

Bridges For Monkeys

Article: Bridges For Monkeys: How one town helps wildlife cross roads

In many parts of the world, animals and cities live close together. As towns grow, roads and buildings often replace forests and green areas. This makes it harder for wildlife to move safely; and sometimes, animals are hurt or killed trying to cross roads. But one town found a creative solution.

In the town of Lankester, Costa Rica, people noticed that monkeys were often injured while trying to move between trees. The roads below were busy, and the monkeys had no safe way to cross. So, the town built special "monkey bridges"; ropes and cables tied between trees across the roads. These bridges allow the animals to move freely without touching the ground.

The idea worked. Since building the bridges, fewer monkeys have been harmed, and locals often see them using the ropes to swing from one tree to another. Other animals, like sloths and squirrels, use the bridges too.

This isn't just happening in Costa Rica. Similar wildlife bridges have been built in India, Australia, and the Netherlands, sometimes for elephants, kangaroos, or even crabs! In some places, tunnels are built under roads instead of over them.

These efforts are part of something called wildlife conservation, the protection of animals and their natural spaces. Experts say that when humans build cities, it's important to also think about animals and how they live. Even small solutions, like a rope bridge or tunnel, can make a big difference.

People in Lankester say the monkey bridges also help humans. Children learn about nature, tourists visit to see the monkeys, and the town feels proud of its caring, creative solution.



Vocabulary Practice

Word / Phrase	Definition
Wildlife	Animals and plants that live in nature.
Conservation	The protection of the environment and animals.
Cable	A thick, strong rope or wire.
Tunnel	A passage under the ground or road.
Injured	Hurt or damaged.
Swing	To move back and forth, like a monkey does in trees.
Effort	A try or attempt to do something.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal.
Solution	An answer to a problem.
Tourist	A person who travels to visit new places.



Comprehension Questions

1. Why were monkeys in Costa Rica getting injured?
2. What solution did the town create for the monkeys?
3. What are “monkey bridges” made of?
4. Besides monkeys, what other animals have used these bridges?
5. What are some positive effects of the bridges for humans?

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about the idea of monkey bridges?
2. Have you seen or heard of animal bridges or tunnels in your country?
3. Do you think cities should be built to include wildlife spaces? Why or why not?
4. How would you feel if you saw monkeys crossing a rope bridge in real life?
5. What animals in your country might need help moving safely?
6. Why do you think some animals try to cross roads?
7. Would you visit a town just to see how it helps protect animals?
8. How can schools teach children about wildlife and conservation?
9. What small things can people do in cities to help nature?
10. If you were the mayor of a city, how would you protect animals that live nearby?