UNDERSTANDING THE UNKNOWN

THE ILLUSTRATED COLLECTION OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY



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A REFERENCE GUIDE

CRYPTID CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The three point cryptid classification system currently employed by C.R.O.W is based on several factors, but primarily is an indicator of how dangerous the cryptid in question will be to personnel interacting with it.



AESOP

An Aesop class cryptid requires the minimal level of effort from security personnel, as these creatures pose no physical or mental harm to humans, and C.R.O.W. does not have to be contacted if these creatures are spotted interacting with humans beyond containment points.



LANG

The Lang classification indicates that while a cryptid can be controlled with moderate effort, it exhibits tendencies or effects which require the constant attention of personnel. This class of cryptid should not be interacted with unless a designated C.R.O.W. representative is on hand.



GRIMM

The Grimm classification is applied to cryptids whose effects or capabilities require constant observation, or whose full observation is not possible due to limitations in resources or capabilities. These cryptids should be avoided at all costs and pose direct harm to those it comes into contact with.

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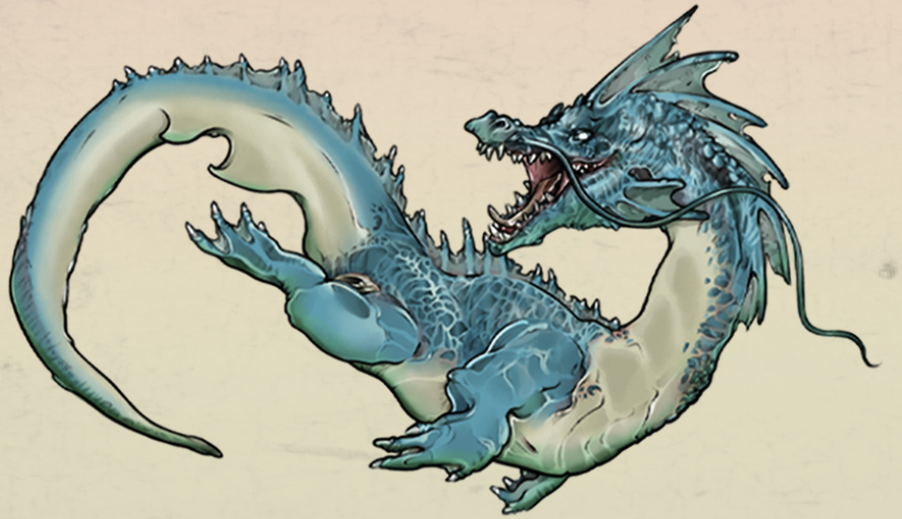
C.R.O.W
CRYPTID · RESPONSE · OBSERVATION · WELFARE

CRYP·TO·ZO·OL·O·GY

/ˌkrɪptəʊzuːˈɒlədʒi/

noun: **cryptozoology**

1. The search for and study of animals whose existence or survival is disputed or unsubstantiated, such as the Loch Ness Monster and the Yeti.



Name: *The Loch Ness Monster*
Location: *Loch Ness (Scotland)*

Estimated to be around 9.5 meters in length. The Loch Ness monster, also known by her nickname Nessie, is believed to be the only living creature left of her species. Despite being first seen by Saint Columba in 565AD, the creature which inhabits the loch today, is the same. It is unkown whether the creature has a remarkably long life cycle, or if she is in fact immortal.

There has only been one record of Nessie eating a human, sometime around the year 700 AD. In 1953, C.R.O.W sucessfully restricted cruises of the loch to one a day, limiting the distress which these visits may cause for the creature. Although she may be shy, Nessie does frequent the surface of the water, even when tourist boats are near. She rarely attacks, but when she does, severe and sometimes fatal injuries commonly result. If you have accidentally entered the loch, you need to have a plan in place.



