Folks, you'll want the sound on tonight...
OBVIOUSLY.
#2020MMM
[ gif is Old Timey Circus Man saying "Ready? Showtime!"]
Replying to @Mammals_Suck

It's time to play the music, it's time to light the lights...
youtube.com/watch?v=EJ9yAV... #2020MMM

Welcome to the 8th Annual MARCH MAMMAL MADNESS!!! #2020MMM
Tonight is an exhibition battle, an amuse-bouche, or rather an amuse-esprit, for the discerning #2020MMM palate as we gear up for big show beginning Wednesday!

And here to join us in the studio is @MrJDoty with breaking numbers from the #2020MMMBracketChallenge!! #OverToYouJohn #2020MMM

First off, the response to the #2020MMMBracketChallenge far exceeds last year's numbers, with 11,328 (and still climbing) entries compared to 2,510. That's an increase of over 450%! #2020MMM

For tonight, the Grandidier's "mongoose" is favored over the pygmy spotted skunk, as 56.40% of fans picked the "mongoose" to get into the big show, making tonight's battle the 2nd closest battle of the entire bracket!

#2020MMM #2020MMMBracketChallenge #BacktoyouKatie
Katie Hinde @Mammals_Suck
Replying to @Mammals_Suck
Very exciting numbers indeed @MrJDoty! #2020MMM

Katie Hinde @Mammals_Suck
Replying to @Mammals_Suck
Now before we get to the "nature, red in tooth and claw" (Alfred Lord Tennyson's In Memoriam A. H. H., 1850) some announcements, pomp, & circumstance! #2020MMM

Katie Hinde @Mammals_Suck
Replying to @Mammals_Suck
If you want JUST the official tournament tweets and not ALL the #FanBanter, follow @2020MMMletsgo #2020MMM

Katie Hinde @Mammals_Suck
Replying to @Mammals_Suck
Follow all the #2020MMM folx making this magic happen via this list: twitter.com/TheOddAngel/...
Special shout out to tonight's featured combatant artists @Opellisms opellisms.com & @VPellicerArt vpellicerart.com! Art Director @TheOddAngel will be tweeting out the artwork #2020MMM

All March Mammal Madness #2020MMM info at the blog, including sports style summaries each tournament night from @KateLesciotto mammalssuck.blogspot.com/2020/02/march-...
Can we get an exuberant round of applause for @grumpator for her amazing work on the @ASULibraries Guide libguides.asu.edu/MarchMammalMad...

#2020MMM

LibGuides: March Mammal Madness: #2020MMM
libguides.asu.edu

Now for a quick word from our sponsors... #2020MMM

Keep calm and wash your hands with soap & water

Keep calm and cover your cough if you are sick
Please join us in the singing of the March Mammal Madness Animal Anthem "Joy to the World" by Three Dog Night youtube.com/watch?v=as8K3H... #2020MMM
And without further ado youtube.com/watch?v=I6eQ78... #2020MMM

Tonight's Wild Card narration provided by the inimitable @PKurnath #TakeIt AwayPatrice #NoPressure #2020MMM
TONIGHT THE WILDCARD: Grandidier's "Mongoose" (Galidictis grandidieri) versus the Pygmy Spotted Skunk (Spilogale pygmaea)! #2020MMM

The 2020 March Mammal Madness Tournament kicks off right now with the Wildcard match-up: Grandidier's "Mongoose" vs Pygmy Spotted Skunk #2020MMM
#2020MMM #WildCard #TeamGrandidiersMongoose Art by Olivia Pellicer @Opellisms
Despite living in different ecosystems & having distinct body sizes, the Grandidier's & the Broad-striped mongooses from Madagascar show no significant divergence in nuclear genes across species. #2020MMM onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.111...
Galidictis grandidieri was recently better-recognized as a vontsira than a mongoose, but since we <3 our players, we wanted to make it easier to find research on them, hence the air quotes. #2020MMM [gif is man doing air quotes]
Often called the GIANT-striped mongoose, this black & light brown-to-cream striped Feliform typically weighs between 500-590g (an average of 2.5 stoats)

#StoatsAsMeasurement #TeamCatsish #2020MMM
Patrice K. Connors
@PKurnath

Replying to @PKurnath

Grandidier's "mongoose" lives on the island of Madagascar and is a member of the mammalian Family Eupleridae that includes other Malagasy carnivores like the FOSSA and Malagasy CIVET #TeamCatsish #2020MMM

See Patrice K. Connors's other Tweets

Patrice K. Connors
@PKurnath

Replying to @PKurnath

Sadly, Grandidier's "mongoose" is currently listed as endangered by @IUCNRedList due to human-caused habitat loss (agriculture and grazing of livestock) #2020MMM iucnredlist.org/species/8834/4...

