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How well do you know penguins?  
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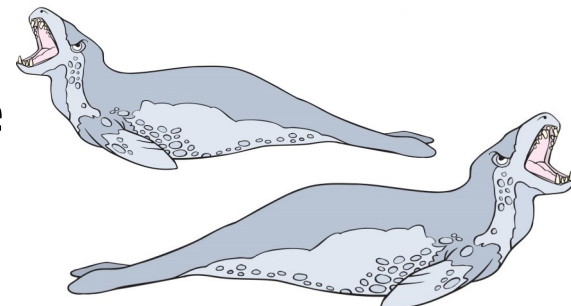


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Spot the difference puzzle:  
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# POOCH PATROL

## Nui the detector dog determined to keep 'Macca' safe

NUI wears his orange Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service coat like a cape.

And to the wildlife on Macquarie Island, Nui is indeed a super hero.

Macquarie Island, or 'Macca' as it is affectionately known, was officially declared pest free on April 8, 2014.

Nui and his handler, Dr Sue Robinson, are determined to keep it that way.

The dynamic duo travel to Macquarie Island each year on the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) resupply voyage.

Their most recent trip onboard the Australian icebreaker ship *Aurora Australis* was in March.

"We help to protect the island by checking all the cargo is rodent free," Sue said.

It is a big job.

The resupply trip has to provide all the food and other things required by the people who live and work at the AAD's Macquarie Island Station for an entire year.

You can listen to a podcast about the Macquarie Island resupply here:

<https://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/podcasts/>

Macquarie Island might be a remote speck in the Southern Ocean, about half way between Tasmania and Antarctica, but it is a very popular place for an amazing variety of wildlife.

Macca is literally packed with seals, penguins and other seabirds, and is also home to some critically endangered plants.

Macquarie Island was declared a sanctuary in 1933, but for more than 100 years before that the

wildlife was exploited by people for skins and oil, and the visiting ships also introduced invasive species.

Before a series of successful eradication programs, feral cats, rabbits, mice, rats and wekas overran the island and were a major threat to wildlife.

Sue is a biologist and works for Biosecurity Tasmania at the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, to remove invasive pest animals from Tasmania, including its islands.

"Macquarie Island, with most of its introduced and invasive species now removed, is one place that is very close to its original natural condition," she said.

"Being one of the few islands in the Southern Ocean, Macquarie Island is critical to the to marine-based wildlife.

"Seals need beaches to give birth to their pups and seabirds need a safe place to lay their eggs.

"Often these island specialists are not able to coexist with introduced predators like cats, rats and mice, or grazing animals like rabbits that disrupt the natural vegetation and soils, so it is very important we keep them off the island."

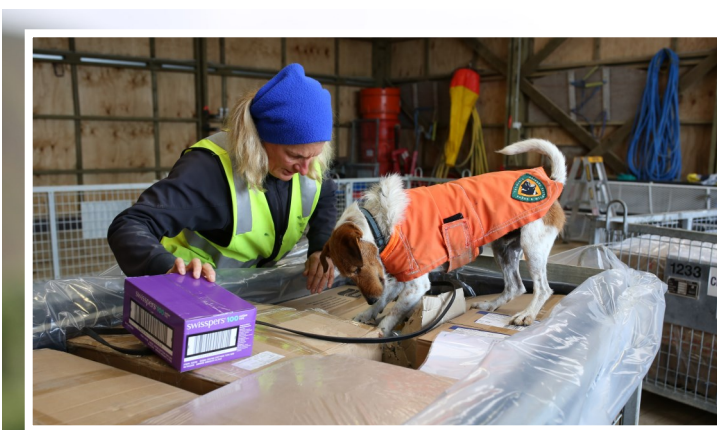
Nui, a four-year-old fox terrier cross, has a natural instinct to hunt rodents and other pest animals, and his mother Clay and grandmother Tui were brilliant conservation detector dogs.

Tui is famous in New Zealand:

[blog.doc.govt.nz/2015/03/13/tui-conservation-dog/](http://blog.doc.govt.nz/2015/03/13/tui-conservation-dog/)

Training was a fun game for Nui.

**Continued Page 2**



HERO: Nui and his handler Dr Sue Robinson search cargo before it is unloaded at Macquarie Island to protect wildlife from rodents. Pictures: © Ryan Osland/ Australian Antarctic Division.

# Penguin challenge

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Email: [UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au](mailto:UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au)



Picture: iStock/ Samuel Bloch

YOU would all know that there are different species or types of penguins.

Just how many, is a subject of debate between scientists.

But most would agree that there are somewhere between 16 and 20 different species.

The 17 listed in the table, right, are recognised by [penguinworld.com](http://penguinworld.com)

We thought it would be fun to try and make a list of these 17 from smallest to largest.

This is a pretty difficult task, particularly given that penguins within each species vary in height and weight.

For example, the adult King

Southern rockhopper penguin	Humboldt penguin	Snares penguin
Macaroni penguin	Royal penguin	King penguin
Little blue penguin	Galapagos penguin	Emperor penguin
Gentoo penguin	Fiordland penguin	Adelie penguin
Magellanic penguin	African penguin	Erect-crested penguin
Chinastrap penguin	Yellow-eyed penguin	<i>Solution next week</i>

Penguins pictured on Macquarie Island, above, weigh between about 12 and 16kg.