Name: *Bigfoot, Sasquatch*
Location: *Forests of North America*

The regional Sasquatch species of North America, Bigfoot is an ape-like creature that inhabits forests, mainly in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. They stand approximately 9 feet tall, and are hairy, bipedal humanoids.

Nocturnal and incredibly solitary, a Bigfoot will avoid humans and most other forest animals, only travelling from their community at night to forage for berries, small rodents or fish.



Name: *Jackalope*
Location: *Wyoming (America)*

A close relative of the Persian 'Al-Mi'raj' and the German 'Wolpertinger', the Jackalope is perhaps the most well known horned hare species in the world. Wild Jackalopes generally have the same appearence, long-legged and lean, about 17-31 inches, and weighs 3-7 pounds. Its fur is buff-coloured to blend in with the arid environment of the Wyoming desert.

Jackalopes tend to live alone or in small herds. The females and young may live in groups but the males are usually solitary. A Jackalope's primary form of communication is through body language, however, they can produce high-pitched sounds known as 'skrees' to communicate over long distances.

They grow rapidly, reaching adult size in about 7 or 8 months. Sexual maturity is attained at about the same time, but young females do not breed until early in the year following their birth.



Name: *Mothman*
Location: *West Virginia (America)*

The first recorded Mothman sighting took place on November 12, 1966. The creature has been sighted in many areas across West Virginia and the surrounding states, the largest number of sightings taking place near an area now known by locals as the 'TNT District'.

Despite his name which was given to him by newspapers, he is in no way moth-like, and has an appearance more like that of a large humanoid owl.



Name: *Chupacabra*
Location: *Puerto Rico, Mexico, United States*

Renowned for its attacks on livestock, hence the Spanish name 'the goatsucker', it eats chickens, goats, and other farm animals and pets. Unlike conventional predators, the chupacabra will drain all of the animal's blood (and sometimes organs) usually through three holes in the shape of an upside-down triangle or through one or two holes. Their first known attacks were in March of 1995 in Puerto Rico. 8 sheep were discovered dead, each completely drained of blood.

Adult chupacabras are frequently noted for their calm demeanor, although puppies can be extremely energetic, noisy, and very aggresive until they reach maturity (after 2 years old).

There are 3 sizes of chupacabra, toy, 10-14 inches tall, miniature, 14-18 inches tall and standard, 18-23 inches tall.
Weight is 10-55 lbs. depending on size.



Name: *Jersey Devil*
Location: *Pine Barrens (New Jersey, America)*

Also known as the Leeds Devil. Local residents trace its origin to a woman named Mother Leeds, the mistress of a British soldier who was suspected of being a witch. When she gave birth to her thirteenth child, she cursed it. The baby was born as a scaly creature and soon took to terrorizing the populace and eating children.

Many sightings report the creature to have glowing red eyes that can paralyse a man, and that it utters a high-pitch squeal as if hurt, usually mimicking a baby's cry.

The Jersey Devil has been measured at speeds above 93 mph, but only when swooping, or diving.



Name: *Mongolian Death Worm*
Location: *Gobi Desert*

The Mongolian Death Worm's native name, Olgoi-Khorkhoi, means 'intestine worm', due to its blood-like colour. The Death Worm can measure between 2-7ft long, and has the ability to spit out a corrosive yellow saliva. When the creature begins to attack, it raises half its body out of the sand and starts to inflate until it explodes, releasing the lethal poison all over the victim. The poison is so venomous that the prey dies instantly.

The worm lives underground, hibernating most of the year except when it becomes active in June and July. The Worm is mostly seen on the surface when it rains and the ground is wet.

Because Mongolia had been under Soviet control until 1990, very little is known about the Death Worm in the west. In recent years, C.R.O.W investigators have been able to perform further research into the creature.



Name: *Wendigo*
Location: *Canada, Minnesota (America)*

The Wendigo, also know as the Windigo, Witigo, Witiko, and Wee-Tee-Go, have superior speed and stealth, the ability to mimic human voices and near perfect hunting skills.

Human beings can turn into Wendigos if they ever resort to cannibalism or, alternatively, become possessed by the demonic spirit of a Wendigo.



Name: *Santa Claus*
Location: *Rovaniemi (Finland)*

Variably also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas and Kris Kringle, Santa Claus delivers gifts to well-behaved children annually on the night of Christmas Eve (December 24th).

He flies a magical sleigh pulled by his team of flying reindeer, and has access to magical powers which enable him to deliver gifts to all the world's children in a single night. He also has means of monitoring children throughout the year, in order to assert which are 'naughty' and which ones are 'nice'.



Name: *Goatman*
Location: *Maryland, Texas (America)*

Goatman is a seven foot tall, axe-wielding, hybrid creature; part man and part goat. The origins of Goatman remain unclear, although it is assumed he is either a mutated scientist from the 'Beltsville Agricultural Research Centre' or a demonic presence.

The Goatman appears to be completely immortal and no home has been found for him in the Maryland area. Explorations of the area take place monthly to search for the creature.



Name: *Mari Lwyd*
Location: *South Wales*

Mari Lwyd, also known as Gray Mary in English, is a Welsh skeleton horse and human hybrid that visits people's homes and pubs during the Christmas season. She requesst entry through the medium of song. The householders are expected to deny her entry, again through song, and the two sides continue their responses to one another in this manner. If the householders eventually relent, then Mari Lwyd is be permitted entry and given food and drink.



Name: *Gorgon*
Location: *Greece*

There are only two Gorgons left in the world and are currently under supervision by C.R.O.W, them being sisters named Stheno and Euryale. The best known ability of the Gorgon is their power to turn living beings into stone, this occurs when a Gorgon's eyes meet her victim's. The Gorgon sisters are immortal, with the exception of Medusa who was slain by Perseus sometime from the mid-14th to early 13th century BCE.



Name: *Sphinx*
Location: *Egypt, Asia, Greece*

There are two species of Sphynx in the world, the Egyptian species, with the head of a man, and the Greek varient with the head of a woman. People who walked by the territory of the Greek Sphinx, commonly outside the town of Thebes, are often asked a riddle. The Sphinx will reward those who get it correct with freedom to continue onto its territory, but punish those who answered wrongly with death. It is required by law that all tour guides and public transport drivers in Greece must be accopanied by a certified 'enigmaphile'.

Although all Sphinx have wings, none posses the power of flight, instead, the wings are used when pouncing to help the Sphinx travel for a longer distance towards their prey. Similar to lions, they use their sharp claws to grapple their prey's hinds, slowing it down for the kill, they will then scratch and bite until their prey is killed.



Name: *Frogman*
Location: *Loveland (Ohio, America)*

The Loveland Frog, or Loveland lizard, has had four sightings, one in 1955, two in 1972, and one in 2016. The Loveland Frog lives in the temperature forests of Clermont County, Ohio and is able to survive the cold winters of the region without having to hibernate.

These creatures have an ability to use sticks to emit sparks like a wand, This could mean that the frogs have an ability to control electricity in some way, but further research is underway on this subject. Since very little is known about the creatures, it is not clear if the Frogmen are dangerous or not.



Name: *Drop Bear*
Location: *Australia*

Drop bears are large, vicious relatives of the peaceful herbivorous koala. Their method of attack is brutal and will kill a human easily. They remain hidden in a tree, usually gum or eucalyptus, until they see their prey walk underneath, and they drop down and brutally attack the victim's head using their venomous bite and claws.

Methods of avoiding attack include putting forks in your hair or spreading toothpaste or vegimite behind your ears, armpits, or on your neck, although, they usually only hunt and feast at night, making encounters unlikely.

Drop Bears generally live an average of 13 to 17 years. Females often live longer than males, whose life expectancy is often less than 10 years due to injuries from fights or being killed by tourists.



