

On the Topic of Flying Animals

Originally, only birds could fly in Oz. But, throughout the land, it was universally recognized that other flying animals would bring great economic benefits - faster transportation, decreased shipping costs, and a certain whimsicality that would likely increase tourism. Oz's greatest scientific minds were tasked with the creation of such beasts. Unfortunately, the actual development of flying animal species was plagued with unforeseen difficulties.

The first attempt, a single flying lion named Moonracer, was deemed a failure. Although the lion could indeed fly, children responded in abject terror at his fearsome appearance. The Oz Chamber of Commerce demanded that scientists choose a species less formidable than a lion.

Hoping to correct their error, Ozian scientists next grafted wings onto monkeys, hoping that inherent simian cuteness would prevail. Alas, winged monkeys proved even more horrific than the flying lion.



The exasperated scientists then made their third and final attempt - flying reindeer. Through intense research, they devised an incredible technological advancement that would allow reindeer to fly without wings! It was an unparalleled genetic and aerodynamic achievement.



Yet, even this advance was accompanied by a slight concern. The deep-seated genetic alterations introduced to support wingless flight resulted in an infinitesimally small probability of a significant side effect: a one-in-a-million chance that a reindeer would one day be born with a brilliantly shiny red nose. Some of the scientists posited such a reindeer's nose would even glow. Despite this chance, the researchers charged ahead to breed an entire herd of such flying reindeer. And, for centuries, the "red nose" phenomenon was never observed in the wild.

Although the flying reindeer were a technological marvel and achieved enormous success in Oz, The Great Schism changed everything. During the separation negotiations, the Wizard of Oz and Santa Claus both decided that Moonracer and the reindeer would be moved to the North Pole, while the flying monkeys would remain in Oz.