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Do Komodo Dragons Form Relationships with Other Species?



Komodo dragons are fascinating reptiles that live on islands in Indonesia. Though they are often solitary animals, they do interact with other species in unique ways. These interactions can be classified as mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism.

One example of mutualism involves birds. Some birds help Komodo dragons by eating parasites off their scaly skin. The birds get a meal, while the Komodo dragon stays healthy and clean. Both species benefit from this relationship.

Parasitism is another type of relationship seen with Komodo dragons. Some parasites, like ticks, attach to the dragon's body and feed on its blood. The tick benefits, but the Komodo dragon may suffer from blood loss or infections, making this a harmful interaction.

Commensalism can also be observed with Komodo dragons. When a dragon feeds on large prey, such as a deer, smaller scavengers like birds and insects may come to eat the leftovers. The scavengers benefit from the leftover food, but the Komodo dragon is neither helped nor harmed.

While Komodo dragons mostly live alone and avoid close relationships, these interactions show that they are still connected to the ecosystem in important ways.