

Gray Matters

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Squirrel Sanctuary Inc

A 501 (c) 3-tax exempt organization, Squirrel Sanctuary Inc is an all volunteer collective of State licensed wildlife rehabilitators and assistants that devotes its efforts to the rehabilitation, protection and preservation of indigenous tree, ground and flying squirrels and other small mammals.

Visit us online

www.squirrelsanctuary.org

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ACORN-ucopia !

Trees Must Be Nuts: Acorns in Oversupply

By Daphne Sashin
Staff Writer NEWSDAY
November 16, 2002(C)

On a street in Rocky Point, the proliferation of acorns has left brown paste on the pavement and set off nut wars among small children.

In Ronkonkoma, neighbors say the dark nuts feel like ball bearings under their feet, and they are afraid they will slip and fall.

And a Jericho couple can't prove it, but a glass tabletop in their backyard shattered and they are certain the culprit was an acorn, or several, that plummeted out of the 40-foot-high oak tree behind their backyard.

Across Long Island, residents are flummoxed by

nac" stand by that theory.

"From Washington, D.C., and up the coast, it's going to be really a lot of snow," said Mare-Anne Jarvela, senior editor with the almanac. "It's like everything in nature kind of prepares itself for the season." Scientists foretell a lot of well-fed squirrels, turkeys, deer, and quail, especially

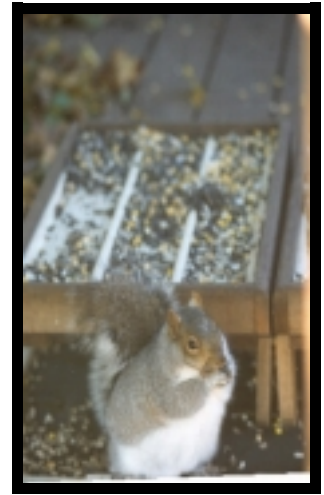
what tree experts acknowledge is an unusually large crop of acorns this season. There is no consensus, but arborists point to a combination of weather conditions and crop cycles.

"Acorns are a lot like some other trees, like apples, if they have a heavy crop one year, they have a lighter crop another year," said Bill Sanok, Agricultural Director at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, in Riverhead. He added that the warm, dry weather last winter created ideal conditions for the trees to pollinate, leading to more acorns this fall.

Vincent Simeone, assistant director of the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, in Oyster Bay, suggested the high winter

since many of the acorns seem to be from white oak trees, which have less of the bitter tannin, said Mark Lowery, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Humans have less to cheer about. Jon Hickey, an arborist at Lehman Plant Care in Hicksville, has received about a dozen distress calls.



Caryn E. Murray 2001 ©

temperatures may have stressed the trees, especially older oaks, causing them to put more energy into fruit production than growth as a kind of defense mechanism. According to folklore, a large acorn crop foretells a snowy winter. The editors of the "Old Farmer's Alma-

One caller, Nettie Bibelot, of Bethpage, is so fed up she says she has no choice but to cut down the large oak tree in front of her house, which has dropped piles of acorns into her new flower beds and sent exuberant squirrels scurrying over the lawn.

"You can't walk on that sidewalk without taking your life in your hands,"

Nuts Continues

said Wieboldt, 78, who has lived there for 50 years. "It's a mess, it's a nuisance; I'm just afraid someone's going to have an accident walking."

Alan and Susan Witzer have lived in their Jericho home for 23 years and are accustomed to the acorns that hit their pool, or their head, on occasion. But never like this. Friday afternoon, Susan pointed to the empty white frame which, until two and a half months ago, was a glass lawn table.

"We're assuming that the acorn fell out of the tree, because the table just shattered," she said, kicking away an acorn cap with her brown leather shoe. Alan said their yard was locked that August night, and the



Caryn Eve Murray 2001(c)

only evidence of the crime was some scattered nuts.

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D ID YOU KNOW ??

