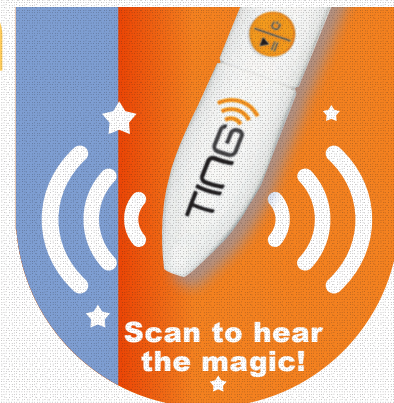


Goodies



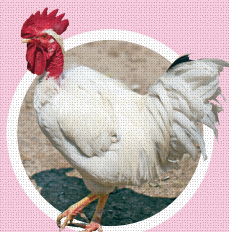
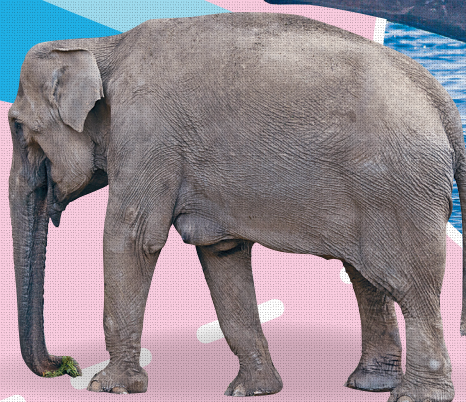
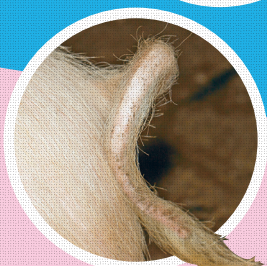
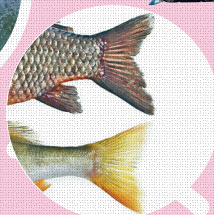
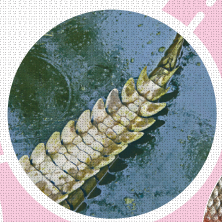
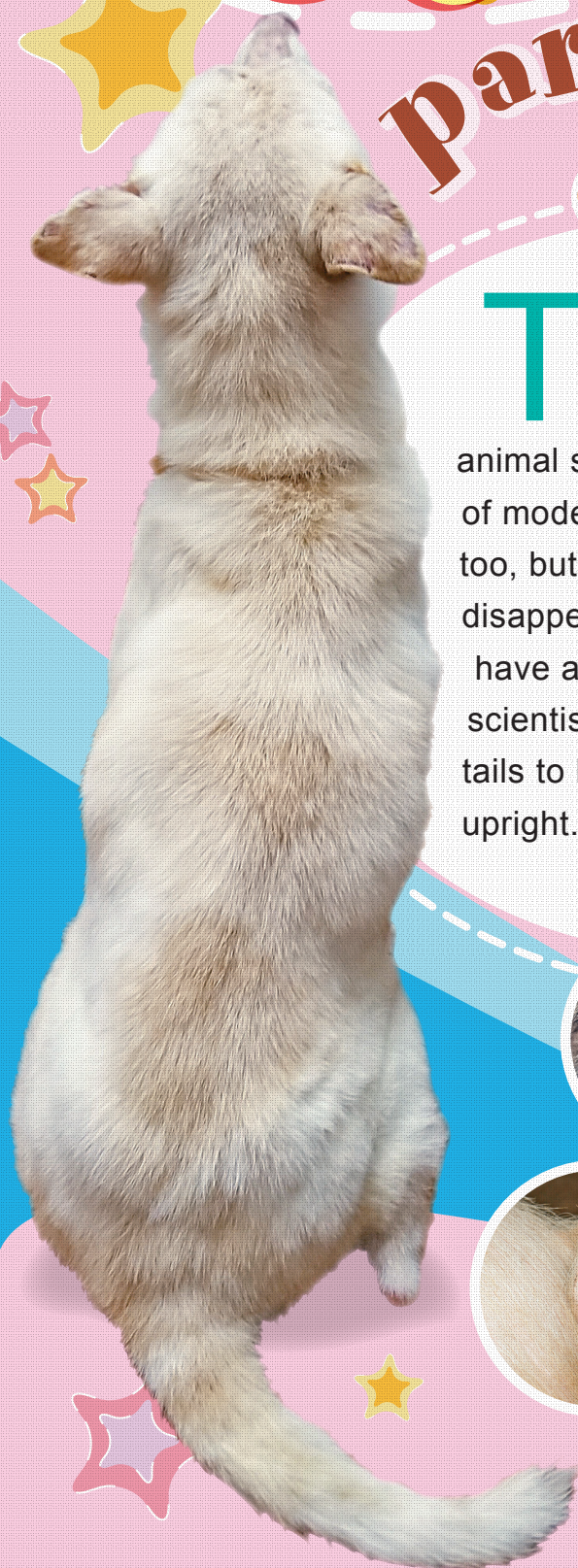
<http://www.student.thestandard.com.hk>
<http://stedu.stheadline.com>

Tails... a special part of an animal

TAILS have many functions, and one of them is to help an animal stay upright. The ancestors of modern day humans had tails, too, but as man evolved, the tail disappeared. That is why we still have a tail bone. In Japan (日本), scientists have invented robotic tails to help the elderly stay upright.

Many sea animals have tails as well!

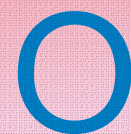
Yes, seahorses like us have a long one!



A vital extra limb



Alex



FTEN, old people have trouble staying balanced and steady. But Japanese scientists are using robotic tails to help them stay upright. What else can tails do?



The robotic tail

THE number of elderly people in Japan is rising because fewer young people are getting married and having children.

To help older people, Japanese scientists from Keio University are making sure they can stay upright and keep their balance with a robotic tail. The new gadget can go in many directions and **curl** in the opposite direction to which the wearer is leaning.

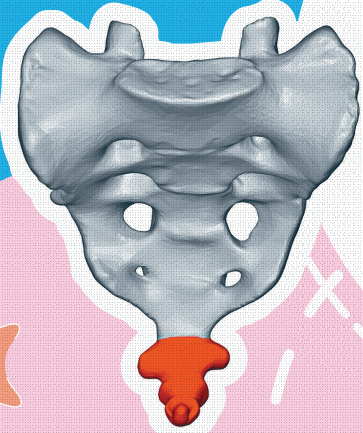


My tail helps me swim around the ocean!



Humans and tails

MILLIONS of years ago, our human **ancestors** had tails. We know this because we still have a very short tail bone at the end of our spine called the coccyx. The bone sits inside our body now, because we stand and walk upright and do not need it anymore. Our ape cousins, such as the **chimpanzees**, do not have them either. But monkeys, which are more distantly-related to us, have tails.



In the animal world

THE tail is very **widespread** in the animal world. All kinds of animals have one of their own. It can help them move around, like what the tail on a whale does. Other animals use it for balance, like the **squirrel**. And some even use it to get rid of **pests**, like the horse's tail. But many animals have a short tail that they seem to have no use for, like the giant panda's.



1. Fill in the blanks.

- A. Ch_mp_nz__
B. _l_ph_nt
C. K_ng_r__



A



B



C

2. Which of these animals do not have a tail?

Answers on P12

curl (v)
捲曲

ancestor (n)
祖先

chimpanzee (n)
黑猩猩

Vocabulary
Challenge ★★★★★

widespread (adj)
普遍的

squirrel (n)
松鼠

pest (n)
討厭的蟲