Name: *Baba Yaga*
Location: *Forests of Northern Russia and Finland*

Baba Yaga lives deep in the woords in a hut that stands on chicken legs, surrounded by a fence of bones taken from her victims, and uses a large mortar to fly, using the pestle to guide herself through the sky.

Baba Yaga may help or hinder those who encounter or seek her out, although she steals, cooks, and eats her victims, usually children, therefore searching for Baba Yaga is discouraged.



Name: *Leprechaun*
Location: *Ireland*

A Leprechaun is a type of magical humanoid being that originates in Ireland, as is regarded as a type of fairy, the leprechaun is known to use its magical abilities for mischief.

Leprechauns are solitary creatures that spend the majority of their time making shoes in the woodlands. They possess great wealth, storing a collection of gold coins in a pot at the end of a rainbow, which they create as a map to find where their gold is hidden. Notorious pranksters, they use their magic powers for playing practical jokes on people. If a person is able to capture a leprechaun, the leprechaun will offer its captor a wish in exchange for its freedom, although it is near to impossible to capture one, thanks to their magical abilities.

A unique ability of the Leprechaun, is that it is able to disappear when not being directly looked at.



Name: *La Befana*
Location: *Italy*

La Befana is a woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on Epiphany Eve (the night of January 5) in a similar way to Santa Claus. Befana visits Italian children to fill their socks with candy and presents if they are good, or a lump of coal or dark candy if they are bad.

It is unknown where exactly La Befana lives as she seems to vanish each year after January 5th.



Name: *Chimera*
Location: *Greece*

This creature possessed the head and body of a lion, the head of a goat arising from its back and had a snake's head at the end of its tail, each head being sentient.

Chimeras are said to be near invincible, for they have the strength of a lion, the cunning of a goat, and the venom of a snake, but their most deadly weapon, by far, is their ability to breathe fire. If necessary, a chimera is best defeated by using long range attacks against their weak points, mainly the eyes.

A Chimera can often match its prey in sense of speed, but they have comparably poor stamina, therefore, they have to sneak up close to their prey before they attack.



Name: *Yeti*
Location: *Nepal, China*

The Yeti, also known as the Abominable Snowman, is the Asian species of Sasquatch, and stands more than 11 feet tall.

It is primarily carnivorous, but will consume plants if necessary, the Yeti will typically feed on non-predator animals, such as the Argali sheep, the Bharal, the Markhor. The Yeti will usually claim a cave found in the side of a mountain, using piled snow to act as a bed. The Yeti is an intelligent being, having the mind and mental capability similar to apes.



Name: *Phoenix*
Location: *Egypt*

The benevolent phoenix, a symbol of renewal, possesses the remarkable power of resurrection. At the end of its life, a phoenix will burst into flames and its body will be reduced to ash. Not long after burning, the creature will be reborn from its ashes as a chick, and begin its life cycle again.

Phoenixes can fly for long periods of time without getting tired and even when young and small are capable of carrying loads many times their own weight. When threatened, they can envelop their bodies in flames to prevent other creatures from touching them. The tears of a phoenix are capable of healing wounds rapidly and eliminating poisons and disease.



PA·RA·PSY·CHOL·O·GY

/parəsʌɪˈkɒlədʒi/

noun: **parapsychology**

1. the study of mental phenomena which are excluded from or inexplicable by orthodox scientific psychology, such as paranormal anomalies.



Name: *Kitsune*
Location: *Japan*

Kitsune means fox in Japanese and they are commonly known as intelligent beings with magical powers. Kitsune are michevious and can take over women's bodies in a state called Kitsunetsuki. During Kitsunetsuki, the woman's face takes on a more fox-like appearance, the Kitsune will often embarass the vessel in various ways.

They are gifted with many powers including long life, which is measured by how many tails they have (9 in all).