Gray squirrels frequently excise the embryo of white oak acorns with their sharp incisors to prevent germination. Germination results in an acorn that is less digestible and less preferred by squirrels.

Gray squirrels lack canine teeth and in their place is a gap called the diastema and within this space the inner cheek folds are drawn in to seal off the mouth from food fragments going down the throat

Buying the Squirrels a Break by Barbara Hausman

Do you realize how important your membership means to the squirrels and other animals being cared for by Squirrel Sanctuary's licensed rehabilitators? Without your membership dollars, we would have to drastically limit the number of animals that come to us in need of help. To give you an idea of your direct contributions to their care, here's list of expenses necessary to getting

these animals well and back into the wild: These supplies are required for the squirrels' optimum health and well-being:

Formula: for the young squirrels, flying squirrels and chipmunks- \$21.00 per 28-ounce can, which lasts about 2 weeks during

the height of each of the two baby seasons (spring and fall).

Milk Supplement: A nutrient-rich additive to the formula - \$20.00 per 16-ounce can which lasts 4 weeks.

Latex nipples for feeding formula: \$3.00 for 3. These need frequent replacing because of hungry ,excited babies who chew on them during feeding .
Oral syringes- To dis-

"When done correctly wildlife rehabilitation can be expensive"

pense the formula.- \$11-\$15 per box of 100

Primate Diet (Monkey Chow Biscuits) A staple, full of vitamins and minerals at \$27.00 a (25lb) bag.

Rodent Block Another diet staple - \$17.00 (25lb)

Rehydration Solution (Lactated Ringers) \$5-10 per bag

NUTS, and more nuts- Soft nuts- \$7.00 per 2lb.bag

Hard Nuts- \$1.80 per lb.

Assorted Vegetables- Good

sources of calcium- \$1.00-\$3.00 lb.

Cages and Pet Carriers for animal housing- \$25.00 and up.

Medications- \$15.00 minimum and up. Supplied at a discount from our participating vets

Surgical Vet Procedures (limb setting, abscess, draining, x-rays) 35.00 and up

Feeding dishes/crocks for food and water- \$3.00-\$10.00

Nest boxes for sleeping and security: \$10.00-35.00 each.

Various other items needed to care for sick and injured animals:

Heating pads, cotton balls, flea treatment, flea comb, first aid ointment/creams
teeth and nail clippers, and an endless amount of paper towels. It is impossible to list everything that is essential to the care of orphaned, sick/injured squirrels and



Eye injured infant
Stacy Kuo ©2001

Buying squirrels a break continued

animals but this is just an overview of where your money goes. Without your membership, we are responsible for providing these items out of pocket, with no government subsidy.

Your yearly membership or donation allows us to do more of what we love to do - and it saves lives.

If the beauty of nature offers you comfort and watching a squirrel in your yard puts a smile on your face, please remember these special "leftovers" who's



Nursing infant enjoys nutritious formula
Stacy Kuo ©2001

journey back to freedom is still yet to come. Any contribution is used solely for food, medication caging and veterinary care.

All of us at Squirrel Sanctuary Inc appreciate your support for the squirrels. Without it we could not do the work we do. Not just this season but all year long

Thanks to you, we can continue to save them and set them free.

Did you know ??

Because squirrels will feed on fungi, they may play an important role in the dispersal of hypogeous mycorrhizal spores. The word "mycorrhizae" means "fungus-roots" and describes the close mutually beneficial relationship between specialized soil fungi (mycorrhizal fungi) and plant roots. The vast majority of the world's land plants form some type of mycorrhiza, particularly the major forest species . All conifers and many hardwoods strongly depend on mycorrhizae for growth and survival.

