

Other Mammals by Ucaoimhu

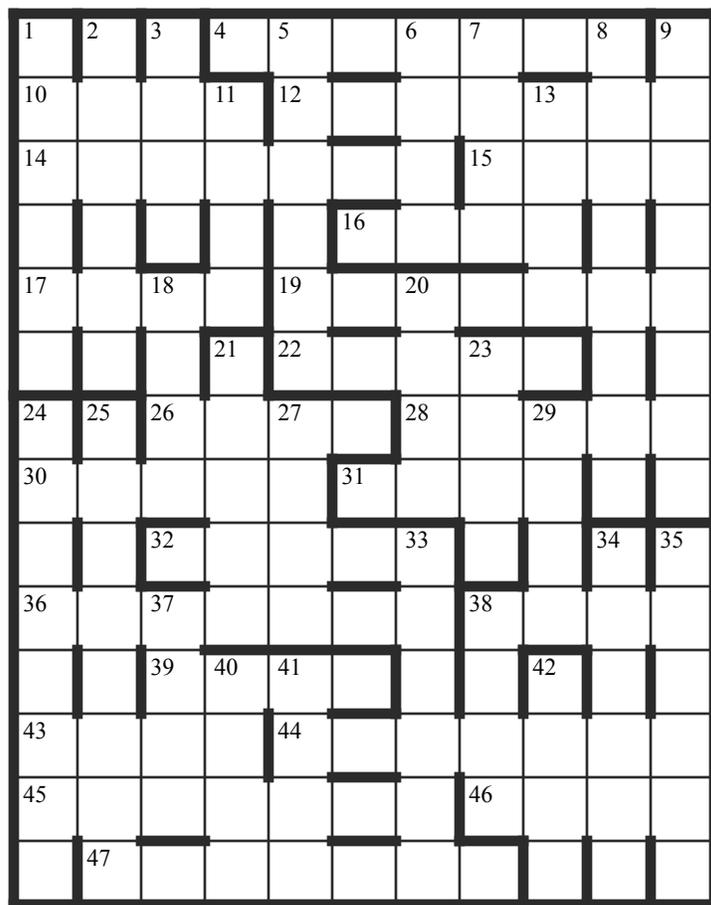
The Web does not consist entirely of videos of cats playing. In this puzzle, some clues are “beastly,” having answers that must be entered with an entire (nonfeline) mammal in one “beastly” square. All *unchecked* beastly squares will contain the same mammal. The one *checked* beastly square has crossing Across and Down answers that would put two different mammals into that square; enter them both.

In each nonbeastly clue, one word has an extra letter, which must be deleted before solving. In the Across clues, the extra letters *starting* their respective words will say what “special item” makes two mammals share the checked beastly square; those *ending* their words will name an activity of that square’s inhabitant. To pursue this activity, he will move by queen’s moves in the grid, visiting each other mammal; the letters he hits in between will say more specifically what he does with each mammal he visits (in terms of the special item). The extra letters for the Down clues (regardless of position within their words) will spell out his reaction to their reaction to this.

For each visited mammal (in *path* order), if the word before that mammal on the path has *n* letters, take the *n*th letter from the start and from the end of its corresponding beastly clue; all the “from the start” letters, and all the “from the end” letters, will each give part of their visitor’s name. Finally, (a) where the mammal put in the checked beastly square by its Across answer has *n* letters, take the letter starting the *n*th word from the start of all the *other* beastly clues (now in *clue* order), and (b) repeat (a) with “Across” changed to “Down” and “start” to “end”; the phrase that results (appropriate to the last bit of the inspiration for this puzzle) will state what this puzzle is.

ACROSS

4. By many a little feline in a file from that word-botching cleric of Oxford
10. Cowgirl thanks character in *Fargo* stories
12. Not shown: Merkel and Skelton holding mic at the end
14. Childcare workers originally using it in front of numberless seabirds
15. Date with the Liberian turned salacious
16. I’m in pain or distress in room with *X Factor* judge Simon
17. Corny pieces are what Marc Antony wanted to be lento
19. Tales in which children behave lawfully and beg
22. Gathers weaving maids
26. Minute thing Rover might say quietly about tungsten
28. Consider someone who is now commoner
30. Lout finally set a value on $C_5H_3N_4O_3^{-1}$ salt
31. Deck boss Derek Shackleton’s coat
32. Dip tossed Sol compounds with two –OH groups
36. Just about to start noticing mantrap and poison
38. Northeast of ozone is Louisiana author Émile
39. Martini genuinely captivates playwright William
43. Oranger and later Cubs slugger Sammy thus upset A’s
44. Enraged Norm had to get nodder (*hyph.*)
45. Young Tex ignoring chin possessed by groom
46. Silly real title of Elizabeth’s third song
47. Grimaced because of nonsense syllables round Hedwig mayhap vacuously ejected (*2 wds.*)



DOWN

1. Lake trout and klutzy stoics that will protect our people
2. *Roma LII* miscast the Fates
3. Suffix meaning *small boarders in Egypt and Tyre*
5. Cause of urbanite stopping to mix herbal cure (*2 wds.*)
6. Stung profs’ helpers? Excellent
7. Use hearth-moving equipment on a box of valuables
8. Garden State city with the moist people initially nettled creepy, wan jerk (*2 wds., abbr.*)
9. Have too much car damage, including 1000 items that gent classified as “miscellaneous”
11. Vast, gill-shaped off-road conveyances (*abbr.*)
13. Move from Scottish dance I see in tan auditorium
18. Word after *Pax* is *an* or *am*, surprisingly
20. To jab at the French, recited a little obit to a musician
21. Shear pretentious bandleader Shaw
23. Method of operating nonglamorous boat where Nicholas II once ruled
24. Boned (e.g.) delivered food that’s soggy Irish tart
25. Mother of Mae Hill’s financial supporters
27. Number each perverse sage
29. At one, Italian grabs Tutu’s foot
33. Ancient city’s small, talkative bird capturing crook
34. Hold mead and rye, mostly for legendary owner of a destructive bovine
35. Fainthearted colonel that encircles Civic Subsection Y
37. Stool incorporating two jaws and six hollow scapulae
38. Wine on top of penologists’ mag
40. Leno’s right near lady of the country (*abbr.*)
41. Clarified butter inside of doughnut and beret
42. First come indoors . . . then Mad Max finally enters