

# ANIMAL FUN FACTS

## THE DUNG BEETLE

Five things dung beetles do with poo: They live in it. Eat it. Roll it into balls. Woo girlfriends with it. And chill on top of it to control their body temperature.

Dung beetles can be divided in three large categories: rollers, tunnellers and dwellers. Rollers search for dung far away from their homes. When they find it, they collect it in the shape of the balls which they roll back to their burrows. Tunnellers search for dung and when they find it, they dig a tunnel where they will store it. Dwellers produce dung on their own at their homes.

Some species of dung beetles lay their eggs in the ball of dung. Because of this, larvae can start eating the minute they hatch from eggs.

Dung beetle can also steal a dung ball from another beetle. If the eggs and larvae are already placed inside the ball, the thief will eat all of them.

Some dung beetles ride on the animals, whose feces they like to eat, until they are ready to poop.

After an animal releases its feces, the dung beetle jumps down and start to feast. Other dung beetles use their sense of smell to detect the dung they prefer.

Dung beetles are very strong animals. They can carry the weight which is fifty times heavier than their body weight. They can also flip flop on top of their poop balls.

Average lifespan of dung beetles is three to five years, depending on the species.

African dung beetle navigate and orient themselves by using the stars of the Milky Way as their celestial compass.

Dung beetles serve a number of important roles in the ecosystem: Soil aeration. Soil structure. Improve nutrient cycling. Forage growth. Break down dung. Overall, they help turn grass green for animals to eat.



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