

Hybrids: Reading

1 Eclyse

This is a real zebra crossing! Eclyse is a *zorse* which is the cross between a zebra and a horse. Her father is the zebra, and her mother is the horse. Her mother, Eclipse, lives on a safari park in Germany but went to Italy for a short time. There she stayed in a field with some horses and zebras, including Ulysses who thought she was very nice! When Eclipse came home she surprised her owner with a baby zorse. Eclyse looks most like a horse but she has stripes on her face and back, and the rest of her is white. She is friendly like a horse and quite tame, and you can ride her. However, sometimes she's wild like a zebra and she starts leaping around like crazy!



2 Rama

Meet Rama the *cama*, the cross between a camel and a llama. Rama lives in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. His father is the camel, and his mother is the llama. They are very different in size. His mum is small and weighs 76 kilograms, while his dad is very big and weighs almost 450 kilograms! Rama has short ears and a long tail, like a camel, but he doesn't have a hump. His feet are like a llama's and his fleece is like a llama's too. However, because Rama is much bigger than a normal llama his owner hopes there will be a lot more wool to sell. His owner also thinks that he will be calmer than a camel, and so easier to work with.

3 Lawrence

Lawrence is big, very big - he weighs about 450 kilograms and eats around 23 kilograms of raw meat in a meal. What is he? He's a *liger*, of course! A *liger* is the cross between a lion and a tiger. Lawrence's father is the lion and his mother is the tiger. He has a mane and some light stripes, so he looks like a golden tiger but with more hair around his face. Lawrence can 'speak' both lion and tiger: he roars like a lion and purrs like a tiger! The tiger half of him means he likes swimming, and the lion half means he's very friendly with the other big cats. Lawrence lives in a safari park in Shenzhen, in southern China.

4 Octosquid

One minute *octosquid* was swimming almost a kilometre deep in the sea in Hawaii, and the next minute it was in a laboratory. It swam into a sea water pipeline and up into the laboratory, the creature looked very strange. Scientists think it may be a new species. They called it *octosquid* because it has the head of an octopus and eight tentacles like an octopus too. However, the body is like a squid which normally has ten short arms around its mouth. It is 30 centimetres long and bright red. One scientist said it was not unusual to see strange-looking fish swimming in the very deep. He said that below 200 metres it's a very different world with very different creatures. The *octosquid* lived for three days in the laboratory.