

Aquarium asks people to video-call lonely eels

3rd May, 2020



Creative Commons 2.0
via Cory Denton on flickr.com

An aquarium in Japan is asking people to help a group of eels that are getting lonely. The Sumida Aquarium in Tokyo has several tanks of garden eels. The creatures are usually very cautious and go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the

Sumida Aquarium eels are used to seeing visitors and stay above their holes so people can see them. The aquarium has closed because of the coronavirus emergency and staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. A staff member said the eels are forgetting what humans look like. She wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff put special tablets in front of the eel tanks so people could make video calls to them.

The lack of visitors to the aquarium means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning after the aquarium reopens. The coronavirus emergency has also made it difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are now staying in their holes in the sand. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Here is an urgent request - Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "humans are friendly". It has organised a three-day event called a "face-showing festival". The public is being asked to make video calls but can only use Apple devices to do so.

Sources: sky.com / metro.uk / theguardian.com

Writing

Humans should interact with animals more so they get used to us. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

aquarium / eels / lonely / tanks / visitors / holes / sand / emergency / staff / video / lack / shy / stressed / humans / urgent / request / home / friendly / festival / device

True / False

- a) An aquarium in Kyoto, Japan has a group of lonely eels. T / F
- b) Eels are very adventurous creatures and are not at all shy. T / F
- c) The eels are lonely because the aquarium closed due to coronavirus. T / F
- d) People can video call the eels on tablets. T / F
- e) Staff are worried returning visitors might make the eels stressed. T / F
- f) Staff have been checking the eels' health three times a day. T / F
- g) The aquarium wants to remind the eels that we are friendly. T / F
- h) People can video call the eels for the next three weeks. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. asking | a. absence |
| 2. several | b. crisis |
| 3. cautious | c. celebration |
| 4. emergency | d. a number of |
| 5. staff | e. serious |
| 6. lack | f. employees |
| 7. returning | g. requesting |
| 8. urgent | h. prompt |
| 9. remind | i. going back |
| 10. festival | j. careful |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about eels?
- c) What is your favourite aquarium?
- d) What are the good and bad things about aquariums?
- e) How do you check the health of an eel?
- f) How friendly are humans?
- g) What do you think of the "face-showing festival"?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the aquarium staff?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. asking people to help a | a. coronavirus emergency |
| 2. The creatures are usually | b. "face-showing festival" |
| 3. The aquarium has closed because of the | c. visitors to the aquarium |
| 4. the eels are forgetting | d. very cautious |
| 5. staff put special tablets in front | e. are friendly |
| 6. The lack of | f. group of eels |
| 7. difficult for staff to check | g. request |
| 8. an urgent | h. of the eel tanks |
| 9. remind the eels that humans | i. on the eels' health |
| 10. a three-day event called a | j. what humans look like |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you think eels can get lonely?
- What do you think about eels?
- When do you get lonely?
- What do you do when you get lonely?
- What experiences do you have of aquariums?
- What do eels think about when they see people?
- What do you think of video calls?
- Would you like to make a video calls to the eels?

Spelling

- ervelas tanks of garden eels
- The creatures are usually very uusioact
- used to seeing rsoiivst
- stay above their heosl
- the coronavirus rncmgeeye
- special tltsbea
- This could make them edsrtsse
- check on the eels' hhtael
- Here is an urgent rquseet
- niremd the eels that "humans are friendly"
- a "face-showing veiftsla"
- only use Apple siveecd

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Eels

You think eels are the most interesting creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): crabs, whales or jelly fish.

Role B – Crabs

You think crabs are the most interesting creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): eels, whales or jelly fish.

Role C – Whales

You think whales are the most interesting creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): crabs, eels or jelly fish.

Role D – Jellyfish

You think jellyfish are the most interesting creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): crabs, whales or eels.

Speaking – Sealife

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting sea life at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| • eels | • whales |
| • sharks | • shrimp |
| • tuna | • plankton |
| • crabs | • jelly fish |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.