

# Water is God's gift, a priceless treasure that we must learn to protect!



Water is of critical importance for the survival and functioning of the planet's living species - plant and animal. Animal species obtain the water they need through drinking water and through food. The water supply of different animals depends on their environment and lifestyle. Many aquatic animals live in seas, oceans, rivers and lakes. Taken

ashore, they perish. Of course, there are also species of animals that can live for a long time without water, but there are few that spend their entire lives without drinking water. In the middle of the deserts and the dry heat of East Africa lives the "gerenuk" antelope, which can easily die without a lick of water. Despite the high temperatures and dry climate of the area, gerenuks have extremely good thermoregulation and hardly sweat, which helps them to keep their water reserve. All the fluids these antelopes ingest come from the leaves and grasses they graze on. As we can guess, in these parts of Africa the vegetation is quite sparse and is mostly made up of



thorn bushes or medium tall trees. Evolution has given gerenuks large eyelids and huge eyelashes that allow them to overcome thorns, and the ability to spend a long time on their hind legs allows them to reach higher branches. Due to their extremely low water consumption, gerenuks are lighter than most species of

African gazelle, but they are among the most beautiful and graceful. Currently, there are only 95,000 of them left in the world, but the species is not yet considered endangered. Only a handful of other mammals could boast abilities like the gerenuks.



The koala is perhaps the most famous example of another animal that can go a lifetime without drinking water, but they enjoy extremely juicy and nutritious eucalyptus leaves.

It is believed that camels can survive without water for about a week, and without

food for 10 days.

The humps of camels are not of stored water, as is wrongly believed, but of fatty tissue. The peculiarities in the construction of the nostrils help to retain water during exhalation. Camels have been found to be able to absorb a sufficient amount of water in the ingestion of their food under relatively favorable conditions, which in turn makes them independent of a drinking source.

The lack of sufficient oxygen in the water (due to heavy pollution with organic waste or the presence of nitrates and phosphates) can cause

the mass extinction of fish and other aquatic organisms. Various inorganic and organic substances, oils, petroleum products and pesticides endanger the life of fish and other aquatic organisms and adversely affect agricultural yields.

