

Penguins unimpressed by aquarium's cheaper fish

Vocabulary Match

- inflation • uncooperative • to spike • stubborn • begrudgingly •
• opposed to • reluctantly • sharp rise • • rising prices • hard headed

Article

A Japanese aquarium said it is trying to switch its penguins' diet to a cheaper kind of fish as a result of inflation, but the birds are being uncooperative.

Officials at the Hakone-en Aquarium, southwest of Tokyo, said they switched the penguins from their usual diet of aji, aka Japanese horse mackerel, to a cheaper variety of mackerel after the price of aji spiked nearly 30 percent over last year.

A video filmed at the aquarium shows the penguins stubbornly refusing to accept the cheaper fish. "Even if they take it in their beaks, they just spit it out," Hiroki Shimamoto, the head zookeeper at the aquarium, told VICE World News.

Aquarium workers said the penguins will begrudgingly eat the cheaper fish if it is mixed in with some aji. "Ideally, they would like to have a full aji, but they are patiently eating mackerel," Shimamoto told TV Asahi.

"We could fix this issue by raising the admission fee to the aquarium, but we'd rather not," Shimamoto said.

Quiz

1. Why has the aquarium switched to mackerel?
2. How do workers get the penguins to eat the mackerel?

Conversation

Boy: Mum! I'm starving! Where are all the snacks?

Mum: There should still be an apple or two in the fruit bowl. Why don't you have one of those?

Boy: An apple?! Come on, mum, I'm being serious. Haven't we got any crisps, or chocolate?

Mum: Who do you think you are, the King of England? We can't afford such luxuries anymore!

Discussion

1. What are your favorite snacks? How often do you eat them?
2. Has inflation affected you? What things have become more expensive?
3. Have you ever been to an aquarium? What do you think about aquariums?