News in a Nutshell

Squirrel Sanctuary migrated north this past fall to participate in NYSWRC's 22nd New York State annual wildlife rehabilitation conference. A dynamic, weekend-long educational event designed to help the beginning / advanced rehabilitator, / interested veterinarian and technician , it was held in Grande Island , NY , November 1-3, 2002 . On November 2, 2002 Squirrel Sanctuary presented an intensive 4.5 hour squir-

Annual Sanctuary happenings

rel workshop to our colleagues. The topics included ' Pine Squirrel Natural history and rehab, Diseases and conditions found in gray squirrel rehabilitation, Flying squirrel natural history and rehab, Everything you wanted to know about gray squirrels , Adult squirrel handling, Modern myths and legends-debunking rehab myths, and more. Ms Nonda Surratt ,a knowledgeable licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in squirrel rehab,from Ce-

dar Hill Wildlife care in Hebron Ohio, was our co-presenter. The program was well received and filled to capacity !

If you are interested in attending future New York State conferences, link to NYSWRC'S conference page. <http://www.nyswrc.org/conference.html>

SQUIRREL SANCTUARY will scamper east March 11-15 ,2003 for the NWRA Wildlife Symposium and we are "all a -chattered" ! Tufts

Wildlife Clinic is proud to host this international gathering of wildlife professionals in scenic Newport, Rhode Island. Since its inception in 1983, the Wildlife Clinic has hosted and presented many events and classes as they strive to care for wildlife in need, educate veterinary students in wildlife medicine, and promote the role of healthy wildlife populations in healthy ecosystems.



Eastern gray squirrel in
Black phase print

Barbara Bellens-Picon will speak on squirrel disease and conditions found in rehabilitation and she and fellow colleague Nonda Surratt will co-present on natural history of gray, pine and flying squirrels. For more info on attending <http://www.nrawildlife.org/symposiums/sympnext.asp>

Did you catch us on TV?

We strongly advocate wildlife education particularly for young people who show a sincere interest in wildlife and the environment . Our efforts aired nationally this September on PBS NATURE.-**Wild TV** <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wildtv/wildlife.html>. Maya Klauber ,a beautiful ,brilliant young sanctuary volunteer was featured along with her mother Judith Kirsch and Sanctuary founder, Barbara B Picon.The program WILD TV was seen nationwide on PBS and we are

Nutshell_Continued

still receiving kudos. People who show a genuine concern about wildlife and their care can become involved by volunteering their time with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. The mentoring process can take many years of close supervised instruction. Maya has been working and helping her mother Judith over the past several years in caring for injured and orphaned squirrels and rabbits. Those interested in becoming a New York State licensed wildlife rehabilitator should first mentor with an experienced wildlife rehabilitator prior to taking the state test and obtaining their license. Contact the Department of Environmental Conservation . Statutory Authority: ECL 11-0515 and 6 NYCRR Part 184 and



Judith Kirsch and Bill Lober at fundraiser

Part 175 .The Department may issue a Wildlife Rehabilitator License, to qualified individuals, authorizing the rehabilitator to temporarily possess distressed wildlife for the purpose of providing care to sick, injured or orphaned wildlife for return to the wild.

To apply for this license, contact the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources Special Licenses Unit. Special Licenses Unit
NYSDEC, 625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4752(518)402-8985

If you enjoy surfing the net, catch a wave and visit us at www.squirrelsanctuary.org .

We are online ! After a long and exhaustive

“work in progress” we are proud to finally publish our website. Many pages of squirrel and wildlife related topics can be viewed and read , including squirrel natural history, curious squirrel facts, preventing wildlife encounters on your property, wildlife rescue,cache box, nature poetry, photo gallery ,what is wildlife rehabilitation?, squirrelisms and some just “FUR “fun pages of squirrel related musings !

Cache in and join us online. We promise not to bore you with idle chatter !

www.squirrelsanctuary.org

A Beautiful Gem An episode from Ramayana retold by Shanta Rameshwar Rad

While the monkeys were building the bridge, a small squirrel took pebbles in its mouth and brought them to the workers: `These are to help in building the bridge to Lanka so that blessed Rama may bring back his wife. I must do my share of the work.' `You, what?' cried a monkey. `I am helping to build the bridge, sir,' replied the squirrel. `Look, I am

carrying the small pebbles that with your rocks will help to from the bridge.'

