

**IT'S A FACT!**

Real-Life  
Reads

# Horrible ANIMAL Habits



by Ruth Owen

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by Ruth Owen

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Ruby Tuesday Books



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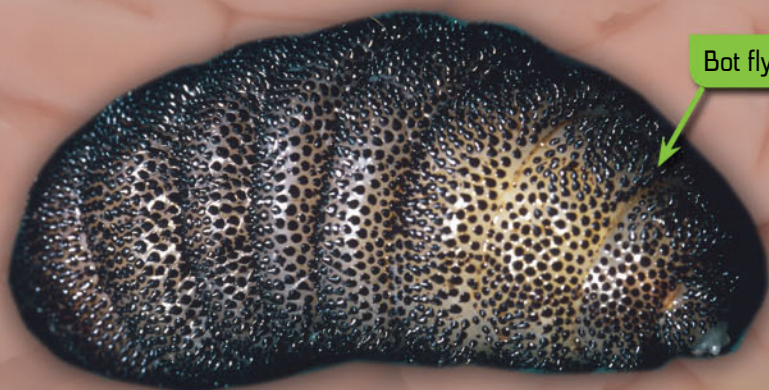
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# It's Going to Get Horrible!

The lives and habits of some animals can seem horrible to us humans.

There's the bot fly, for example. When it's a **larva**, or maggot, it lives inside another animal. Bot fly larvae have even been found living in animals' brains!



Bot fly larva

Then there's the Komodo dragon. This giant lizard catches its food using a deadly bite, killer drool, and lots of patience.



Komodo dragon

Dung beetle



And try to imagine living in poop and eating it. If you were a dung beetle, that's what you'd be doing right now.



DINNER IS SERVED!

So get ready to see some horrible animal habits in action. You're going to be horrified. You're going to be grossed out. But most of all, you will be truly amazed!

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# Dung Beetles

Dung beetles are insects that feed on dung. Cow dung, elephant dung—it's all food to a dung beetle.



A heap of elephant dung

Fresh dung contains lots of liquid. It's this smelly poop soup that adult dung beetles eat.

Some types of dung beetles are known as rollers. These beetles roll the dung they find into balls. Roller dung beetles roll their dung balls away from a dung heap. Then they bury them in the ground to feed on later.



Number of types  
of dung beetles:  
**OVER 6,000**



A roller dung beetle rolling a dung ball

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**Masoff, Joy.** *Oh, Yuck! The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty.* New York: Workman Publishing Company, Inc. (2000).

**Owen, Ruth.** *Gross Body Invaders (Up Close and Gross: Microscopic Creatures).* New York: Bearport Publishing (2011).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about horrible animal habits, go to  
[www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/horriblehabits](http://www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/horriblehabits)

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# Horrible ANIMAL Habits

What creature feeds on flakes of old, dead human skin? Which insect spends part of its life inside the body of another animal? And just what do male hippos use their dung for? Be prepared to be grossed out and amazed by a world of horrible animal habits!

## **TITLES IN THIS SERIES**

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