See Patrice K. Connors's other Tweets
The pygmy spotted skunk tips the scales at 200g (90% of a stoat!), is one of the smallest carnivores in the world & is the smallest carnivore in Mexico (Medellin et al., 1998) #LooksForlornlyAtTinyTerrors #StoatsAsMeasurement #2020MMM

Art by Valeria Pellicer @VPellicerArt
Albinism is a genetic condition that affects pigmentation of skin, hair, and eyes. Although it is rarely seen in wild animals, albinism has been observed in wild skunks of the family Mephitidae, the same to which the Pygmy Spotted Skunk belongs.

[Link to article](revistas.unilasalle.edu.br/index.php/Rbca... #2020MMM)
The pygmy spotted skunk, subOrder Caniformia, has the longest #carnassials in the skunk family! (Fig.2 from Medellin et al., 1998) #TeamDogsish #2020MMM
Pygmy spotted skunks are blackish-brown with six creamy-buff stripes & each individual has their own unique markings (photo by B. Molina via @iNaturalist)

#2020MMM

"Skunk" is the anglicized word from the North American Native Algonquin dialects of the Great Lakes region (Kruska, 1990)

#FirstNations #EntomologyLesson #2020MMM animaldiversity.org/accounts/Spilo...
Since this is the wild-card, neither combatant had automatic claim to #HomeHabitatAdvantage but Grandider's "mongoose" won the coin toss #MixedSportsMetaphors #2020MMM [gif is a coin flip]
Tonight's battle takes place in the dry spiny tropical forest and shrubland of Tsimanampetsotsa Reserve in Madagascar, which includes the saline (AKA, salty!) Lake Tsimanampetsotsa (photo by D. Austin)! #2020MMM en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsimanamp... madagascar-photography.com/photos/tsimana...
This global distinctive ecoregion contains many drought-tolerant woody plants (it receives less than 12 inches of rain a year!) and the iconic ancient Baobab trees #2020MMM

We find both combatants trotting about as they nocturnally forage for small invertebrates after sunset #SlimyYetSatisfying #2019MMM #2020MMM
Pygmy spotted skunk is searching for insect larvae & millipedes (Cantú-Salazar et al., 2005), while Grandidier's "mongoose" is hunting cockroaches (Andriatsimietry et al., 2009)! #PoopScience #2020MMM

All of a sudden, the pygmy skunk is startled by loud angry hissing!!! #2020MMM

Nearby, Grandidier's "mongoose" has cornered a giant Hissing Madagascan Cockroach! #2020MMM

[YouTube video](https://youtube.com/watch?v=W7Efjt...)

20 people are talking about this

33 people are talking about this

28 people are talking about this
With her massive skull & strong crushing teeth, Grandidier's "mongoose" chomps down on the cockroach's head... #CARNASSIALS #CARNAGE #2020MMM

...AND GETS BLASTED BY STARTLED SKUNK SPRAY!!! (Cantú-Salazar et al. 2004) #2020MMM

Eyes burning from the chemical defense of the skunk, Grandidier's "Mongoose" darts away, jaws clasping her delicious dinner, quitting the field of battle! #2020MMM

PYGMY SPOTTED SKUNK DEFEATS GRANDIDIER'S "MONGOOSE"!!!!!! #2020MMM
Charon Henning
@TheOddAngel

#2020MMM #WildCardWinner
#TeamPygmySpottedSkunk Art by Valeria Pellicer
@VPellicerArt

Am Soc Mammalogists
@Mammalogists

#RIP Grandidier's "Mongoose" have patchy distributions often restricted by access to water. (Maybe they can watch the rest of the tournament from there)
#2020MMM
PYGMY SPOTTED SKUNK TAKES ON 1-SEED SLOTH BEAR ON WEDNESDAY IN THE CATS-ISH vs DOGS-ISH DIVISION ROUND 1!!! #2020MMM

[gif is Dr. Peter Venkman yelling "Dogs & Cats living together; MASS HYSTERIA] twitter.com/PKurnath/status...