"The monkeys burst into a mighty roar of laughter. By this time a crowd of monkeys had collected and the first monkey roared out, `Did you hear that? The squirrel says she's building a bridge with her pebbles! Haha! I've never heard anything so funny in

my life.' The other monkeys thought it was a good joke too. They held their sides and laughed. When they could laugh no more they said to the squirrel: `Here, little creature. Do you think Rama is in need of your pebbles? He commands the largest army in the Seven Worlds, and for him we carry whole mountains with their granite and rock. He does not want your little pebbles.'

The squirrel said, `I cannot carry mountains or rocks. God has only given me strength to carry my pebbles. I cannot do more, but this I will do, for my heart weeps for the sorrowing Rama, and what I can do to help, I will.' The monkeys said, `Enough of your foolishness, little one. We have no time for play and for the likes of you. Go home to your nest in the trees and

let us get on with our work.'

"But the squirrel would not go. Again and again the monkeys picked her up and put her down out of the way, and again and again she returned, with her pebbles. Then the monkeys were angry and threatened to throw her into the sea. Still the



squirrel said, `But I want to help too.' Then an angry monkey picked up the little squirrel and flung her away. But she, crying the name of Rama, fell into his hands, where he stood. And Rama held the little squirrel close to him and said to the monkeys, `Despise not the weak and the small, for according to each man's strength will he serve. And to me what matters is not how great the strength and service, but how

Beautiful Gem continued

great the love and devotion. This little squirrel with her pebbles has love in her heart that would move the earth and the heavens by its strength and power.' And he chid them for their pride. But the squirrel he held close to him and said: `Little one, your devotion has touched my heart. Be blessed then by me whom you have loved and served.' So saying, he stroked the little squirrel's furry back. And as he put her down all who had crowded round



Dreamin of nuttin! Barbara B Picon © 2002

saw upon the brown fur the three white lines that were the marks of Sri Rama's fingers.

And ever since, the Indian squirrel has carried the three white stripes on its back."

Did you know?

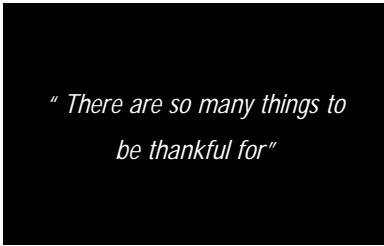
Early Christian Art occasionally included images of squirrels to emphasize an aphorism or moral. One such painting of St Jerome depicts a squirrel using the protection of its tail to endure a harsh storm. The inscription reads "Durabo, et quondam res expectado secunda Quamis nuc male sit, non male simper erit"(I shall endure and expect once again more favorable things however bad it is now, it won't be bad forever.)

Gray't People! Counting squirrels along with our blessings

Squirrel sanctuary experienced a fafrotsky this past year with squirrels seemingly falling from the sky!!! Record numbers of orphaned and injured squirrels kept us busy day and night . To this date all of our cooperating rehabilitators are overwintering late born fall squirrels until spring-for a more favorable release. Since we are home based volunteers we are not afforded a hired staff as some rehab centers

are. However ,we have been blessed with the dedicated efforts of some very special people that helped get us through this particularly difficult year. Mucho GRAY-TITUDE : Ms Barbara Giglio , Carle place NY who unselfishly fed and cared for a multitude of squirrels during

the entire 2002 season. She would travel between her home and Westbury NY several times a week to carefully tend to the feeding and medicating schedule of recovering orphaned infant ground and tree squirrels .Barbara has successfully completed her training program and is



confidently nominated for Wildlife rehab assistant. Elizabeth Giglio is a 14 year young lady from Carle Pl. with a particular affinity toward many animals. This was apparent when she helped Squirrel Sanctuary and her mom with the care of many orphans. She is learning how to clean their cages, fill their food and water bowls and really is learning a lot . Good going lizzie!!



