

For immediate release

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Cats and Dogs on show at the Horniman

There are an estimated 10.5 million cats and 12.5 million dogs in the UK. But how well do we really know our pets?

Discover more about our fascinating furry friends in **Cats and Dogs**, an interactive, family-friendly exhibition offering a revealing pets'-eye view of the world, making its UK premiere at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London from Saturday 12 February 2022.

Every day, cats and dogs demonstrate their skills, awareness and intelligence. This immersive exhibition explores the scientific, social and cultural role that cats and dogs play in our world, and invites visitors to go on an exciting, sensory journey, exploring what it's like to be a cat or a dog.

From studying animal behaviour to examining human relationships with our feline friends and devoted doggos, visitors can enjoy games and simulations that put them in each animal's paws to better understand them and their behaviour.

Visitors can explore **Cats and Dogs** in three different zones:

- *In Their Skin* reveals the huge range of canine and feline body shape types and size. Compare your performance with a dog in an agility slalom, see if you can jump as high as a cat, or measure your height alongside a range of dog breeds.
- *In Their Heads* focuses on the minds and senses of cats and dogs, exploring their behaviour, cognition, and tactile and vocal communication. Are small dogs really more aggressive? Separate fact from fiction and find out which popular beliefs and misconceptions about cats and dogs are true or false. Or have a go at 'speaking cat' by linking cat sounds with the relevant emotion.

- *In Our Society* looks at the relationships between humans and cats and dogs, from their presence in history and art, to therapy dogs, training and responsible ownership. Test your knowledge with an interactive board game, or take part in a quiz.

More

Jo Hatton, Principal Curator of Natural Sciences at the Horniman says: 'This lively interactive exhibition takes us on a journey into the wonderful world of cats and dogs, from their early domestication to the extraordinary diversity of size, shape and abilities we see today. This family-friendly exhibition reveals new insights into their behaviour, how these incredible animals make sense of the world, and how they learn and communicate with each other and ourselves. It's a celebration of the love we have for them, the relationships and roles they play in our lives and how this has transformed through space and time.'

The exhibition is presented in three languages – English, French and Spanish – and also features animations developed by students from the London College of Communication, featuring their interpretations of themes featuring in **Cats and Dogs**.

Cats and Dogs is open from Saturday 12 February to Sunday 30 October 2022. The Horniman will be hosting a series of special events and activities in February and March linked to the exhibition. See horniman.ac.uk for details.

Tickets on sale from 2022. Please see horniman.ac.uk for details. Horniman Members and Benefactors enjoy free, unlimited visits to the exhibition. For information on how to become a Member see horniman.ac.uk/members

Cats and Dogs is a touring exhibition, created by Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris.

Ends

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Pictured: Visitors enjoying the Cats and Dogs exhibition (c) Museum de Toulouse

Notes to Editors:

- **Universcience** is the public institution that brings together the **Palais de la découverte** and the **Cité des sciences et de l'industrie** in Paris. Its mission is to make people discover science and to promote scientific, technical and industrial culture to all audiences, from childhood. Located in the north of Paris in the Parc de la Villette, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie has been linking science, industry and society since its creation in 1986. Its cultural offer for all generations is designed in cooperation with the scientific community and enriched by human facilitation. It takes the form of temporary and permanent exhibitions with innovative museography, events, conferences, a very high definition planetarium and a scientific information platform, leblob.

The museum also participates in the dissemination and promotion of scientific and technical culture in the provinces and abroad. It shares its expertise through partnerships, co-productions, cultural engineering and the touring of its exhibitions.

- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. horniman.ac.uk/support-us/
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.