

YZC Animal of the Month, November 2010
Greater Egyptian Jerboa
Jaculus orientalis



has been seen to manage several metres in a single leap, and can jump to a height of 1m. For an animal only centimetres in height, this is quite a feat (and their feet a quite amazing too!).

The Greater

Of over 5000 species of mammal alive in the world today, around 40% are rodents. With their continuously growing front teeth, these animals have filled many different roles in many different places around the world. In the rodent display in the lower gallery of the museum, you can find November's Animal of the Month: The Greater Egyptian Jerboa.

Characteristic of the jerboas and their relatives is the long tail with a tuft at the end, and their amazing jumping ability. The Greater Egyptian Jerboa

Egyptian Jerboa lives in the sandy landscapes, rocky valleys and salty deserts of North Africa and round to Isreal. They dig burrows into the ground, sometimes up to 2m long, with separate chambers for sleeping and for storing food. During the daytime you are unlikely to find one of these quirky animals on your wanderings in the desert, but after the sun has gone from the sky they wake up and can travel several kilometres in a single night. These jerboas like each others company, and are usually found in small groups rather than on their own.