

# COVID-19 VACCINE TESTS START

## HUMAN trials have started on a vaccine for COVID-19 by University of Oxford researchers.

Around 1,100 people will take part in the trial, which aims to see if healthy people can be protected against the coronavirus with a vaccine. Of the healthy volunteers taking part, half will have the vaccine while the other half (known as the control group) will be given a meningitis vaccine.

The volunteers will not know which vaccine they've been given. Researchers will know if the vaccine works by comparing which of the volunteers get the coronavirus in the months ahead.



Dr Elisa Granato gets injected for vaccine testing. Rumours that she has died are nonsense

False news stories were circulating that one of the first participants in the trial, Dr Elisa Granato, had died. However she is alive and well – it was just fake news.

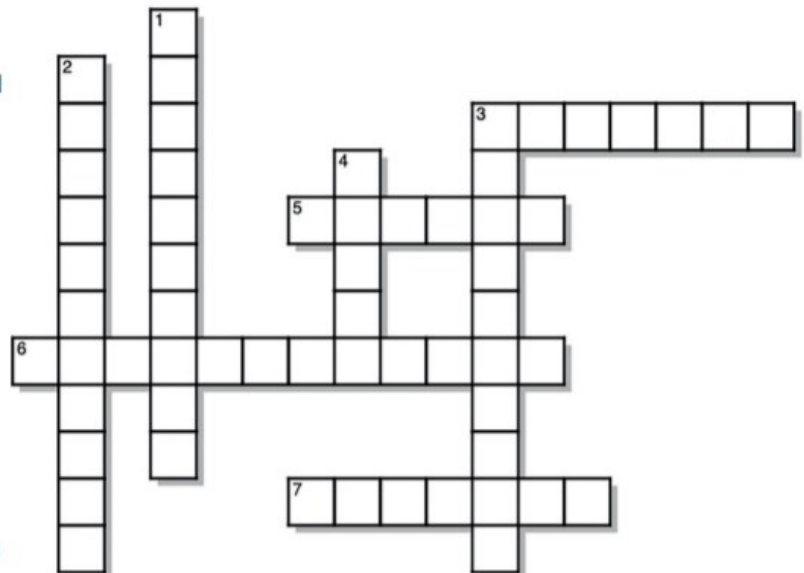
Another team at Imperial College London hopes to begin human trials of its coronavirus vaccine in June.

### ACROSS

- 3) An injection containing usually killed or weakened microorganisms, eg, from a virus, that helps to increase protection against a disease (noun 7)
- 5) Tests; trying something for the first time (plural noun 6)
- 6) People who take part in something, such as a medical trial (plural noun 12)
- 7) And 4 down. People in a scientific study who are not given the vaccine that scientists are testing, in order to check if the new vaccine works on the treatment group (noun 7,5)

### DOWN

- 1) An infection that causes a swelling (inflammation) of the thin membranes that cover the brain and the spinal cord (noun 10)
- 2) Spreading; passing around (present participle 11)
- 3) People who spend some of their free time helping others without being paid (plural noun 10)
- 4) See 7 across



# STOP WILD ANIMAL TRADE



A pangolin

istock

**WILD Aid, Global Wildlife Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Society have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife, thought to be behind the coronavirus outbreak.**

Scientists say evidence points to coronavirus coming from animals, most likely horseshoe bats, and transferred via pangolins in what are called 'wet' markets, where live and dead animals are sold as food.

Other viruses such as SARS and Ebola have also been linked to animals. The wildlife organisations have come together to form the Coalition to End the Trade and are working with the European Commission to permanently ban the trade of terrestrial wild animals, to prevent any further pandemics like the one we're living through.

You can help too by signing the petition at [endthetrade.com](http://endthetrade.com).



## FOUR FREED

**FOUR big cats rescued by wildlife charity Born Free have been relocated to their new forever homes in Ethiopia and South Africa.**

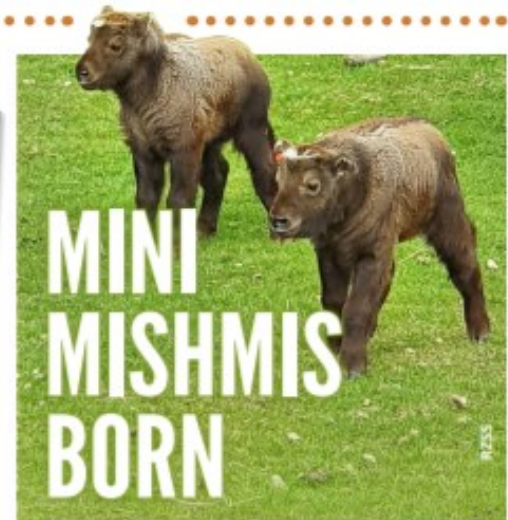
Two cheetah cubs have found a new home at Born Free's Enessa Kotteh wildlife sanctuary in Ethiopia, after being seized by Somali officials.

Authorities believe the cubs were snatched from their mother to be sold illegally as pets in the Middle East. The cubs were cared for at a local police station in Ethiopia before being transferred to the reserve.

Another rescue and relocation was carried out by Born Free in South Africa. Two adult leopards were given a new home at Born Free's big cat sanctuary at Shamwari Private Game Reserve after being rescued from the Bloemfontein Zoo. Mowgli, a black leopard, and a spotted leopard were being kept in poor living conditions at the zoo, with limited food and without any access to veterinary care.

Dr Chris Draper, head of animal welfare and captivity at Born Free, said: "These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals."

All four of the rescued cats are settling into their new homes, although their recovery back to full health may take some time.



## MINI MISHMIS BORN

**THE Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two Mishmi takin calves, the largest goat-antelope species in the world.**

The young boys have been named Mountain and Drogo by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, Myanmar and China, and are believed to be the animals that inspired the legend of the golden fleece, because of their golden coat.

Like many species, Mishmi takins are under threat in the wild because of habitat loss, hunting and competition for food from other species.

The wildlife park is currently closed but the charity hopes that it won't be too long before it can reopen and visitors can see the calves for themselves.



