

The News For Squirrels

In the time of chimpanzees I was a squirrel...

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THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012

Arctic Ground Squirrels May Help Cure Brain Disease!

The arctic ground squirrel is a truly amazing animal. In some parts of its range these squirrels hibernate for seven months, and their body temperatures can reach as low as 27 degrees Fahrenheit, which is the lowest temperature recorded for any mammal. Now scientists believe that the [arctic ground squirrel's winter sleeping habits may hold some clues to treating degenerative brain diseases](#) such as Alzheimer's.



Who would've thought I'd be so scientifically significant!

What interests researchers like Brian Barnes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is how the ground squirrels' brains recover from the extremely long, cold period of hibernation. Because of the extended period at such low body temperature, arctic ground squirrels may lose millions of synapses during their slumber. These connections between cells are vital to brain functioning, and a similar loss in humans, such as can happen due to brain disease, is catastrophic and irreversible. But somehow the ground squirrels are able to rebound within two days of waking up, with no loss of cerebral function.

CLICK BELOW IF YOU HAVE FOUND A BABY SQUIRREL:

- [I Found a Baby Squirrel!](#)

ABOUT US



Dan and Beebz

Lubbock, TX, United States

Dan: Recently started a new job

after a long period of unemployment. Sometime vegetarian. Bird and squirrel watcher. Husband and father. Unapologetic Socialist. Texas Tech Red Raider football and basketball fan. Beebz: A cute, friendly female eastern gray squirrel, orphaned in Sept. 2010 at 4 weeks old, who now lives with Dan and his family. Nests in a canvas shopping bag. Loves nuts, kale, popcorn, sweet peppers, fresh corn, chewing things, and being petted.

[View my complete profile](#)

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SQUIRREL LINKS!

- [Winkelhimer Smith the Painting Squirrel](#)
- [SOG: Save Our Greys](#)
- [Professor Acorn's We're As Native As You!](#)
- [Skwirlboi](#)
- [Coast and Canyon Wildlife](#)
- [All About Squirrels](#)
- [Mistletoe: One Year In the Life of a Gray Squirrel](#)
- [The Squirrel Store](#)
- [Grey and Red, A Squirrel Journal](#)
- [Squirrel Planet](#)
- [Squirrels of Wisdom](#)



Maybe there's something in these yummy mushrooms that helps!

Dr. Barnes believes that if scientists can figure out how these squirrels are able to recover from what seems like serious brain damage, then maybe this knowledge can help in the search for treatments for brain disease in humans.

Posted by [Dan and Beebz](#) at 6:16 PM



Labels: [squirrel science](#)

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Squirrel Facts: Ground Squirrels

Ground squirrels are found in most parts of the world. In North America they can be found in the central and western parts of the contin...



Squirrel Facts: The Indian Giant Squirrel

The Indian giant squirrel, also called the Malabar giant

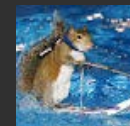
squirrel, has its name for a very good reason: this is the largest tree squirrel sp...



Squirrel Facts: The Japanese Dwarf Flying Squirrel: Cuteness Overload!

First, Happy

Squirrel Appreciation Day! I wasn't sure how to commemorate this special day. Here are some ideas of things to appreciate about...



Water-Skiing Squirrel

Our friend Winkelhimer Smith the Painting Squirrel has

recently raised an important and troubling question about the popular water-skiing s...



Squirrel Facts: The Siberian Flying Squirrel

Since the last couple of posts on this blog have

been kind of grim, I thought a bit of squirrel cuteness overload would be appropriate. So i...



Squirrel Facts: Largest and Smallest Squirrels

There are more than 365 different kinds of squirrel in

the world. Of these, the largest is the Ratufa , or Indian Giant Squirrel , found ...