

**GROSS-OUT
DEFENSES**

Bloody **HORNED LIZARDS**



by
Lori Haskins Houran

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Bloody HORNED LIZARDS

by Lori Haskins Houran

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Becky Munich

Photo Researcher: Amy Dunleavy

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Haskins, Lori.

Bloody horned lizards / by Lori Haskins Houran.

p. cm. — (Gross-out defenses)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-717-8 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-717-7 (library binding)

1. Horned toads— Juvenile literature. 2. Animal defenses— Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL666.L267H37 2009

597.95'4— dc22

2008016048

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Surprise!

Uh-oh! A horned lizard sees trouble.

A hungry coyote is coming near.

Closer, closer . . .

The lizard shuts its eyes tight, then—*squirt!*

It shoots blood out of its eyes, straight into the coyote's mouth!

The shocked coyote yelps and turns away.

The lizard is safe!



coyote

Shooting blood is a weird way to fight off **enemies**, but it works! Horned lizards spray the blood out of the corners of their eyes. If they need to, they can shoot over and over again.

shooting
blood

Unlucky Dogs

Horned lizards don't squirt blood at just anyone.

They save this trick for **canine** enemies, such as coyotes, foxes, wolves, and dogs.

The lizards' blood tastes horrible to these creatures, though it doesn't bother other kinds of animals at all.



The blood doesn't hurt the canines. It just grosses them out! After they're squirted, canines shake their heads and rub their faces in the grass, trying to get rid of the terrible taste.

**blood from a
horned lizard**



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Schaefer, Lola M. *Horned Toads.* Chicago: Heinemann Library (2004).

Trueit, Trudi Strain. *Lizards.* New York: Children's Press (2003).

Learn More Online

To learn more about horned lizards, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/GrossOutDefenses

About the Author

Lori Haskins Houran has been writing and editing books since 1992. She lives in New York City.

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Bloody HORNNED LIZARDS

Watch out! Bloody horned lizards have a really gross way of staying safe. When in danger, they squirt blood from the corners of their eyes. The blood doesn't kill, but it sure tastes awful. Look inside to find many more fascinating facts about these bloody creatures!

Bloody Horned Lizards
Deadly Poison Dart Frogs

Disgusting Hagfish
Prickly Porcupines

Smelly Skunks
Tricky Opossums

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