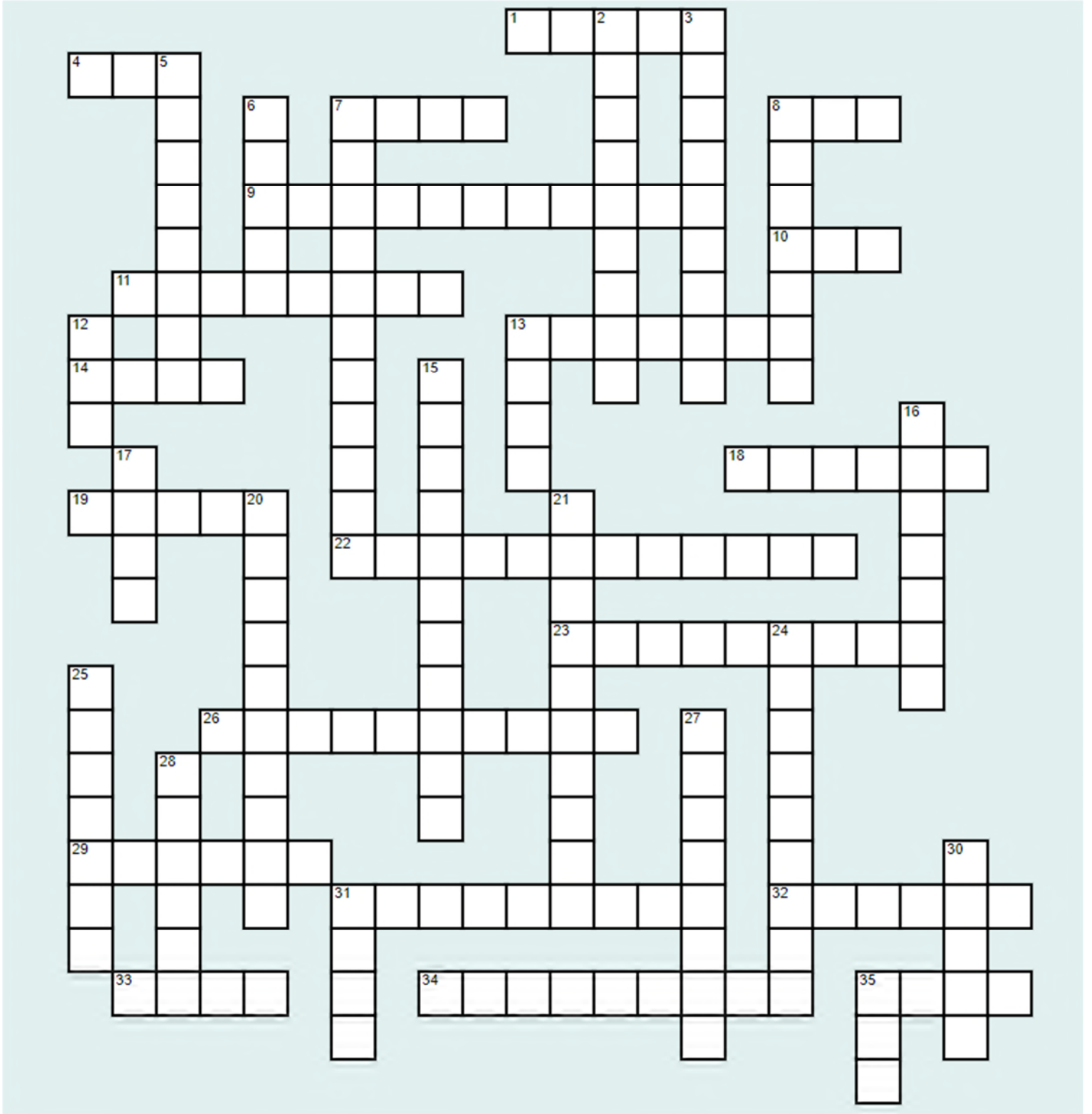


Crossword Puzzle: Common Idioms Using Animal Names

Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

Have you ever noticed how many commonly used idioms have animals in them? The origins of some of these phrases are easy to figure out, but some of them may raise a question or two as to who first said them and why. Can you guess the 40 idioms that use names of animals in this crossword puzzle from the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of [Burlington Reports](#)?



