



HeroRAT Magawa wins PDSA gold medal

He may only weigh 1.2kg and measure 70cm but Magawa, the African giant pouched rat, has become a mine-detecting superhero! The seven-year old is the first rat to be awarded the gold medal by UK veterinary charity PDSA “for animal gallantry and devotion to duty,” after sniffing out over sixty unexploded munitions in Cambodia. There are believed to be six million landmines in the country, planted during civil war in the 1970s. PDSA director general, Jan McLoughlin, told the Press Association, “Every discovery he makes reduces the risk of injury or death to local people.” Magawa is larger than other species of rat but he is still small enough not to trigger the mines. Rodents like Magawa, known as HeroRATs, can search an area 50 metres square in less than ten minutes: the size of the average classroom.



Pictured: Belgium-registered charity, Apopo, has been training rats to detect landmines since the 1990s. Source: madaise

Once he finds a live landmine, he scratches the top of it to alert his human co-workers. As he is approaching retirement age, he now only works for half an hour a day, but the charity is celebrating the fact that this small animal has made a huge impact on a large number of lives.

Taiwan Tigerair flight to nowhere



Pictured: Passengers flew 650 miles north to view the holiday island of Jeju. Source: Focus bannorkAviation Twitter page.

As millions of people have cancelled flights this year due to Coronavirus, Taiwan airline Tigerair sold frustrated travellers a round sightseeing trip over South Korea. Tickets sold out in four minutes. The jet took to the skies on Saturday on a 1,300-mile tour of the holiday island of Jeju. After taking COVID-19 temperature checks before boarding, 120 jubilant passengers departed from Taipei’s Taoyuan airport, dressed in traditional Korean outfits. The pilot flew low in an attempt to spot Jeju’s Sunshine Peak. The airline’s crews have been grounded due to Coronavirus, so this was also a fantastic opportunity for pilots to keep their licences current. In October, Qantas passengers will have a similar experience on a seven hour flight over the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef.



Disney's Toy Story 4 clash with stunt rider

The son of famous stunt rider, Evel Knievel, is suing Disney and Pixar over the likeness of daredevil motorcyclist, Duke Caboom, in the animated film, Toy Story 4, which became a box office hit in June 2019. Kelly Knievel has held the publicity rights to his father's name for over 20 years. Last week, the 60-year-old said: "Evel Knievel did not thrill millions around the world, break his bones and spill his blood just so Disney could make a bunch of money." The 1960s stunt rider famously launched his motorcycle over long rows of parked cars and buses in his signature red, white and blue suit, a similar one to that worn by the character of Duke Caboom in the latest Toy Story movie. Unfortunately, Knievel was not always successful, often sustaining major injuries, including crushing his pelvis, femur and suffering



Pictured: Duke Caboom's on screen favourite friends, Woody and Buzz Lightyear. Source: Harry Li (Friendship)

major concussion. His son, Kelly, has also taken issue with how much money Disney have made from merchandise, including McDonald's Happy Meal toys. Disney has recently sold thousands of propelled wind-up motorbike toys, very like the one released by Knievel in 1973.

Your thoughts on the news...

I think it should be allowed because carers are allowed into people's houses so they can help. If visitors don't get to go in, then the old people will feel sad and lonely.

Kensi - Age 9

I think that they can go in and have a visit as long as they wear gloves and masks. protect the old people.

Kayleigh - Age 10



What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

to share your thoughts!

Visits should not be allowed, because people will get infected, die and we will be in lockdown again. In the future people can visit their loved ones when we have a vaccine.

Jasmine - Age 8

/ think...



YOUR COMMENTS

Share your thoughts on our online discussion board:
www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Email: help@picture-news.co.uk Tweet: @HelpPicture
or post to: Picture News Ltd, Colber Lane, Bishop Thornton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR