



Don't Mess

With the Badgers!!

By Jessie Badger (aged 7)

My name is Jessie Badger and I love badgers. I love the vegan fayre and I love Potter and Maria from SHAC. I love badgers so much because I do. I know lots about badgers. They are nocturnal animals which means they sleep all day and get up at night. (A bit like teenagers).

Badgers are wild animals and they are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This is really important because it means that naughty people can go to prison for annoying badgers or trying to hurt them. These people are called badger baiters and are very bad people.

I collect badgers and I have got 23 badgers who live in a pram in my bedroom which I got for Christmas. In the wild, real badgers are omnivores which means they eat meat and plants. My badgers are actually vegan badgers, they like to eat lots of vegetables but instead of earthworms they have beansprouts!

I go to the local badger group and my Mum and I took my badgers to the badger group meeting in the local pub. My badgers liked it because they were allowed to stay up late and share some of my crisps. Everyone in the pub loved the badgers.

I went to school wearing a badger costume that my Mum borrowed for me from Justin at Viva! Now I am going to ask Justin some questions;

Jessie: I love badgers so much, how much do you love badgers?

Justin: I love badgers very much! They are a wonderful animal and a part of the British countryside we should cherish.

Jessie: I think that the Welsh farmers are naughty for wanting to kill badgers, what do you think?

Justin: I think they are barking up the wrong tree by trying to blame badgers for their problems. Bovine TB is a disease carried by cows. It's spread mostly between cows because they are moved around the country too much. The cow is also over-worked and tired out; that means she is more likely to get poorly. It's a shame that farmers won't try and change things for cows and blame the poor old badger instead.

Jessie: It is naughty for people to hurt badgers, but if the farmers in Wales kill the badgers will they go to prison?

Justin: They might get taken to court, as it is against the law to kill badgers without a permit from the government. We hope they will stop blaming badgers.

Jessie: Have you ever seen a real life badger?

Justin: Yes! I saw two badgers eating food on a friend's patio at night. They are surprisingly big animals!

Jessie: Is it true that badgers carry diseases? (My badgers haven't got diseases)

Justin: Unfortunately, badgers can catch diseases, but they are not the main cause of them. So it is unfair that are getting blamed by farmers.

Jessie: Is there anything you can tell me about badgers that I don't already know?

Justin: Did you know that badgers are from the same family of animals that includes weasels, otters, ferrets?

Thank you Justin from Viva! This is an interesting fact that I didn't know!

Badger photos courtesy of The Vegan Society

Badger Facts

- Badgers are omnivorous (but I wish they were vegan like me).
- Badgers are the fastest digging animal on the planet.
- Badgers can dig faster than a person with a spade.
- Badgers mark their territory by doing a handstand and rubbing their bottom on a tree to leave their scent.
- Badgers do poo and wee.
- Badgers have very poor eyesight, but are good at sniffing.
- During winter, badgers spend most of their time asleep, but unlike hibernating mammals, they don't lower their body temperature.
- A badger sett may be hundreds of years old.
- Badgers dig out small pits, near to the sett, to use as toilets.
- Rangers - the Scottish football club - play at Ibrox (the word Ibrox means 'Home of the Badgers'). I used to support Heart of Midlothian, but now I support Rangers.

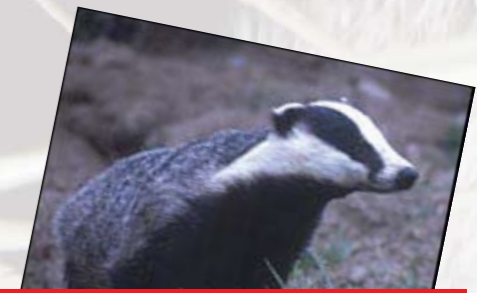
When I grow up I am going to be a wildlife vet and do a PhD in Badgers.

If you want to look at cool stuff about badgers you can look at;

- www.viva.org.uk/campaigns/badgers
- www.badger.org.uk
- www.cafepress.com/badgers4ever

My new boss, Mr Al Slurry is going to pay me £20 for writing all about badgers. I am going to have £10 of it and I am going to give £10 to my local badger group!

Thanks Jessie Badger, Top Gal!! And a true inspiration to all the lazies out there!!!! Get busy!!



Al Slurry is impressed.