can continue to reuse that energy on each swing, and eventually, if you're good enough, get all the way around."

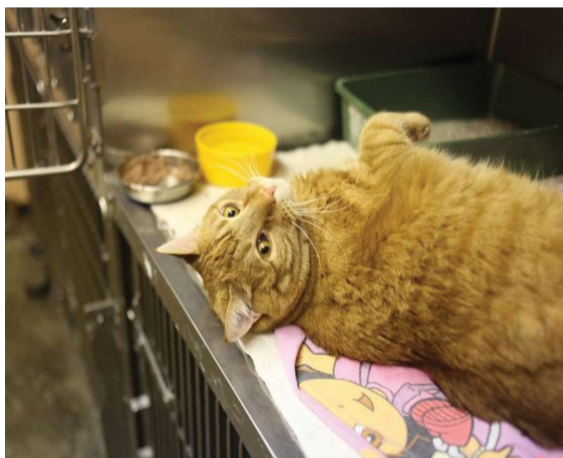
So it seems like that childhood dream we all likely had of making a complete circle on the swing at the local park has gone - although mums everywhere will be sure to breathe a sigh of relief.



SALLY ANSCOMBE/mirror.co.uk

It's a challenge that many of us would have attempted back in our playground dwelling days.

Massachusetts woman's lost cat turns up six years later



JOANNAFOTOGRAF/pixabay.com

Margaret Kudzma of Peabody, Mass., US, received word that her cat, Mini Max, was brought into a veterinarian six years after he escaped through a third-story window.

A Massachusetts woman whose cat escaped from her third-floor condo through a loose window screen was reunited with her pet six years later.

Margaret Kudzma said the cat, named Mini Max, slipped out of her downtown Peabody condo through a loose window screen in 2015, and she used posters, online posts and newspaper ads to try to locate the wayward feline, UPI reported.

Kudzma even ended up founding her own nonprofit rescue group, The Rescue Business, in 2016 when the search for Mini Max led her to discover a large colony of feral cats living in her neighborhood.

Kudzma said she was shocked last week when she received a phone call from Dr. Samantha Simonelli, a Wakefield veterinarian who had found her information on the microchip of a cat that had been brought in with ear mites.

"All I heard was 'gray and white' and I had to put the phone down," Kudzma told The Eagle-Tribune newspaper.

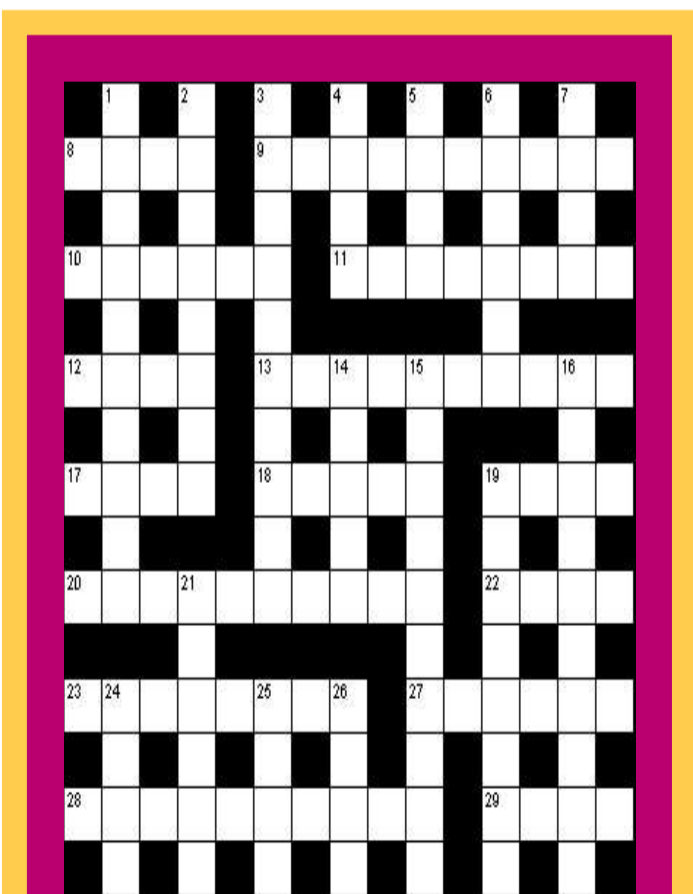
Kudzma learned Mini Max had been spotted in Revere, where a family fed the feline for several months before moving him into their house. They brought him to the vet when they noticed his ear mites, and that's when Simonelli found the microchip.

"A true miracle has occurred," Kudzma said in a Facebook post. "Thank you everyone who participated in this search!"

Kudzma said she is having Mini Max thoroughly examined to ensure he does not have any other health issues or lingering injuries from his jump out of her third-floor window.

She said she is preparing her condo so Mini Max will have his own space away from the kittens she fosters.

Catchwords



ACROSS

- 8 Nimble (4)
- 9 Visible aspect of a person (10)
- 10 A written version of a play (6)
- 11 Meetings (8)
- 12 Tribe (4)
- 13 Alienating (10)
- 17 Relating to the ear (4)
- 18 A vast multitude (5)
- 19 Devotees (4)
- 20 Victorious (10)
- 22 Hawaiian island (4)
- 23 First letters of a person's name (8)
- 27 Without difficulty (6)
- 28 A form of Hindi (10)
- 29 Anagram of "Neat" (4)

DOWN

- 1 One who takes investment risks (10)
- 2 Sanitary (8)
- 3 Warship (10)
- 4 Chooses (4)
- 5 Gentle blows (4)
- 6 Establishing (6)
- 7 Glance over (4)
- 14 Latin for "Earth" (5)
- 15 Knock out gas (10)
- 16 Without a care (10)
- 19 Pace (8)
- 21 Messy (6)
- 24 French for "Black" (4)
- 25 A vaulted recess on a building (4)
- 26 A style of jazz singing (4)

Yesterday's Solution



Sudoku

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Khwarizmi. Fill 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid, contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

