

Best of Last Week—Kibble or meat for dogs, collecting lithium from wastewater, health benefits of olive oil

May 13 2024, by Bob Yirka

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It was a good week for the biological sciences, as a team of researchers in the U.S., led by groups from Oklahoma State University and the University of Florida, explored [which is better](#) for your dog, kibble or

raw meat, and found surprising health results. Also, a team of pathobiologists at the Royal Veterinary College in the U.K., working with a colleague from National Chung Hsing University, in Taiwan, created a [life expectancy chart](#) for approximately 8,000 domestic cat breeds, showing the longest and shortest-lived cats and those in between. And a team of anthropologists, paleontologists and Earth scientists from Kent State University, the City University of New York and the University of Michigan's Museum of Paleontology identified the [likely common ancestor](#) of all modern hoofed animals—named *Militocodon lydae*, the creature was from the Paleocene epoch and was dated to 65 million years ago.

In technology news, a team of analysts at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection found evidence that [almost half of the lithium](#) needed for batteries could come from Pennsylvania wastewater. And a team of AI researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana developed a framework to [detect hallucinations](#) in the text generated by LLMs. Also, a team of roboticists at the Chinese University of Hong Kong demonstrated a [robot snail](#) with a helmet-like shell that could move around by rolling on bulldozer-like tracks—they could also connect to form trains and work together to climb over objects. And a team of micro-roboticists at Brno University of Technology, in the Czech Republic, demonstrated via video how [swarms of miniature robots](#) could work together to clean up microplastics and microbes in liquid samples.

In other news, a team of medical researchers at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine discovered some of the [changes that occur in metabolism](#) between birth and the presentation of autism spectrum disorder later in childhood. Also, astrophysicists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland made public a new black hole visualization they had created that allowed viewers to visualize what it might be like to [cross the event horizon](#). And finally, a team of nutritionists and medical researchers at the Harvard

T.H. Chan School of Public Health found evidence that [daily consumption of olive oil](#) may reduce the chances of developing dementia.

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Citation: Best of Last Week—Kibble or meat for dogs, collecting lithium from wastewater, health benefits of olive oil (2024, May 13) retrieved 3 July 2024 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2024-05-week-kibble-meat-dogs-lithium.html>

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