Name: *Banshee*
Location: *Ireland*

A Banshee is a messenger from the realm of the dead, it takes the form of a human woman when it enters the mortal plane. It emits a shrill cry of lamentation when a person is about to die, alerting the individual's family of their imminent passing.

As they are often connected to a particular family, some Banshees followed their families as they emigrated from Ireland to other places across the globe, though some stayed behind to grieve at the original family estate.



Name: *La Llorona*
Location: *Latin America*

La Llorona was a woman named Maria who drowned her children after their father abandoned them for another woman. She went on to kill herself, and now now wanders the earth, searching in vain for her drowned children. Her constant crying is the reason for her name, La Llorona (The Weeping Woman), and she will kidnap wandering children or youngsters who disobey their parents, while crying out, "i Ay mis Ninos!"
(My Children!)



Name: *Kappa*
Location: *Japan*

Kappa are solitary aquatic reptilian humanoids who inhabit the rivers and streams, Clumsy on land, they are at home in the water, where they thrive during the warm months. They are excellent swimmers, and despite their small size they are physically stronger than a grown man.

The dish-like depression on top of their skulls is the source of a kappa's power and must be kept wet at all times; should the water be spilled and the dish dry up, the kappa will be unable to move and may even die.

They will eat most things, but are particularly fond of raw innards, particularly human anuses, and cucumbers.



Name: *Rokurokubi*
Location: *Japan*

Rokurikubi look almost completely like humans with one or two key differences. There is a type whose neck stretches and another whose head detaches and flies around freely, known as Nukekubi. The Nukekubi sometimes perform bad deeds such as attacking and drinking their victims' blood, but Rokurikubi are generally benevolent, and are usually seen as trickster spirits rather than harmful entities.



Name: *Bloody Mary*
Location: *Any reflective surface*

'Bloody Mary' is a malevolent spirit who will appear in a mirror when her name is called three times. The apparition appears as a corpse covered in blood, and will strangle, steal the soul, drink the blood, or scratch out the eyes of the individual who summond her.

It is most likely that Mary is the spirit of a woman who committed suicide due to having her baby stolen or was accused of murdering her children.



Name: *Oni*
Location: *Japan*

Oni are born when truly wicked humans die and their body transforms into an Oni. An Oni's job is to deliver horrible punishments such as peeling off skin or crushing bones to humans who are wicked.

Occasionally, when a human is so utterly wicked that his soul is beyond any redemption, he transforms into an oni during life, and remains on Earth to terrorize the living.



Name: *Kasa-obake*
Location: *Japan*

The Kasa-Obake, also called Karakasa-Obake, Kasa-Bake, or Karakasa Kozo, is an old or broken umbrella that turned into a monster, usually with one eye, one leg, and a long tongue, though other variations have been reported. Unlike many yokai, the Kasa-Obake is relatively harmless, and enjoys scaring people for fun or licking them with its long tongue.

It is a part of a category of Japanese monsters known a tsukumogami, which are ordinary objects that gain a soul and come to life after being owned for a hundred years.



Name: *Futakuchi-onna*
Location: *Japan*

Futakuchi-Onna is a type of yōkai that is characterized by it's two mouths; a normal one located on her face and second one on the back of the head beneath the hair. The woman's skull splits apart, forming lips, teeth and a tongue, creating an entirely functional second mouth.

The origin of a futakuchi-onna's second mouth is often linked to how little a woman eats. In most cases, if a woman eats too little a second mouth mysteriously appears on the back of the woman's head. The second mouth often mumbles spiteful and threatening things to the woman and demands food.



Name: *Jinn*
Location: *Middle East*

Jinn are ancient and preternatural beings, much like humans, and can be either good, bad or neutral, depending upon their personal preference.

Historically, malicious Jinn have been stored in lamps or jars. A common trick used against a malevolent Jinn is to play upon its need to show how powerful it is: tricking the spirit into re-entering his lamp (or jar) and then sealing it before he can return to cause harm to his summoner.