Little ' Jimmy' Ward photography© 2002

Sarah Giglio An adorable lady who likes to help ! She is excellent at counting who has been fed and who has not and can really do a great job at sorting the clean and not so clean laundry!!! She is definitely one of our cutest SANCTUARY volunteers !! Gail Rumsfeld Seaford NY Another wonderful volunteer who also helped

make this season possible. Gail volunteered her time unselfishly this past fall by traveling daily to Westbury to help feed and medicate over 65 orphaned squirrels. Gail has successfully completed her training program and is confidently nominated for NYS Wildlife rehab assistant . Ronald Rumsfeld Seaford NY fed and assisted in treatments this past Fall. He is very interested in squirrel natural history. Ronald can also weld

Gray't People-continued

and patch up broken wire cages.Dr Jennifer Saver DMV New Hyde Park NY This veterinarian came to our rescue in the spring season when many unusual abscess cases befell us. She used her medical expertise to treat some very unusual cases with the utmost kindness and care. She has a heart of gold and a great staff including - Shawn and his wife. Animal Wellness Center . Westbury Animal Hospital-Bayside Animal Hospital,Nassau Animal Emergency , Plainview Animal emergency,Commack AE,Atlantic Vet Emergency Center thanks for admitting



Young Female -Fall 2002
Ward Photography ©

wildlife and stabilizing. Dr Linda Pesek DVM An original co operating vet. Linda will give her all to any creature feathered or furred. Skilled and compassionate she is one of a kind!Dr Jay Wen and Dr Burt Miller are credited for their expertise in herbal and homeopathic medicine.Dr Elisabeth Freilicher at West hills Animal Hospital , also has gone the distance, giving extraordinary care to the tiniest squirrels with the most puzzling cases. Peter Hausman is thanked for his generosity in lending a hand feeding and caring for the squirrels while Ms Hausman is away on business. Roderick

Eyer,licensed_rehab assistant has shown a steady and skillful hand in the art of tree squirrel teeth trimming He will also go out on a rescue at all hours of the night or apply salve to a wound when needed. One of the best ! Rafael Picon another unbelievable rehab assistant Through thick and thin. Feeding,restraining,medicating, rescuing,talking and walking the public through difficult emergencies, he can do it skillfully! Mark Klauber has a huge heart filled with compassion for all wildlife in distress.He also designs and can hang squirrel nestboxes,feeds and cares for the squirrels and rabbits .Mark has qualified for NYS Wildlife assistant. Heartfelt thanks for all you do! Maya Klauber our original youngest volunteer , is a role model for others

to follow.Her generosity and willingness to help has been greatly appreciated over the years .Mike Pastore helps transport injured and orphaned squirrels to the Sanctuary at any time night or day. Thank you for helping these unfortunate animals! Ms Diane Farella, Ms Jean Schartz,Ms Maria Moria help in feral cat rescue,advice and treatments over many seasons. Bruce Schnittman is thanked for allowing us to set up caging for soft release.His kindness and generosity are appreciated more than he

realizes.

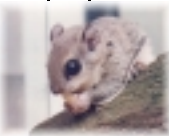
Though many of us conduct our hands on squirrel care alone, wildlife rehabilitation is by no means a solitary act. It is a necessary partnership with others in our household, co-operating veterinarians,and volunteers.

These very special people have demonstrated by example to do what is best for our wildlife even when such tasks may cause personal stress and inconvenience.

“Even though Winter is upon us,Squirrel Sanctuary is overwintering many young squirrels “

Squirrel Sanctuary Mission Statement 2002

To offer temporary rehabilitative care, rescue, and intervention to squirrels that are orphaned, ill, or injured, thus in need of specialized attention, with the objective of returning them to their natural environment with intact survival skills.



