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The Animal Rescue Agency: Case File: Pangolin Pop Star

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First Edition



## ESQUIRE FOX'S FIELD NOTES

Haha, yippee!!! It says “Esquire Fox” up there, but this is not Esquire Fox, no way, this is ALPHONSE THE BAT! The best of all the agency representatives, without a single doubt!! Esquire is supposed to type up field notes for each mission, but she hates doing it, so she was dragging her paws, and I LOVE being HELPFUL so I’ve logged in and I’m typing away while Esquire naps! She’s going to be so happy that I’ve done it for her! Mr. Pepper will not be happy, but he’s asleep, too, so lalalalalalalalalala!!!

First note: bats are the best!!!!

Second note: balloons are the worst!!!! Seriously. Just don’t use them. It’s already pretty bad if humans have some for a party and then throw them out. That means they will sit in a landfill for thousands of years, wah, wah, bad news. It’s worse if ~~their~~ there they’re released for a party or something. Then they fly into the sky, and all the humans ooh and aah and all the

animals go oh no, because you know what? What goes up must come down, and those balloons will deflate and fall into the ocean. An empty balloon looks just like a jellyfish, which means a fish or a turtle or a whale might eat it and can't digest it and then it fills up their belly and they can't eat their normal food anymore and they *die*. All because a human thought releasing balloons would be pretty. Nuh-uh, NO FAIR AT ALL, HUMANS, what are you thinking, I thought you all declared that you were sooooo smart!!!

Third note: Aren't pangolins the cutest? Except when they tie you up and gag you, but I'm getting over that because those SCALES are SO PRETTY. Pangolins are sweet natured and love to eat all sorts of insects, although they specialize in ants. There are many different species of pangolins, and they live in Asia and also sub-Saharan Africa. Unfortunately some humans think their scales have medical properties (spoiler: they do not!!!) so they're highly trafficked, which doesn't mean they're stuck on highways; it means people kidnap them from the wild. Some of them wind up as pets, and some wind up as medicine or food (yuck).

Animal trafficking leads to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of animals each year, which is bad

enough, but it also endangers humans! There are some diseases that are zoonotic, which means they pass from animals to humans. I looked it up. When humans bring wild animals into markets, they're risking introducing viruses or bacteria or parasites into the human population, which can have really serious consequences for the human world. Or so I hear.

Mr. Pepper always insists on reputable sources, so here are some articles you can read for more information:

“Why the Balloon Release Tradition  
Is Terrible for the Environment,”

*Forbes,*

**[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)**

“What Is a Pangolin?”

World Wildlife Fund,

**[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)**

“Illegal Trade in Pangolins Keeps Growing as  
Criminal Networks Expand,”

*National Geographic,*

**[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)**

Ack! Mr. Pepper is up! Byebyebyebyebyeeyoulater  
youdidn'tseemehere.

Love,  
*Alphonse*

## FROM THE KITCHEN OF MR. PEPPER:



### FROZEN PINEAPPLEADE

Note that this recipe involves a knife and a blender, so juvenile animals—like pups and kittens and tadpoles—must get an adult’s help to make this.

(Unless you’re a sea cucumber and can just regrow any limbs you cut off, in which case slice away! Although . . . if you *are* a sea cucumber, you’ll find it difficult to operate the blender.)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 limes
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water
- 3 cups frozen pineapple chunks (If you have fresh pineapple, cut it up, put it in a bag, and place it in the freezer for a few hours. You can also just buy frozen pineapple.)
- 1 cup ice cubes
- Some sort of small seed, like poppy or sesame, if you’re serving this drink to birds.

### STEPS:

- If you have a grater, use it to grate the skin off two of the limes. Humans call this lime zest. It's optional.
- Roll the limes back and forth on the counter. This makes them release more juice and feels good under your chicken feet.
- Juice the four limes. This should give you about half a cup of juice.
- Place the zest, juice, sugar, and water in the blender, and blend until you no longer see any sugar crystals. (Make sure Esquire isn't napping first, because she does not like to be woken up by blender noise.)
- Add some frozen pineapple and blend, then add more and blend, a little at a time. Do not try to blend it all at once, or you will spend two days cleaning the lair's ceiling.
- Blend in the ice the same way. If the drink looks watery, blend in even more ice. If it looks too thick, blend in more water.
- Pour into cups.
- Optional: Sprinkle small seeds on top before serving. This is how birds prefer their frozen drinks.

(Thanks to human chef Kate Merker  
for her help with this recipe!)