(See clues on next page.)

Across

1. If something is moving much more slowly than you want it to, you may say it's moving "at a ___'s pace".
4. Similar to 8 Across & 11 Across: Using a phrase that came into use during the 1920's and believed to have been originally introduced by cartoonist Tad Dorgan, something that is excellent may be "the ___'s knees".
7. If someone is clumsy, you may say they are like "a ___ in a china shop".
8. Similar to 4 Across and 11 Across (and also attributed to cartoonist Tad Dorgan), something that is excellent may be "the ___'s pajamas".
9. A heavy downpour is sometimes described as "raining ___ ___".
10. A business, product, or asset that produces a constant cash flow over its lifespan may be called a "cash ___".
11. Similar to 4 Across and 8 Across (and also attributed to cartoonist Tad Dorgan), something that is excellent may be "the ___ ___".
13. To "make a ___" toward something is to go directly to it as quickly as possible.
14. If you are jittery and can't sit still, someone may say that you have "___ in your pants".
18. If someone isn't speaking, you may ask them, "What's the matter? ___ your tongue?"
19. Similar to 33 Across, if you think something is suspicious, you may say "something is ___" about it.
22. To ignore a problem because addressing it could cause an even more difficult problem is to "let ___ lie".
23. A person or thing that has only one single talent can be called a "one ___".
26. To stop something suddenly, usually referring to a habit like smoking or caffeine, is to stop "___".
29. First used in 1392 by Geoffrey Chaucer in The Canterbury Tales, the phrase "busy ___ ___" can be used to describe someone who enjoys doing a lot of things and is never idle.
31. If someone pretends to be sad or to sympathize with someone without caring about them, one might say they are shedding "___ tears".
32. If you believe that a person has been used to doing things a certain way for a long time and is not willing to change their habits, you may say that you "can't teach an ___ new tricks".
33. Similar to 19 Across, to say, "I smell ___" means that you suspect that something is wrong, particularly involving a betrayal of some kind.
34. A complicated or lengthy and usually fruitless pursuit or search (often a waste of time because the thing being sought does not exist or is somewhere else) is often referred to as a "___ chase".
35. You may tell a friend whose relationship ended that there are "plenty more ___ in the sea".

Down

2. Someone who is very angry or enraged could be described as being "mad ___ ___".
3. If you are telling someone that you'll do something very quickly, you may say that you'll do it in "two shakes of a ___".
5. An obvious problem or risk that no one wants to discuss is sometimes referred to as the "___ in the room".
6. Someone who is well prepared or well organized has their "___ in a row".
7. If you are nervous, you may say "I have ___ in my stomach".
8. If you allow fear to stop you from doing something, someone may say you will "___ out".
12. If someone looks rough, disheveled, or bedraggled, others may say "look what the ___ dragged in".
13. To "take the ___ by the horns" is to deal with a difficult situation in a very direct, brave, or confident way.
15. To hear something "from the ___" is to hear it directly from the source.
16. The hottest portion of the summer can be called "the ___ of summer".
17. The largest portion of something, especially if it's a disproportionate amount, can be referred to as "the ___'s share".
20. You may encourage someone to slow down or to stop and consider their decision or opinion carefully by telling them, "hold ___".
21. If you received information from a source that you are not willing to disclose, you may say "A ___ told me".
24. Feelings of romantic love felt by someone very young is often referred to as "___".
25. If you want to leave a job or career that requires you to work very hard to compete with others for money, power, or status, you may say that you want to quit the "___".
27. To do something to the fullest extent without reservation is to go "___".
28. Someone who works hard with great enthusiasm is sometimes called an "eager ___".
30. To indulge in frivolous or boisterous activity or play is to "___ around".
31. If you plan to do something for a very long time, you may plan to do it "until the ___ come home".
35. To wish to see someone's reaction without being seen can be described as wishing to "be a ___ on the wall".