

4

# True Terrifying Animal Fails Tales




# The Combat Wombat



I once thought of wombats as beautiful, almost cuggly Australian creatures, but then I saw their "**dark side**".

My family once went to a lovely place called Forest Glen where deer roam happily and you can hand feed them to your heart's content. We were having a terrific day when we decided to visit the wombat enclosure. Now most of the time, wombats are pretty hard to see because they sleep most of the day and curl themselves up in a log. Lucky for us or so we thought, a wombat was out and about.

He wandered inquisitively over to the side of his enclosure which was a wire fence you could see through. His low, stocky body was right against the side of the fence. He looked so cute! I bent down and looked him straight in the eye. What happened next was the stuff of horror movies. **Quick as a flash**,  he moved back and thrust his head forward, head butting me in the process. I was stunned to say the least, but it didn't end there.

He proceeded to grab my hair with his teeth and continued to gnaw. If you've never experienced it, wombats have an incredible gripping power with their teeth. Needless to say, these so-called Australian icons are **not** at the top of my "favourite animal" list. I have met numerous other wombats over the years and have put this unfortunate experience down to the fact that maybe that particular wombat was having a bad day.

I must admit though, I am still wary of these temperamental creatures. So, if you ever wondered why my hairline is looking a little bit sparse, you now know why.




# Beware the Penguin!



This story actually involves my brother, Anthony who is a marine biologist.

Anthony lived in South Africa for many years and met and married his lovely wife, Glynnis there. Unfortunately, there was a terrible oil spill off the coast of Cape Town, and volunteers were called in to offer their assistance. The spill had a devastating effect on the wildlife in the area. To his credit, Anthony spent a great deal of time caring for a range of different animals such as seals, birds and turtles.

One day, he was nursing and cleaning the oil off none other than a Jackass Penguin! All was going [swimmingly](#)  until the little critter latched onto Anthony's nose. Wombats may have incredibly tough heads, but penguins have amazingly sharp beaks. The more Anthony pulled, the more this little guy clung on. Finally, he wrestled free from the stubborn bird, leaving behind a sizable gash in his nose.


A week later, Anthony was strolling through the city in Cape Town when his eyes locked on a stranger; two strangers, but one thing in common. You guessed it! In unison, they mouthed one solitary word, "**PENGUIN!**"



# Personal safety is never **irrelephant!**



My family (before my daughter was born) travelled to South Africa for my brother Anthony's wedding. During our memorable trip to South Africa, we were lucky enough to spend some time at the amazing Addo Elephant National Park. Now Anthony obviously had friends in high places because we travelled in style in a BMW to the National Park.

On that fateful day, we were checking out all of the incredible wildlife in the park in the comfort of the beemer. Through the windows of the vehicle, we spotted the magnificent sight of a huge bull elephant in all its glory. Leaning out of the windows with our cameras,  we felt almost at one with nature in this foreign environment.

I'm no expert on Elephants, but what I do know is that when they flap their ears, it's **not a good sign**. Well, this elephant was flapping so furiously it looked like it was just about to take off. Not just that, it was starting to move very, very quickly through the trees. It was at that moment, I started to notice its tusks. They were massive.

"Move!!!" I screamed to my brother, Buddoo (his nickname). The beemer lurched forward, but the only problem was that there was another car in front of us. We were trapped, and this rampaging beast was just about to impale us or something like that. My life literally flashed before my eyes. That **crazed elephant** was almost upon us when...our path cleared and I thanked God for German engineering.











# When Fluffy Cats Turn Mean

## (The Dark Legend of BobCat)

When I was growing up, my family lived a few houses down from another family known as the Frasers. There were three Richos (Anthony, Chris and I) and three Frasers (Steve, Matt and Dan). We were best of mates and did everything together.

One day, the Frasers welcomed a stray cat into their family and called it, "**Bob Cat**".  Now **Bob Cat**  wasn't an ordinary cat. For one thing, it scared my dog, Sam. Sam wasn't the bravest dog in the World, but the sight of  **Bob Cat** seriously sent shivers down his spine. There were a few tell-tale signs that Bob was quite different. Some cats don't appreciate you patting them in certain areas. This was the case with **Bob Cat**  but in all areas. The scratches on Dan's arm, that never seemed to disappear, were just Bob's way of saying, "**Don't mess with me**".

Then it happened.... Something that I'll never forget - the sight of **Bob Cat**  leaping through the air, like an eagle attacking its prey, from the veranda and landing on Dan's back. How Bob could do it, I don't know! Why Bob would do it, I don't know! What I do know is **Bob Cat**  had major issues and was one of a kind.





# What the critics are saying...

## ABR AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

When we were first treated to the jaw-dropping story of the [mad wombat](#), we thought, "Can't see him topping that one!".

Then came the gripping tale of the [evil penguin](#), and in truly spectacular fashion, that campfire classic took 'truth is stranger than fiction' storytelling to dizzying new heights.

Was he done yet? Not by a long shot. We then welcomed the truly terrifying drama of the [rampaging crazed elephant](#) to this homespun and shuddersome Rogue's Gallery of disturbed animals.

And now with the unforgettable story of the bone-chilling not to mention dog-scaring [Bob Cat](#), many folk are saying he's saved the best 'till last. Readers are spoiled for choice on the subject of zany animal antics (spiced with a subtle revenge theme) by this master story teller Geoff Richardson, or, as he is more commonly known, [Mr Richardson](#).

