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Aquarium asks people to video-call lonely eels - 3rd May, 2020

Level 0

An aquarium has lonely eels. The aquarium is in Tokyo. It has many garden eels. Eels are usually shy and stay in their holes in the sand The aquarium eels were used to seeing visitors and stayed above their holes. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely because the aquarium is closed. The eels may forget what humans look like.

The aquarium will re-open after the coronavirus emergency ends. The eels could get stressed when people visit again. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Could you show your face to our eels from your home?" The staff want eels to know that "humans are friendly".

Level 1

An aquarium is asking people to help its lonely eels. The aquarium is in Tokyo and has many garden eels. They are usually very shy. They go into their holes in the sand when someone is there. The eels are used to seeing visitors and stay above their holes. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. The eels may forget what humans look like. The aquarium wants people to make video calls to the eels. There are special tablets in front of the eel tanks.

No visitors means the eels became very shy. They could get stressed when people visit again. It is difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are staying in their holes. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The staff want eels to know that "humans are friendly". The aquarium has a three-day "face-showing festival".

Level 2

An aquarium is asking people to help some eels that are getting lonely. The aquarium in Tokyo, Japan has tanks of garden eels. The creatures are usually very shy. They go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the eels are used to seeing visitors. They stay above their holes so people can see them. The aquarium closed because of the coronavirus emergency. Staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. The eels are forgetting what humans look like. The aquarium wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff put special tablets in front of the eel tanks.

The lack of visitors means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning. The coronavirus emergency makes it difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are staying in their holes. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Here is an urgent request. Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "humans are friendly". There is a three-day event called a "face-showing festival". People can make video calls to the eels.

Level 3

An aquarium in Japan is asking people to help a group of eels that are getting lonely. The Sumida Aquarium in Tokyo has several tanks of garden eels. The creatures are usually very cautious and go into their holes in the sand when someone passes. However, the Sumida Aquarium eels are used to seeing visitors and stay above their holes so people can see them. The aquarium has closed because of the coronavirus emergency and staff are worried the eels are getting lonely. A staff member said the eels are forgetting what humans look like. She wants people to make video calls to the eels. The staff put special tablets in front of the eel tanks so people could make video calls to them.

The lack of visitors to the aquarium means the eels have become very shy. This could make them stressed when visitors start returning after the aquarium reopens. The coronavirus emergency has also made it difficult for staff to check on the eels' health because they are now staying in their holes in the sand. The aquarium tweeted: "They aren't seeing humans so they are forgetting about us....Here is an urgent request - Could you show your face to our garden eels from your home?" The aquarium wants to remind the eels that "humans are friendly". It has organised a three-day event called a "face-showing festival". The public is being asked to make video calls but can only use Apple devices to do so.