

Amazing Barn Owl facts!

Did you know?

- Barn Owls eat mostly voles, shrews, mice and sometimes rats.
- Food is often swallowed whole - bits of fur and bone are then regurgitated (coughed up) as an owl pellet.
- Barn Owls screech - they never hoot (that's Tawny Owls).
- The scientific Latin name for Barn Owl is *Tyto alba alba*.
- Barn Owls have very long legs, toes and talons to help them to catch prey hidden under long grass.
- Barn Owls usually hunt at night - even in total darkness they can find the smallest vole using their super-sensitive hearing.
- Barn Owls' large eyes are very sensitive too - they can quickly spot a mouse moving in a very gloomy barn.
- Barn Owl feathers are super soft - this helps them to hunt silently, but they are not very waterproof and get soaked if it rains.
- Barn Owls have lop-sided ears! One is higher than the other, which helps them to pinpoint exactly where tiny sounds are coming from.
- A wild Barn Owl usually eats about 4 small mammals every night, that's 1,460 per year!