



**Shortcuts** by Jeff Harris

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Lemur Neeson.

I have a very particular set of skills.

Did you hear the story about the ring-tailed lemur? It was a long tale (tail).

All of the females in a troop help to raise the young.

Wild ring-tailed lemurs are found only in Madagascar.

**Smell You Later**  
Male ring-tailed lemurs often settle disputes with other males by having "stink fights." They do this by using special glands located on their wrists to wipe a foul-smelling liquid onto their tails. They then wave their tails around to spread the odor.

An adult ring-tailed lemur is about the size of a house cat.

What is a ring-tailed lemur's favorite book? "The Lord of the Rings."

**Social Security**  
Ring-tailed lemurs are very social animals. They spend a lot of time grooming each other and often take naps huddled together in a big pile. Some of the teeth on a ring-tailed lemur's lower jaw stick straight out. They use these teeth like a comb to groom each other's fur.

**Word Search**  
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

FEMALE LEADER	LEMON	TEA	FORD	RINK	IN
LEAVES	FRUIT	RDUE	UNDEER	PAL	
FOREST	CALL	ORDMO	ORGID	PEW	
TAILED	RING	OREADR	INKPAGE		
GROOM	BOB	PLOL	JFITVBET		
TROOP	PILE	HULAA	AFOROWLL		
GROUP	JAW	APOI	WMRSBCUPS		
VOCAL	NAP	LOLRE	DEUCAAI	P	
	FUR	PETAG	SSFILOLA		
		DOORE	STAR	THEL	

**Three-Ring Circus**  
Can you help these lemurs get to the fruit?

Ring-tailed lemurs feed mainly on leaves and fruit, but they will also eat insects, worms and bird eggs.

What do you get when you cross a ring-tailed lemur with a Beetle? Ringo Starr.

Ring-tailed lemurs live in social groups of about a dozen animals. This group is called a "troop."

A troop of ring-tailed lemurs consists of both male and female adult and juvenile lemurs. The entire troop is led by a dominant female.

Ring-tailed lemurs are just as comfortable in the treetops as they are on the forest floor.

Ring-tailed lemurs have more than a dozen different vocal calls that they use to communicate with other lemurs. They even have different calls to distinguish if a threat is coming from the air or from the ground.

How do you call a ring-tailed lemur? Give him a ring.