

World's longest rabbit is 'rabbitnapped'

16th April, 2021



One of the world's largest rabbits has been stolen from his home in England. Darius, a continental giant rabbit, is the current Guinness record holder as the longest rabbit in the world. From nose to tail, he measures 129cm in length. Police say he was abducted from his pen late Saturday evening. Local police said in a statement: "It is believed the rabbit was stolen from its enclosure in the garden of the property of its owners overnight on Saturday. We are appealing for information following the theft." Darius' distraught owner has offered a \$2,750 reward for the safe return of her beloved pet. She pleaded for his safe return and told the rabbitnappers that Darius was too old to be bred.

Darius' disappearance comes amid a spike in pet thefts in the UK during the coronavirus pandemic. Darius' owner has made an impassioned appeal to those who made off with her rabbit. She said: "Every animal is an individual that can't be replaced, and it's just so upsetting because he is such a loveable character." The police said Darius' abduction was a high-profile case as the animal was a celebrity in England and has made dozens of TV appearances. They believe the abductors have a potential "ulterior motive," and that it could be the work of organized criminals who knew his commercial value. The UK's policing Minister Kit Malthouse called animal theft a "vile crime" and promised to crack down on it.

Sources: [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)

Writing

There should be long prison sentences for pet theft. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rabbit / home / record / nose / tail / stolen / garden / information / owner / pet / coronavirus / pandemic / individual / high-profile / TV / criminals / commercial

True / False

- a) The world's largest rabbit was stolen from the continent. T / F
- b) The rabbit is 1.29 metres long from its tail to its nose. T / F
- c) The rabbit was stolen from a high-class pet shop last week. T / F
- d) There is a \$2.7 million reward for the rabbit's safe return. T / F
- e) The article says there has been a recent spike in rabbit thefts in the UK. T / F
- f) The rabbit was a celebrity in the UK and had been on TV. T / F
- g) The police think organized criminals may have stolen the rabbit. T / F
- h) The UK's policing minister promised to tackle animal theft. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. current | a. secret |
| 2. abducted | b. upset |
| 3. appealing | c. precious |
| 4. distraught | d. made off with |
| 5. beloved | e. reason |
| 6. spike | f. present |
| 7. celebrity | g. nasty |
| 8. ulterior | h. increase |
| 9. motive | i. star |
| 10. vile | j. begging |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What can we do to stop people from stealing pets?
- c) What are the good and bad things about being a rabbit?
- d) What dangers do rabbits have to face?
- e) What celebrity rabbits do you know of?
- f) What do you think has happened to the rabbit?
- g) What should the punishment be for rabbitnapping?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the rabbit's owner?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. the current Guinness record | a. an impassioned appeal |
| 2. From nose to tail, | b. a spike in pet thefts |
| 3. We are appealing | c. criminals |
| 4. a \$2,750 reward for the safe | d. he measures 129cm |
| 5. Darius' disappearance comes amid | e. motive |
| 6. Darius' owner has made | f. down on it |
| 7. upsetting because he is such a | g. holder |
| 8. the abductors have a potential ulterior | h. loveable character |
| 9. it could be the work of organized | i. for information |
| 10. promised to crack | j. return of her beloved pet |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of rabbits?
- Are there any creatures on Earth that are cuter than rabbits?
- What kind of pets do rabbits make?
- What part do rabbits play in your culture?
- What do you think of a 129cm-long rabbit?
- What do you know about rabbits?
- Why might someone have stolen the rabbit?
- What do you think the life of a rabbit is like?

Spelling

- a nentntcoila giant rabbit
- he was dacuetbd from his pen
- the rabbit was stolen from its rnueoeslc
- Darius' dhtrsugait owner
- the safe return of her veodebl pet
- She leeddpa for his safe return
- made an nspdoaimies appeal
- Every animal is an ddalinuvii
- the animal was a etbecyrli
- dozens of TV paaescprnea
- have a potential rtoirelu motive
- romlcmicea value

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Rabbits

You think rabbits are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which are the worst of these (and why): goldfish, parrots or horses.

Role B – Goldfish

You think goldfish are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which are the worst of these (and why): rabbits, parrots or horses.

Role C – Parrots

You think parrots are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which are the worst of these (and why): goldfish, rabbits or horses.

Role D – Horses

You think horses are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which are the worst of these (and why): goldfish, parrots or rabbits.

Speaking – Pets

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| • Cat | • Rabbit |
| • Tortoise | • Horse |
| • Parrot | • Dog |
| • Beetle | • Goldfish |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.