And several species of penguin weigh about the same - the

heaviest African penguins and snares penguins weigh about 3.3kg.

Little blue penguins are about one third of the weight of these

two species, while Galapagos penguins are the second smallest penguin species.

When fully grown, they are about two-thirds the weight of

African penguins and snares penguins.

King Penguins are about three times as heavy as the next heaviest penguin, but less than half the weight of the largest of all penguin species.

**Your challenge** is to identify the world's two smallest and two largest penguins.

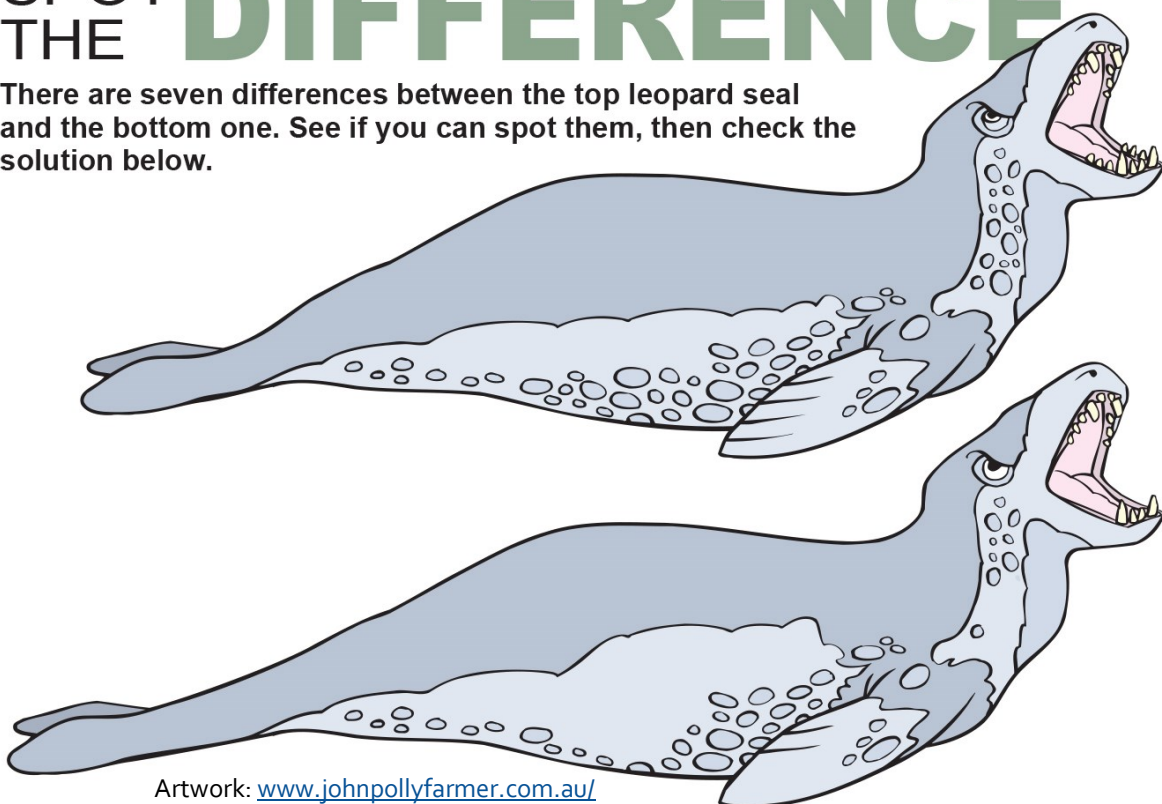
We have provided some hints to help you in this article.

If you want to, you could present your findings in a creative way.

If you have online access, you might like to try and put all 17 penguin species in size order. But it won't be easy.

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are seven differences between the top leopard seal and the bottom one. See if you can spot them, then check the solution below.



Artwork: [www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/](http://www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/)

**SOLUTION:** 1. Tail longer, 2. Spots on underbelly missing, 3. Flipper changed, 4. Line on side changed, 5. Spots on throat missing, 6. Teeth missing, 7. Eye changed.

## Nui's important job keeping wildlife safe

### From Page 1

He learnt quickly to find rodent scent, but not chase other animals like chicken or sheep.

Sue said Nui loves his job.

"When he goes to Macquarie Island he is the only dog on the ship with 100 people, and he feels very important," she said.

Nui's work does not end when he comes home to Hobart.

From October until the resupply in March, Nui and another detector dog Flick do a weekly inspection of the AAD's cargo store for any sign of rodent activity.

Last year Nui worked on Lord Howe Island, in the Tasman Sea, and in 2018 on Big Green Island

in Bass Strait. You can watch a video of Nui at work on Macquarie Island here:

[antarctica.gov.au/news/2019/keeping-macca-rodent-free/](http://antarctica.gov.au/news/2019/keeping-macca-rodent-free/)

Nui is just one example of a working dog, but there are many.

**Your challenge** is to produce a poster on a working dog.

It might be one that you know well, or a working dog you have seen, read or heard about.

You could also include a list of jobs that dogs do for people.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge, at the discretion of school coordinators.