

Story: The civet who helped the farmer

It was night-time in the forest, and Lala the civet was wide awake and ready to explore. Civets are nocturnal which means they sleep during the day and are awake at night. Not long after she had started her journey, she came across a large field filled with coffee plants. She noticed the plants were covered in bright red cherries and she was very excited, cherries were her favourite snacks! She started to eat them right away.



As the sun began to rise the farmer came down to the fields to inspect his coffee plants. He was excited to see Lala eating the cherries. Once Lala has eaten the cherries, she will spread the cherry seeds across the fields in her poo! These seeds will grow into new coffee plants. This process is called seed dispersal.

After Lala had left the farmer noticed all the coffee beans in her poo. He became very excited because it meant he could make his favourite coffee. This is a special coffee made from coffee beans that have been eaten by civets and partially broken down in their stomachs by molecules called enzymes. The farmer knew he could sell this coffee for a lot of money as people all around the world wanted to try it. He knew the secret to making the best civet coffee was to collect the poo from happy and healthy civets that live in the wild.

Civets and coffee farmers have a very special relationship called a mutualistic relationship. A mutualistic relationship is where both the farmer and civets' benefit. The farmer benefits because the civets disperse cherry seeds and help his crops grow. He can also use their poo to make and sell civet coffee. Civets like Lala benefit because they get to eat the cherries. This means it is important that civets always remain in the wild.



Story: The civet who lost his mother

Yiyi and his mother were walking through the forest at night looking for food. This was Yiyi's first trip away from home and he was excited to start exploring the forest. As they walked along the forest floor Yiyi became distracted by all the new sights and sounds. So distracted that he had forgotten to check which path his mother had taken and now he was lost!



Just as Yiyi was starting to get scared he smelt a familiar scent. He followed the smell to a nearby tree and recognised the scent as his mother's! His mother had been leaving scent marks for him to follow. Just like how humans recognise each other and communicate by speaking, civets communicate through smell. Every civet has their own unique scent which is made in a part of the body near their tail called the perineal gland. Civets use these scents to let other civets know who they are and mark their territories. Their wet noses help them locate a scent from far away.

Yiyi followed this mother's scent down the path but soon the path split and he didn't know which direction to go! Suddenly he smelt a new scent coming from a branch in a tree down one of the paths. He climbed up the tree and along the branch to the scent and took a big sniff with his wet nose. This scent belonged to an unfamiliar male civet. He had accidentally walked into another civet's territory which could be dangerous, especially for a young civet all alone, so he decided to take the other path.

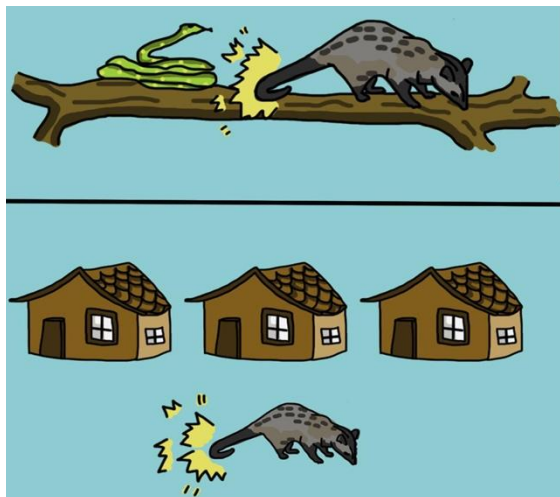
He began to worry that he would never find his mother before sunrise. Just then he caught his mother's scent again! This meant he was on the right path. He found his mother's scent on some rocks by the edge of a stream. This scent was very fresh which meant she was close by. He looked up there she was smiling at him from the other side of the stream. He had arrived home just in time as the sun was coming up and it was time for him to go to bed!



Just like humans, civets have their own special way of communicating with each other, they are very clever animals!

Story: The civets from different homes

Layla was waking up in the forest, and Esther was waking up in the nearby town. They had made plans to meet at their usual spot; the forest edge. It was a long walk, so they set off straight away. Civets can live in many different habitats, including forests, plantations, and around towns. This is because they have lots of adaptations that help them live in different places. Adaptations are something all animals including humans have. An adaptation can be a part of the body, a process inside the body, or a behaviour. Layla and Esther's adaptations will help them reach their meeting point.



