

## The troubling truth about selfies with sloths

Level 2 • Upper intermediate

### KEY

#### 1 Warmer

1. c
2. b
3. a

#### 2 Key words

1. obsessed
2. elegance
3. props
4. handle
5. rehabilitate
6. urge
7. doze
8. adoring
9. cruel
10. abuse

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. It is famous – you can see its image everywhere: on bank notes, adverts, T-shirts, Internet memes and Instagram fan pages. Also lots of people want to take a selfie with it, just like they do with a rock star.
2. They are a unique animal, they are closely connected to the forest, and their slow, graceful movements are elegant. People probably also find them cute. They also show people how they can live their life in balance and peace.
3. Seventy per cent of selfies with sloths involve people handling them in a way that is not natural for the animal. This might be hugging them, holding them or using them as props in a photo.
4. in order to make money off tourists who want to have their picture taken with sloths

5. The Costa Rican government has launched the #stopanimalselfies campaign to crack down on the practice of animal selfies. There are laws in the country that ban people from interacting with and feeding wildlife, but this hasn't improved the situation very much. Therefore, they are encouraging tourists to report illegal behaviour.
6. Instagram has introduced warnings about the abuse of wild animals on popular wildlife selfie-related hashtags, not only with sloths but also with other animals such as koalas, elephants and monkeys.

#### 4 Phrases

- a.
  1. do more harm than good
  2. crack down on
  3. raise awareness
  4. catch sight of
- b.
  1. raise awareness
  2. crack down on
  3. catch sight of
  4. do more harm than good