25 Polar Animals: Amazing Facts, Photos, and Video Links to Some of the Toughest

Scientific Name: Ursus maritimus

Habitat: Arctic regions

Average Lifespan: 15-18 years

Polar bears are iconic symbols of the Arctic, known for their massive size, impressive hunting skills, and thick fur coats that insulate them from the freezing temperatures. These apex predators primarily feed on seals and walruses, using their powerful jaws and sharp claws to hunt in icy waters.

Watch a polar bear hunting a seal

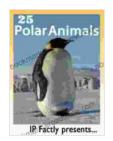
Scientific Name: Alopex lagopus

Habitat: Arctic regions

Average Lifespan: 3-6 years

Arctic foxes are small, opportunistic predators that inhabit the icy landscapes of the Arctic. Their thick, white fur changes to a bluish-gray color during the summer months, providing camouflage against the changing environment. Arctic foxes primarily feed on rodents, but they will also scavenge for food when necessary.

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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Watch an arctic fox hunting a lemming

Scientific Name: Panthera uncia

Habitat: Mountainous regions of Central Asia, including the Himalayas

Average Lifespan: 18-23 years

Snow leopards are elusive predators that inhabit the high mountain ranges of Central Asia. Their thick, camouflaged fur provides excellent insulation in the cold, rocky environments they call home. Snow leopards primarily feed on wild goats, but they are known to hunt a variety of animals, including deer and marmots.

Watch a snow leopard hunting a wild goat

Scientific Name: Aptenodytes forsteri

Habitat: Antarctic coasts

Average Lifespan: 20-25 years

Emperor penguins are the largest of all penguin species, known for their incredible resilience and unique breeding behavior. During the harsh Antarctic winter, males huddle together for warmth and protection, guarding their eggs from the extreme cold. Emperor penguins primarily feed on krill, squid, and fish, which they catch by diving deep into the icy waters.

Watch a group of emperor penguins huddling together

Scientific Name: Sterna paradisaea

Habitat: Arctic and subarctic regions

Average Lifespan: 30 years

Arctic terns are migratory birds that undertake the longest annual migration of any animal on Earth. They breed in the Arctic during the summer months and migrate to the Antarctic during the winter, covering a distance of over 70,000 kilometers each year. Arctic terns primarily feed on small fish, which they catch by diving into the water from the air.

Watch an arctic tern catching a fish

Scientific Name: Ovibos moschatus

Habitat: Arctic regions

Average Lifespan: 13-20 years

Musk oxen are large, shaggy mammals that inhabit the Arctic tundra. Their thick, wooly coats provide excellent insulation against the cold, and their large heads and horns protect them from predators. Musk oxen are herbivores, grazing on grasses, lichens, and mosses.

Watch a herd of musk oxen grazing in the Arctic

Scientific Name: Delphinapterus leucas

Habitat: Arctic and subarctic waters

Average Lifespan: 35-50 years

Beluga whales are social animals that travel in pods of up to 100 individuals. They are known for their curious and playful nature, often interacting with humans. Beluga whales have thick, white skin that helps them camouflage in the icy waters, and they use their melon-shaped foreheads to navigate and communicate.

Watch a group of beluga whales playing in the water

Scientific Name: Lepus arcticus

Habitat: Arctic regions

Average Lifespan: 5-7 years

Arctic hares are large, white rabbits that inhabit the Arctic tundra. Their thick fur and large feet provide insulation and mobility in the snowy landscapes they call home. Arctic hares primarily feed on grasses, leaves, and bark, and they are known for their exceptional jumping abilities.

Watch an arctic hare leaping through the snow

Scientific Name: Fratercula arctica

Habitat: North Atlantic coasts

Average Lifespan: 30-40 years

Puffins are seabirds that spend most of their time at sea. They are known for their vibrant colors, comical appearance, and unique nesting habits. Puffins nest in burrows on cliffs and islands, and they return to the same nesting sites year after year.

Watch a puffin feeding its chicks

Scientific Name: Bubo scandiacus

Habitat: Arctic and subarctic regions

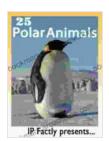
Average Lifespan: 8-13 years

Snowy owls are large, white owls that inhabit the Arctic and subarctic regions. Their impressive wingspan and acute hearing allow them to hunt effectively in low-light conditions. Snowy owls primarily prey on lemmings, but they will also hunt other rodents and birds.

Watch a snowy owl hunting a lemming

Scientific Name: Phoca vitulina

Habitat: Arctic and sub

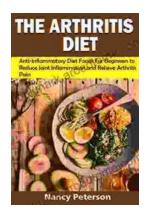


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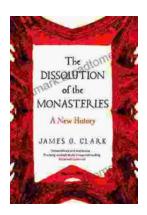
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