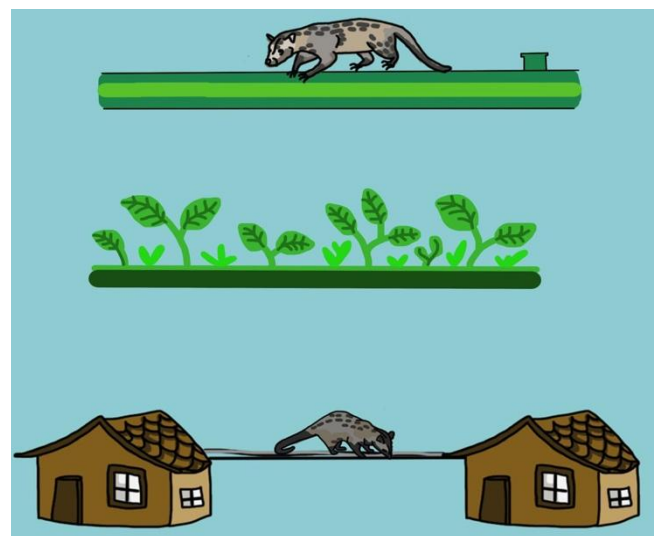
Halfway into their journeys they began to feel hungry. Both Layla and Esther can use a body adaptation to help them find food. This body adaptation is their curved claws! In the forest Layla uses her claws to help her climb to the top of trees where the best mangos are found. In the town Esther's claws help her climb buildings to hunt for rats and mice. Her claws make her the best pest killer!

Along the way Layla and Esther face many dangers. Luckily, they can release a scent from their body which smells very bad. They use this scent to scare off animals that may attack them! This is a process adaptation. In the forest Layla comes across a hungry snake who is looking for his next meal! Luckily Layla knows how

to escape! She releases her scent and the snake quickly slithers away. In the town Esther has accidentally bumped into a group of people. They try to touch her, and she gets scared, so she releases her scent to make sure they stay back.

There is one last hurdle they need to overcome before they reach the meeting point! For Layla the meeting point is on the other side of a plantation. To get to the other side she has learnt to use water-pipes as a bridge! Esther just has to cross two buildings before she reaches Layla. It's too far to jump so she uses wires and pipes as a bridge! Civets are clever, they have learnt to use man-made structures as bridges. This is a behaviour adaptation.

Layla and Esther have finally met! They have used their adaptations to help them survive two very different habitats. In all the habitats where civets live, people live too! People and civets need to live peacefully alongside each other.



Story: The civet who made a friend

It was late at night and Wita was wide awake. She couldn't sleep so she decided to go and sit outside and get some fresh air. As she sat outside, she noticed something coming towards her. As it came into the light, she realised it was a civet! She had never seen a civet before, but she had heard stories about them. They would attack people and steal their livestock. She was so frightened she ran back inside and hid under her blanket.

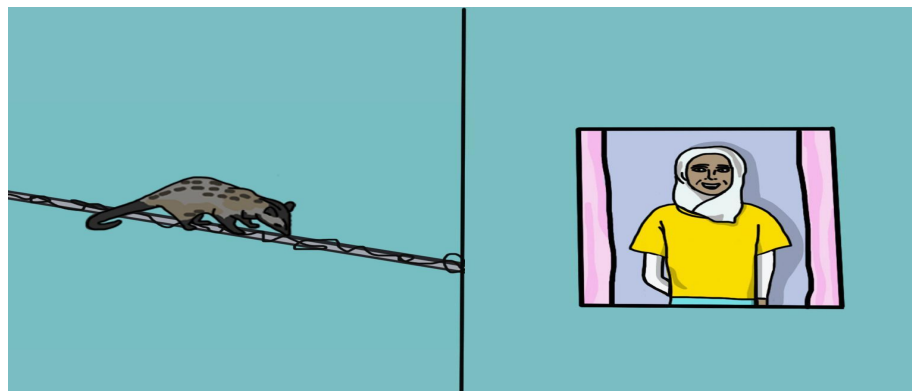


The next night she lay in bed wide awake when suddenly she heard a rustling from outside her window. She turned on her bedroom light and slowly went to the window. There was the civet again! He was balancing on a wire frozen in fear. The light had scared him, and he was now trying to turn around and run away. But the cable was so wobbly it looked like he was going to fall! Wita ran across the room and switched off the light. But when she came back to the window the civet was gone.

When she had looked at him, she hadn't seen a scary animal that wanted to attack her. Instead she saw a very shy and scared animal. Maybe the reason he had been so scared was because he thought she was going to attack him! That thought made her sad, she didn't want the civet to fear her.

