

INCREDIBLE ANIMAL FRIENDS

10

true
stories
about
surprising
BFFs...

BEST
FRIENDS
FUR-EVER!

1 DOG CALMS CHEETAH

COLUMBUS, OHIO, USA

For the first few weeks of his life, **Emmett the cheetah** cub had **pneumonia** (an illness affecting his lungs) and required around-the-clock care. Kind staff at the Wilds Conservation Center in Ohio oversaw his recovery. But once Emmett was better, he moved to the **Columbus Zoo**.

Like people, some animals can get lonely, so having a buddy to interact with, and even cuddle, is important for their development. Which is where **Cullen the Labrador** came in – the bundle of fur became Emmett's adorable puppy pal. Cheetahs are naturally skittish animals so Cullen helped Emmett become more calm and confident.

Now grown up, the pair still love playing rough and tumble together – so it looks like these two could be best friends forever.

EMMETT

CULLEN

2 TORTOISE TAKES IN HIPPO

MOMBASA, KENYA

When **Owen the hippo** was a baby, a **tsunami** (a large wave caused by an undersea earthquake) separated him from his family. He was rescued and taken to the **Haller Park** wildlife sanctuary in Kenya, Africa. But Owen couldn't stay with the park's other hippos because they wouldn't accept the little guy. So park staff decided to put him in an enclosure with a **tortoise** instead!

In need of a friend after his ordeal, Owen followed the tortoise, named **Mzee**, everywhere. At first the reptile wasn't so sure about this new admirer. But soon the two became great pals. Owen even started *behaving* like a tortoise, eating the **same food** as Mzee and **sleeping at night** instead of during the day like most other hippos.

And while tortoises aren't known for their social behaviour, Mzee seemed to enjoy spending time with his hippo friend. The two **ate leaves together**, **went for swims together**, and took long naps at the same time. Mzee would even stretch out his neck so Owen could affectionately lick him. Aww!

OWEN

MZEE

