

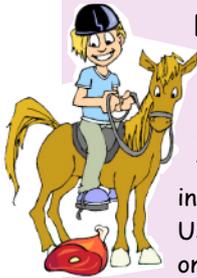


# Special Feature



## Raining Cats and Dogs!

Submitted by Michael Ludwig



### Raw Meat

A few pieces of meat fell from the sky in Virginia, USA, last year, one landing on the head of a teenager in the middle of a horseback riding lesson. At the time experts guessed that a seagull was the culprit. But now it is thought buzzards, having regurgitated venison or mutton, caused the event now known as the Kentucky Meat Shower!

**Money**  
A German woman collect "a substantial amount of money" that fell from the sky onto her car as she was driving. Of course she stopped and collected the "cash from heaven" and in what is a really impressive display of honesty, later turned it in to police!

We're all familiar with the phrase "raining cats and dogs," but what about fish and frogs? Since biblical times, there have been reports of strange things falling from the sky. Some incidents have occurred more than once and others were more random and are less likely to repeat themselves. However all are the result of natural events.

### Fish

Typically, fish are scooped up by water spouts and dropped in bunches—and that's just what happened in the remote Australian town of Lajamanu in 2010.



### Golf Balls

We all joke about golf-ball sized hail, but what about real golf balls? *Popular Mechanics* magazine quoted a *St. Petersburg Times* story that reported "dozens and dozens and dozens" of golf balls falling on the town of Punta Gorda on the gulf coast of Florida in 1969. Water spouts and an abundance of bad shots and golf courses were thought to have been the source for this strange event.

### Frogs

Like fish, frogs are easy targets for updrafts and can be carried and dropped miles and miles away. In one 2009 incident, tadpoles rained down on a town in central Japan.



### Worms

Water spouts were thought to be the cause of 120 worms falling in tangled bunches onto a group of students during gym class.



### Mud

J.W. Moore of Easton, Pennsylvania, wrote to the editors of *Science Magazine* to recount a "mud shower" caused by a dust storm and subsequent rain that occurred on April 12, 1902. It happened again later that year, this time in New Zealand: According to a telegram from November 14, "The south train yesterday afternoon encountered a shower of red mud the whole way from Henley to Waihola."



### Blood?

At least, that's what it looks like. This most recently happened last year in India. In an *Examiner* article that analysed the different "red rain" cases that have been reported over the past two decades, the publication quoted two scientists who concluded that "the mysterious red colour in the rain is caused by [an] unidentified life form that does not have DNA." Today, other scientific theories about how the rain turns red revolve around meteor dust and micro-organisms.



### Sharks

In 2012, a shark fell on the 12th tee of a Southern California golf course. A course marshal found it and transported it back to the ocean, where it was successfully released. Witnesses say the shark had puncture wounds and concluded that it had been scooped up by a bird and carried over land before it was able to shake free.



### Spiders

Spiders can't fly, but they can build a parachute with the best of them. In 2007, a group of them "rained" down upon some hikers in Argentina.

