



World's first airport therapy pig

A five-year-old pig called LiLou and her owner, Tatyana Danilova, are new members of San Francisco airport's 'Wag Brigade', a program that brings trained therapy animals to the airport. The animals (23 dogs and 1 pig) cheer up passengers, help with travel anxiety and spread positive energy. LiLou's duties include greeting travellers with a politely raised hoof, posing for selfies and playing on her toy piano with her hooves and snout. Lilou often dresses up and has been seen wearing a pilot's cap, Halloween costumes, brightly coloured tutus and often has painted red toenails. Her owner says that at home, she "enjoys a diet of organic vegetables and protein pellets, sleeps in her own bed and goes for daily walks around the neighbourhood."

Do you think it would be a good idea to have therapy animals in all airports?



Pictured: Lilou, the therapy pig, taken from San Francisco International Airport's Twitter page.

Scientists explain why we hiccup



Pictured: A young baby, taken by Terence Nance.

Scientists from University College London (UCL) have revealed why we hiccup, and why the annoying habit is so important! The researchers found that hiccups are crucial for brain development in babies, triggering electrical activity in the brain that helps youngsters to regulate their breathing. Premature babies, who are born more than three weeks before their due date, are particularly prone to hiccups as they spend approximately 1% of their time, that's around 15 minutes a day, hiccupping! Dr Lorenzo Fabrizi, from UCL, said; "The activity resulting from a hiccup may be helping the baby's brain to learn how to monitor the breathing muscles so that eventually breathing can be voluntary controlled by moving the diaphragm up and down."

How do you try to get rid of hiccups - drinking out of a cup backwards, hugging your knees or standing on your head?



Sir Rod Stewart unveils model railway



After 26 years, the veteran rocker finally lets the world see his breath-taking completed model railway. Called Grand Street and Three Rivers City, the huge model is based on an American city in the 1940s and spans 38 square metres in the attic of his Los Angeles home. Sir Rod's railway modelling became an escape from the pressures of touring. He would take kits, tools and paints with him and book an extra hotel room for a workshop so he could pursue his hobby in between concerts wherever he was in the world! He said: "It's really noisy because we have sound effects when the trains go through the city, there's a city sound of New York, they go through the country, there's birds singing, it is quite incredible, I am so proud of it!"

Pictured: Sir Rod Stewart with his model railway taken from Hornby's Twitter page.

Do you have a hobby that you're proud of?

9-year-old set to graduate!

A nine-year-old from Belgium will become the youngest ever graduate at the end of this year! Laurent Simons has an IQ of at least 145 and will complete an Electrical Engineering Degree from the Eindhoven University of Technology in December. Laurent started high school aged six, one year later he worked as a researcher at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam and when he was eight years old, he obtained his high school diploma in mathematics-sciences in Bruges. He hasn't decided where to study next but said, "I really want to go to California, the weather is nice there."

Would you want to go to University at Laurent's age?



Pictured: Students celebrating graduating taken from Eindhoven University of Technology's Twitter page.



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