

Inbreeding not that bad

It was thought that animals avoid reproduction with family members where possible. But a new meta-study by researchers at Stockholm University and Wageningen found no proof for this widely believed assumption. The study was published in July in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. Co-author Alexander Kotrschal of Behavioural Ecology has various explanations for why animals do not avoid inbreeding. The risks are not always that large, and sometimes inbreeding is the best option because not mating is the only alternative. 'Inbreeding can even be advantageous in certain cases, for example when animals are fully adapted to their local environment.'

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