

ADORABLE

BUT DEADLY

CREATURES



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CUTE KILLERS

The world is full of deadly animals. But not all deadly animals are huge and scary. Some can be small. Some can be cute. And these killer cuties are found in **habitats** everywhere. They live in dark jungles. They wash up on beaches. They may even sleep in your back yard!



Cute but deadly animals come in all shapes and sizes. Some are big and furry. Others can be small and colorful. But each has deadly features to help them survive in a dangerous world. Some creature features are used for defense against **predators**. Others are used to catch and eat **prey**.



So you've been warned.
These animals are cute—but deadly!

PUFFERFISH

The ocean is full of dangerous animals. It's home to sharks and killer whales. But not all deadly sea creatures are big predators.

The pufferfish is a perfect example. It looks harmless. But when threatened, it uses a great defensive trick. It gulps down a lot of water and expands its body. Sharp spines stick out from its skin. The pufferfish blows up like a spiky balloon to scare off predators.

The pufferfish's skin is also **poisonous**. The poison from one pufferfish can kill several adult humans. In some countries, pufferfish is a special food. But this deadly fish needs to be prepared carefully. Each year several people accidentally die from eating poisonous puffers.

Fact

Poisons are dangerous chemicals that some animals and plants can produce. They use poison as a defense to scare off threats.

Feature File

Common Name: Pufferfish

Habitat: Coral reefs in shallow ocean waters

Range: Warm oceans around the world

Size: Can expand its size, length ranges from about
1 inch (2.5 centimeters) to more than 2 feet (61 cm)
Weight up to 30 pounds (13.6 kilograms)

Deadly Features: Poisonous skin and sharp spines



BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS

If you see a cute little octopus with blue rings, don't touch it! This octopus is deadly!

The southern blue-ringed octopus is about as big as a golf ball. This pint-sized creature lives in shallow ocean waters near Australia. The blue-ringed octopus likes to live in rocky areas. The rocks help it to hide during the day. It comes out at night to hunt crabs and shrimp. The octopus uses its eight arms to catch and hold onto its prey. Its strong **suction pads** help to break open hard shells.

The octopus's mouth is near the center of its body. It's pointed and sharp like a bird's beak. The deadly creature delivers powerful venom through its bite. It can **paralyze** prey, making them easier to eat.

Fact

Venom is another type of poison some animals can produce. Venom is used to capture or kill prey. It's usually delivered through a bite or sting.

Feature File

Common Name: Southern blue-ringed octopus

Habitat: Shallow rocky reefs, coral reefs

Range: Coastal Australia

Size: Length 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm)

Weight up to 1 ounce (28 grams)

Deadly Features: Venomous bite, strong suction pads