XEN·OL·O·GY

/zɛˈnɒlədʒi/

noun: **xenology**

1. The search for and study of extraterrestrial life, biology, cultures, such as Grays and Reptilians.



Name: *Gray*
Location: *Zeta Reticuli*

Grey Alien sightings make up over 40% of all reported alien encounters. The Greys commonly abduct humans from Earth to experiment on them, these experiences are often forgotten by the victim when they wake up. Physical reminders are often left on their bodies, such as bruising, surgical incisions, punctures or mysterious triangular burns.

Theories regarding the Greys' observation of Earth include studying humans to determine how threatening we may be and whether or not our planet is worth conquering. Attempted communication with Greys has been unsuccessful so far, as A.T.O.M has only been able to capture one Grey at a time, making it impossible to understand their language.



Name: *Reptilian*
Location: *Earth*

Normal Reptilians stand 6 to 8 feet tall while elders stand up to 10 feet and the largest Reptoids, the Draconians, stand anywhere from 14 to 22 feet tall. The key feature of Reptilians is their ability to shape shift, although whether they do this naturally or through technological means is unclear.

Contact between A.T.O.M and the Reptilians happens regularly and althought they are considered to be highly intelligent, they are also very secretive.



Name: *Fresno Nightcrawler*
Location: *Fresno County (California, America)*

The Fresno nightcrawler, also known as the Fresno alien, is a relatively short (approx. 1.5 meters) species that made two appearances on Earth so far, one in Fresno, California and the other in Yosemite National Park.

Very little is known about the Nightcrawler's intelligence level, although it is possible that the Nightcrawlers are not an alien race, but are in fact pets of Greys, Nordics or another alien race who travelled to our planet at the time of the sighting.

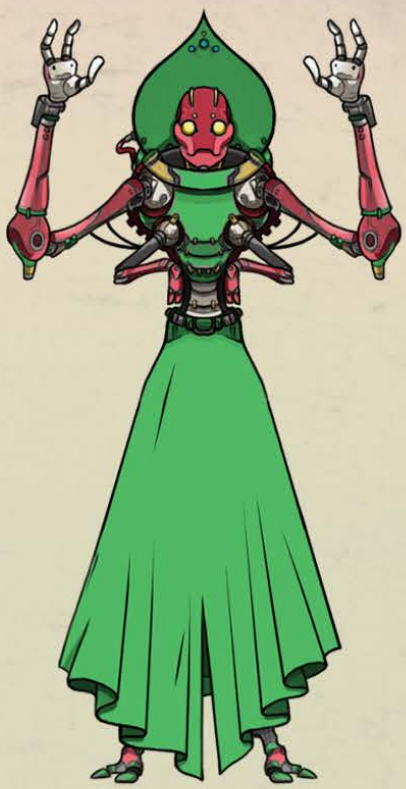
Judging by the pair caught on a security camera, they reproduce, as the size difference suggests either a mother/father and a child, or a male and female.



Name: *Nordic*
Location: *Pleiades*

The Nordic Aliens, known by various names such as: The Blonde Humanoids and Tall White Aliens, are humanoid aliens who resemble Nordic-Scandinavians and have been visiting the planet since 5000 BCE.

Often seen to work very closely with the Greys, the Nordics, are less intelligent than the Greys, but do have the ability to speak a small amount of English. They do not often direct theirown abductions, but usually perform abductions on behalf of the Greys they are working with.



Name: *Flatwoods Monster*
Location: *Flatwoods (West Virginia, America)*

The Flatwoods monster, or Braxton County Monster, is not a species of alien, but instead, a robot which was sent to Earth by an unknown alien race. The machine only appeared in 1952 and A.T.O.M. have, thus far, been unable to discern where it orginated.

The Flatwoods Monster caused no harm to the people who saw it, but it is unknown whether it would have the inclination or ability to attack if it appeared again.