MARSUPIALS

- Babies are born alive but not fully developed.
- The baby crawls into the pouch to drink milk and grow until more developed.

MARSUPIALS

MONOTREMES

AKA…FREAKS OF NATURE!!!

MONOTREMES

1) Lay Eggs

2) Eggs hatch and young drink milk that comes out of pores…

3) Young are raised by the mother

MONOTREMES

What is a baby echidna called?

PORCUPINES

Um, how exactly do porcupines reproduce?

It seems a little dangerous…

PORCUPINES

- Female porcupines (porcupettes) are only fertile 8-12 hours a YEAR!

- Males will fight over females and get stuck with quills. If you see a pile of quills in the woods, it’s probably from a porcupine fight.

- If she likes the male, she will flip up her tail where there are no

with her

PORCUPINE FACTS

- The don’t shoot out quills, but they do have 30,000 of them and they grow back in about a month.
- Porcupines are the 3rd largest rodent in the world.
- They LOVE salt. They will chew on anything that has the slightest amount of salt on it, like the wheelbarrow handle you were touching.

POPULATION CONTROL

- Use the table on the next slide to calculate the number of babies one female will produce in the assigned number of years.

- Mouse- 1 year
- Dog/Cat- 3 years
- Horse- 4 years
- Elephant- 30 years
- Tiger- 9 years
- Tick- 2 years

HOW MANY BABIES?

Animal	Age to reproductive maturity	Gestation Time	Number of Offspring	Frequency of Estrous	Time Between births
Mouse	50 days	20 days	10 pups	Every 3-4 days	30-40 days
Horse	1 year	11 Months	1 foal	Seasonal 21 days	1 year
Dog	8 months	63 days	6 puppies	6 months	9 months
Cat	6 months	66 days	4 kittens	Seasonal 14 days	4 months
Tiger	3 years	3.5 months	3 cubs	6 weeks	18-24 months
Elephant	10 years	22 months	1 calf	4 months	4 years
Tick	2 feedings <1 year	x	10,000 eggs	x	Once only

POPULATION CONTROL

- What natural factors help control animal populations?
  - Food sources
  - Space/habitat
  - Predators/ Competitors

- What are some artificial factors?
  - Hunting
  - Relocating
  - Birth Control

POPULATION CONTROL

Questions:

1. What does limiting factor mean?
2. What are some factors that influence a population?
3. Why does the porcupine population stay rather stable?
4. Why do deer have a more dynamic population?

Population Dynamics

POPULATION CONTROL

- What about our domestic animals?
  - Spay
  - Neuter/Castrate
  - Keep separate

- What is an animal called that was once domesticated but is now wild? **Feral**
  - Dogs and cats reproduce quickly
  - Ave. lifespan of a feral dog- 1-2 years
  - Ave. lifespan of a feral cat- 4.7 years

It's not a good life.

POPULATION CONTROL

- *Feral*-if born in the wild from domestic origins
  - How do the dogs acting with each other? With people?

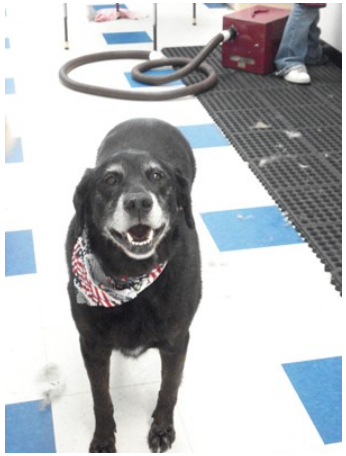
  Feral Dogs in Russian

- *Stray*- once had a home but is lost or abandoned
  - Why does Detroit have so many stray dogs?
  - How many postal workers had been bitten from Oct to July?

  Stray Dogs in Abandoned Detroit Aug. 2013

POPULATION CONTROL

A USA Today article cites that pets who live in the states with the highest rates of spaying or neutering also live the longest. According to the report, neutered male dogs live 18% longer than un-neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs live 23% longer than unspayed female dogs. The report goes on to add that in Mississippi, the lowest-ranking state for pet longevity, 44% of the dogs are not neutered or spayed. (May 7, 2013)



POPULATION CONTROL

- Cows can be feral too…

Holy Cow 21:53-26:15

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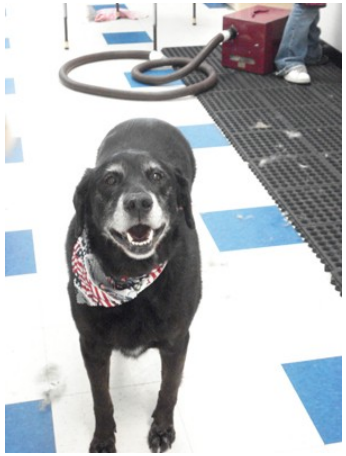

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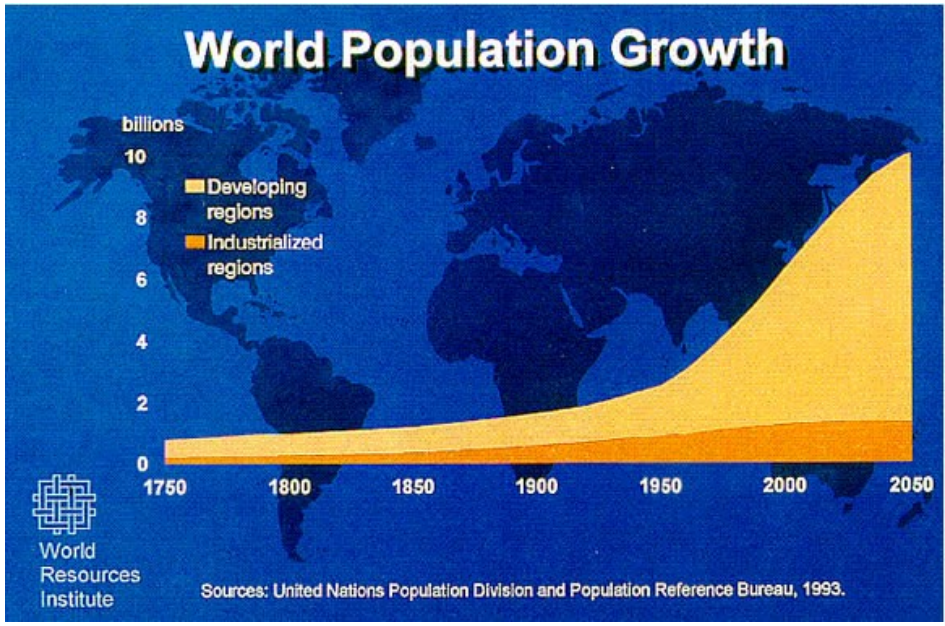
IT'S OUR PROBLEM

- We need to be good managers of other animals around us and *ourselves*. The populations of all animals affect each other.