Young Southern Flying Squirrel- Joyce DeGeorge

To offer the public prompt response through rescue efforts, rehabilitation and appropriate contacts for follow-up.

To promote the exchange of knowledge and resources among wildlife rehabilitators, related government agencies, commu-

nity organizations, veterinarians and the community-at-large.

To cultivate an understanding and respect for squirrels, wildlife, natural habitat and ecosystems

To reduce human's negative impact on wildlife through education.

Who's Who ?

Current Officers

Barbara Hausman-President
 Janine Norris-Vice President
 Stacy Kuo- Secretary
 Barbara B Picon- Founder
 Treasurer
 Web Master
 Gray Matters -Editor

Board Members

Judith Kirsch,Caryn Eve Murray
 Janine Norris,
 Barbara Hausman

Honorary Board Members

Rafael Picon,
 Teresa and Randy
 Pratt,Roderick
 Eyer,Bruce
 Schnittman,Linda
 Pesek VMD

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Greetings of the Season !

GRAY MATTERS
 Is the seasonal newsletter of Squirrel Sanctuary Inc. Members receive subscriptions to Gray Matters, discounts on educational programs, workshops and gift items sold to benefit orphaned and injured squirrels

EDITOR: Fr McAcorn
 Letters to the editor can be sent to FrMcAcorn@aol.com

The Sanctuary that squirrels find with us, when they enter rehabilitative care is supportive, safe, nurturing and temporary. To make our work even more complete, we want to establish a true and enduring sanctuary for these animals, a place where they can find rest ,respite and ultimately, release back into the wild.

For that, Squirrel Sanctuary needs land .

We need space for a facility, to incorporate rehabilitation efforts , public educational programs, volunteer training and soft release for the squirrels. Then we know our work will truly be done.

If you have land available, or have suggestions on how to proceed with securing property, please e-mail us at

"To make our work even more complete, we want to establish a true and enduring sanctuary for these animals."

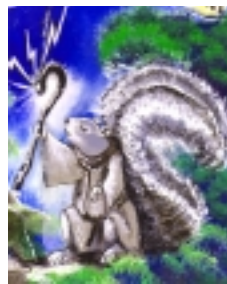
Wish List

FrMcAcorn@aol.com

We'll be very pleased to hear all thoughts and offers.

The Nose Knows

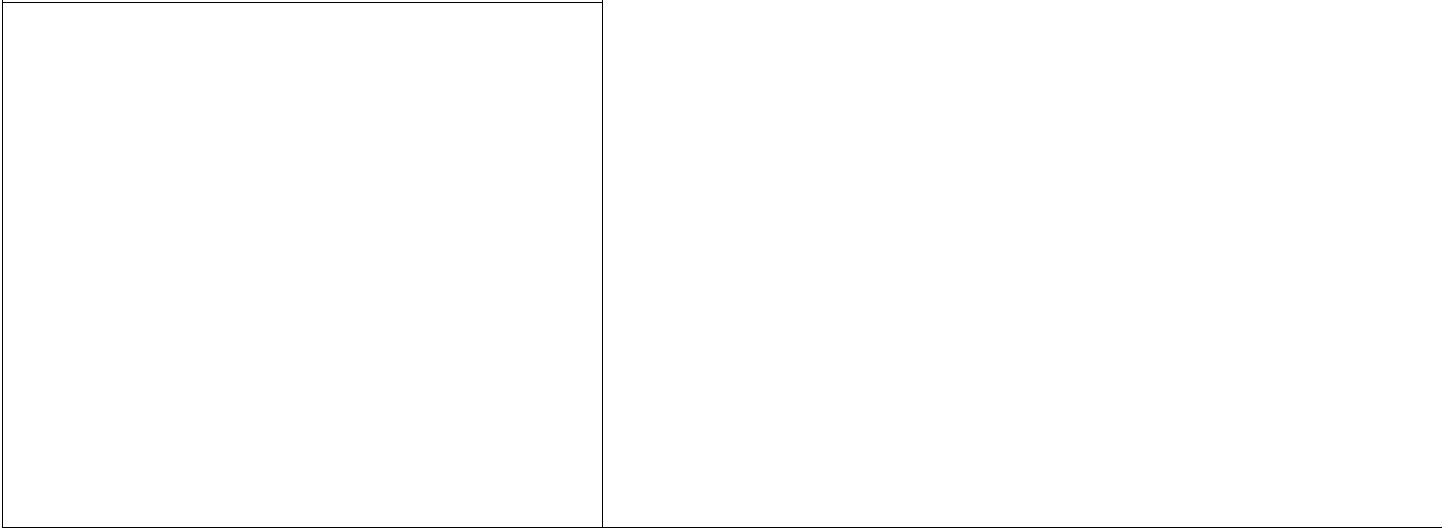
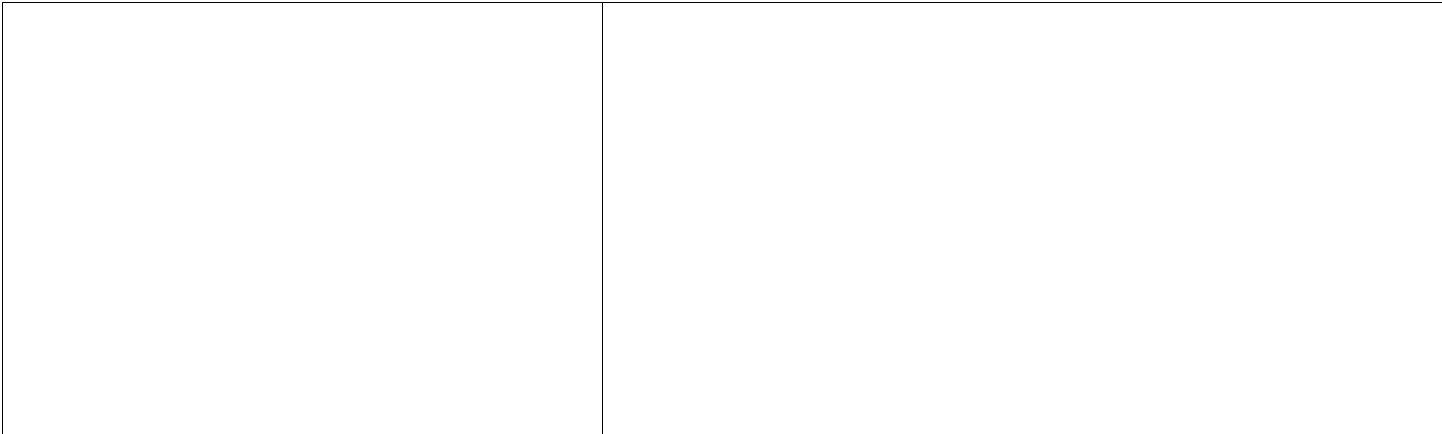
A study shows that some squirrels can recognize their relatives with one sniff .While researching two species of ground squirrel, Cornell University psychologist Jill M. Mateo found that squirrels can decide whether other squirrels are related (and to what degree) by smelling the odors emitted by their glands. She dis-



"Ye of the tree shall be healthy and free"

covered that Belding's ground squirrels spent the least amount of time investigating the scent of unfamiliar 3/4 siblings (same father and mothers who are sisters). They spent a little more time investigating the scent of more distant relatives like aunts and grandmothers, and much more time on re-

mote relatives (e.g. cousins). They investigated the scents of unrelated squirrels longest. Golden-mantled ground squirrels have the same aptitude for sniffing out their kin. Mateo says, "The study suggests there are these discrimination abilities out there that we've been ignoring for a long time. Once you understand those mechanisms and abilities for the potential for kin recognition, we can better understand how they make or don't make use of that ability."



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Ye of the tree shall be healthy and free