

Example Text: Encyclopaedia Entry

The Natural World Encyclopaedia

ANIMAL HOMES

Animals need a home – somewhere to shelter or breed that is safe from predators and they have different ways of creating a home that suits their needs.

Burrows

Fossorial animals such as rabbits and platypuses spend much of their life in a burrow. Many such animals obtain their food underground from plant roots, worms, grubs and the larvae of insects. An unusual burrowing animal is the pupfish, which lives in ponds and marshes in the deserts of North America. During the winter, the pupfish will burrow into the muddy bottom of the waterway and lay dormant until the weather warms up and it can breed.

Hollow Logs

Both dead and living trees are used for shelter by animals such as goannas, possums and cockatoos. Owls use them for roosting during the day. Many other animals, such as numbats live in hollow logs on the ground. Animals that rely on such habitats may become endangered due to land clearing and housing developments.

Nests

Animals, such as birds build nests made of twigs, leaves and grass, both above and on the ground. They are usually held together with mud or saliva. Bowerbirds decorate their terrestrial nests with blue items to attract a mate. Crocodiles build their nests from rotting vegetation so as to help incubate their eggs.

Shells

Crustaceans, such as crabs and lobsters have a shell-like skeleton on the outside of their body for protection against predators. Hermit crabs also carry an extra shell around with them so they can hide. As a hermit crab grows, it will reject its old shell and find a larger one. However, animals such as the snail, keep the same shell for their entire life. As the snail grows, so does its shell. It can even repair small cracks and holes.

