

## The Zookeepers' Surprising Discovery!

Zookeepers at a zoo near Tokyo received a big shock recently. They served a snake named Aochan a hamster as a snack. However, instead of gobbling up the hamster, Aochan befriended the hamster. Zookeepers found them lying side by side.

"I've never seen anything like it," said one of the zookeepers. "Never in a million years would I have predicted this."

The hamster is clearly enjoying his life beside the snake. Sometimes the hamster even climbs onto Aochan to take a nap.

Meanwhile, the snake is enjoying a diet of frozen mice.

Some say this relationship may end in disaster. One day, the snake may get hungry and decide to devour his furry little friend. But in the meantime, zoo visitors are in for a unique spectacle. The chance to see a snake and hamster together will surely draw large crowds.

### Vocabulary:

shock - a big surprise

gobbling up - to eat quickly

(to) befriend - to make friends with

side by side - next to each other never in a million years - never (said of something that one really does not expect)

(to) predict - to know in advance; to expect

(to) take a nap - to sleep for a short period of time

disaster - serious misfortune; a very bad event

(to) devour - to eat quickly or greedily

furry - hairy

(to be) in for - guaranteed to have or to get

spectacle - something that can be seen, especially something impressive or surprising

draw - attract

### Quick Quiz:

Answer the questions below. When finished, click the "Check your answers" button to get your score. Have fun!

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1) What happened when zookeepers put a hamster in the snake's cage?

- A. the snake devoured the hamster
  - B. the hamster devoured the snake
  - C. the snake and the hamster became friends
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**2) How surprised were zookeepers by what happened with the snake and the hamster?**

- A. a little surprised
  - B. very surprised
  - C. not surprised
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**3) The "furry friend" in this story refers to:**

- A. the zookeeper
  - B. the snake
  - C. the hamster
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**4) What is the snake eating instead of the hamster?**

- A. mice
  - B. rats
  - C. other hamsters
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**5) Why do some people say the relationship between the snake and the hamster may end in disaster?**

- A. the snake might decide to eat the hamster
  - B. the hamster might decide to eat the snake
  - C. zookeepers might decide to separate the snake and the hamster
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**ANSWERS:**

- 1) C
- 2) B
- 3) C
- 4) A
- 5) A