

# 5 Fantastic Beasts You May Have Met

## 1. Crups

Ever run into a Jack Russell terrier who was barking his head off? Well, he might not have been a dog at all. Crups are almost identical to the terrier breed, except for one thing: their forked tails. Oh, and they really hate Muggles. Hence the whole viciously barking at you thing. (Also, his owner was definitely a wizard.)

## 2. Diricawls

Unless you found the Fountain of Youth and are actually four hundred years old, you haven't seen this one IRL. The Diricrawl is a plump, flightless bird that can vanish whenever it wants to. You've seen it in your biology textbook going by another name: the dodo. But since us Muggles still have no clue that the bird can just disappear, our records say that it's gone extinct. Oops.

## 3. Erumpents

If you've been to the zoo, you've seen one of these beasts chilling in an enclosure labeled "rhinoceros." They look just like 'em from a distance. The twist? Erumpents' skin can repel all kinds of magic, and their horns are huge and filled with a kind of volatile liquid that will make whatever it's injected into explode. Just be glad there's some serious fence between you and this sucker.

## 4. Knarls

You know your cranky neighbor's hedgehog that you just know is evil? Yeah, it's actually a Knarl. Knarls look just like hedgehogs...except they're way more suspicious of people. If a hedgehog finds food, it eats it. If a Knarl finds food, it attacks the family's garden. Sorry you took the blame for wrecking the yard.

## 5. Mackled Malaclaw

These creatures may look like lobsters, but—trust us—you don't want to eat them...or you'll break out in a greenish rash. Oh, and if you get bitten by a Mackled Malaclaw, stay away from Vegas: one of the side effects is becoming extremely unlucky for about a week after the injury.

Most other beasts are pretty obviously, well, magical. (Merpeople and centaurs, we're looking at you.) But now that you're informed and ready to spot the sneakier creatures, grab your broomsticks and head to the theater on Friday.

Happy wizarding,

*Team Shmoop*