Every night for the next week Wita sat by her window and waited for the civet to come back. At first there was no sign of him, and she was worried she had scared him off forever. But then as the week went on, he started appearing! She quietly watched him as he balanced on wires and jumped across buildings chasing after mice and rats. She decided to call him Dendi since he had become her special night-time friend. She was no longer afraid of him, and he was no longer afraid of her!

Civets are very shy animals that don't attack people. Next time you see a civet don't be scared, it won't hurt you. Just keep your distance because they are wild animals.



Story: The civet who was saved

Civets are sometimes taken from the wild to be sold as pets. This is what happened to Zaldo when he was a baby. In the wild Zaldo was a very happy civet, he spent his days exploring the forest with his mother and searching for his favourite foods including mongos and kasemak.



But in captivity Zaldo became very sick. His owners did not know his favourite foods and they kept him up during the day to play. But the daytime is when he would normally be sleeping! Most of all he missed running through the forest and climbing trees with his mother.

One day one of the children of the owners noticed how sick Zaldo was and knew they had to do something to make him better. So, he and his father took Zaldo to the Little Fireface Project. The people at the Little Fireface project explained to them the reason Zaldo was sick was because civets are not meant to be kept as pets. He decided the best thing to do for Zaldo was to give him to the Little Fireface Project and they would find him the best place to recover.

A few weeks later Zaldo was well enough to be released back into the wild. As soon as he was released, he ran all the way back home where his mother was waiting for him! Together they wandered through the forest feeding on all the foods he had missed. He was so happy to once again have all this space to play and explore. Zaldo was very grateful to the family for taking him to the Little Fireface Project, he would always remember their kindness. Even years later when he was all grown up and now a father, he would tell his baby the story of the family who saved his life.



Civets do not do well as pets; they are wild animals that should be able to live happy and healthy lives in the wild.

Story: The civet who had a dinner party

Gungun was very excited, he had invited his two best friends Tunga the small Indian civet and Nabil the binturong over for a dinner party. Even though Gungun, Tunga, and Nabil are all different species they like a lot of the same food. They are all omnivores. An omnivore is an animal that likes to eat other animals and plants. Humans are also omnivores! Gungun had foraged and hunted for lots of different foods for his friends including sugar cane, mangos, kasemak, frogs, insects and rats. Civets and binturongs like Gungun, Tunga and Nabil need to have variety in their diet to stay healthy and happy.

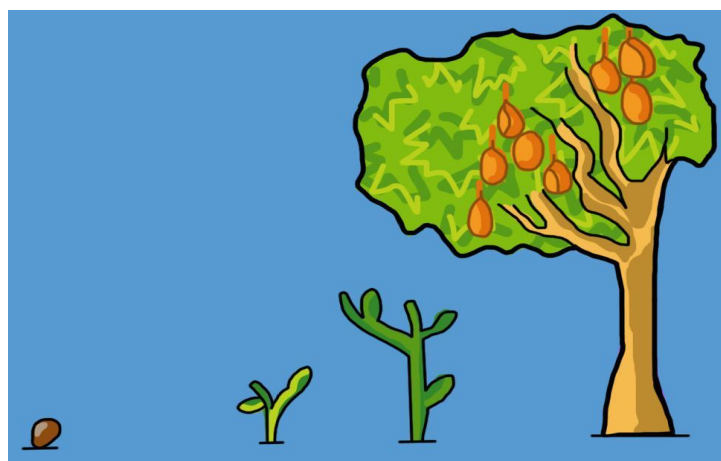
The reason Gungun, Tunga, and Nabil like a lot of the same things is because they belong



to the same family called Viverridae. The family Viverridae is made up of thirty-four species that are all related to each other. Just like how you are related to people in your family!

They spent the evening eating, laughing, and sharing stories. They were having so much fun that before they knew it the sky was getting light and the sun was coming up. This meant it was time for Tunga and Nabil to head home.

Another thing Gungun, Tunga, and Nabil have in common is they are all seed dispersers. A seed disperser is an animal that transports seeds far away from the parent plant so that they can grow into new plants. Gungun, Tunga and Nabil do this by eating the fruits of plants including sugar cane, mangos, and kasemak which contain seeds. On their way home they will release the seeds in their poo which will grow into new plants!



Lots of the fruit Gungun, Tunga, and Nabil like people also like. Through seed dispersal they can help to replace plants that have been cut down and eaten and make sure that there are enough fruits for everyone to share.