

Staff Opinion



Benjamin Wolff
Reporter

Panda Playground

If I could own any animal in the world, assuming that it won’t attack me, it would be a panda bear. Their ginormous furry bodies would give the best hugs. I love that they are cute and clumsy, in fact, I would buy a whole playground so I could watch it play every day. I would then have a reason to start a bamboo hobby farm since the average panda eats a whopping 26-30 pounds of strictly bamboo per day. Panda bears are picky creatures that somehow haven’t gone extinct yet so zoo keepers tend to give them double the bamboo they need to compensate for the sticks they don’t think are appetizing enough. Sassy, iconic, and adorable, what more could you ask for?



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

They Just Sleep

If I had to choose an obscure animal as a pet, I’d choose red panda. It’s basically a bigger cat. All they do is sleep, eat, then sleep some more. They sleep about 17 hours a day so it wouldn’t be crazy to manage a red panda. Also space wise they’re not too big so I wouldn’t need to do anything extra to fit it. Also red pandas are so cute and fluffy. It would be an awesome pet to have to play with and pet.



Liberty Friez
Editor

A Viper and a Shark

The animals I would want if I could have any pet would be a cookie cutter shark or a gaboon viper.

I would never get a snake as a pet. But if, hypothetically, a gaboon viper didn’t have two-inch fangs, deadly venom, and didn’t eat rodents, it would be my first choice. They are easily the cutest snake on the planet with their little plump bodies, intricate pattern, and friendly face.

My next choice would be a cookie cutter shark. These are small, deep sea sharks that come to the surface and take cookie shaped bites out of unsuspecting creatures before swimming away. Purely for the novelty of having one.



Pete DeMille
Reporter

Gators Gone Wild

I think an alligator would be the best pet to have because they are really good guard dogs. I would train one of them to be my ride into town for when I need to buy groceries. I’d be the coolest guy ever and would feed the gator whole chickens. Plus, I would live on a lake or pond so my pet can go to the water whenever he wants to. If I train them enough, I can go swimming with my gators to watch neighbors squirm. And just imagine the pictures and videos I can take to show friends.



Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Corvids are Cool!

If I were to own any obscure animal as a pet, I would own a corvid—specifically a crow! Corvids, such as ravens and crows, are incredibly smart birds and are loyal. Crows typically travel as a flock known as a murder so they migrate. Corvids and up to 1,200 other bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty act which means they are federally protected from being owned as pets or hunted. However, in a different world, I would own one to have a loyal feathered friend. Plus, they can remember faces and give you gifts!



Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Don’t Worry, Be Capy

If I could have any obscure animal it would be a capybara. Capybaras look like giant guinea pigs. If I had one, I would dress mine up in outfits. I could get little sun glasses and bucket hats. I would also want to get a swimming pool for it so we can chill on hot days together. I would probably get a girl capbara and name her Cami. Capybaras are also incredibly territorial, so they could protect me. The only downside to this pet would be the size. Capybaras can weigh anywhere from 77 pounds to 150 pounds. Overall, I think capybaras would make for excellent pets.

If you could have an obscure animal as a pet, what would it be and why?



WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?

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Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief’s email address. Send your “Staff Opinion Response” submission. Make sure to include your first and last name. Also, remember to title the email “Staff Opinion Response”.



Kerstin Hilzendeger
Layout Editor

Don’t Badger Me

If I could have any obscure animal as a pet, I would want a badger. But not just any badger, a European Badger. While badgers are not necessarily an obscure pet and people sometimes have them as pets, they are certainly not a normal pet either. Badgers are typically thought of as being extremely aggressive and mean, but European badgers are different. Compared to American badgers, European badgers are kind of like me: much more shy and tend to avoid people when possible. Having one as a pet would also offer multiple different benefits such as free landscaping, pest control, and protection from people you don’t like. European badgers are also one of the cutest species of badgers. So while most people see badgers and run the other direction, I think having one as a super cute, slightly scary sidekick would be great.



Kayla Hilzendeger
Graphic/Web Designer

Swimming vs. Flight

If I could have any animal that wouldn’t attack me, that wouldn’t be illegal, and that wouldn’t perish in captivity, I would have to choose the epaulette shark or a raven. I chose the epaulette shark because they can walk on land. A shark that can walk on land! No other party trick compares (however I would only do this trick in the presence of a specialist - we are NOT abusing animals here). The reason I think it would be cool to have a raven is because they are phenomenal creatures! They are so smart, compassionate and affectionate. Some of them have big personalities, like to talk back, and love to solve puzzles.

