

# News release



20 July 2016

## Dinosaur seeks new home... Could you look after the Museum of Natural History's *Utahraptor*?

A four metre-long model of a *Utahraptor* is ending its time in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History collections and is seeking a new home. Potential dinosaur owners please step forward...

The Museum is looking for a host with an indoor public space that could house this striking Cretaceous creature – perhaps a school, community centre, library, or other public venue. The model will be donated free of charge to the organisation which makes the best case for the *Utahraptor*'s continued public display in their venue.



To register interest in taking home this unusual pet, the Museum has set up a submission form which can be completed at [bit.ly/utahraptor](http://bit.ly/utahraptor) or by following the links from the homepage of the Museum's website ([www.oum.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk)). Potential dinosaur wranglers will need to demonstrate that they can house the *Utahraptor* in their venue, which requires a clear floor space of 1.6 metres by 1.2 metres (plus some room for the lengthy tail!). The Museum would like interested parties to make a statement about why they feel the dinosaur should move in with them. The closing date for submissions is 5 August and the selected venue will be announced by 12 August.

The *Utahraptor* model has been in the Museum's collections store since 2014 and the decision to donate it to a new home comes as the Museum embarks on a reorganisation of its offsite storage.

When the *Utahraptor* leaves the Museum later this summer it will not be for the first time: This plucky character got up to some escapades as part of the award-winning [Goes to Town](#) project in 2013 when numerous specimens left the building to appear in locations across Oxford city centre for six months.

On that occasion the *Utahraptor* was kindly hosted by Blackwell's book shop (image right). But this time the *Utahraptor* will not be returning to the Museum and any new owners should take heed: a dinosaur is not just for Christmas...



**For further information:**

Scott Billings  
Digital engagement officer  
Museum of Natural History  
[scott.billings@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:scott.billings@oum.ox.ac.uk)  
01865 272 537

**Notes to editors**

**About *Utahraptor ostrommaysorum***

*Utahraptor* means 'Utah's predator' and the animal is known from fragmentary fossils found only in Utah in the United States. There is just one known species, *Utahraptor ostrommaysorum*, which was alive in the early Cretaceous period, around 125 million years ago. It is thought that like most dinosaurs of its type (dromaeosaurids) the *Utahraptor* was feathered, although no direct evidence has yet been found. The Museum's model, made by Crawley Creatures does not represent a feathered example of this species.

**About the Museum of Natural History**

Founded in 1860 as the centre for scientific study at the University of Oxford, the Museum of Natural History now holds the University's internationally significant collections of entomological, geological and zoological specimens. Housed in a stunning Pre-Raphaelite-inspired example of neo-Gothic architecture, the Museum's growing collections underpin a broad programme of natural environment research, teaching and public engagement.

In 2015, the Museum was a **Finalist in the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year**. In 2016, it won the top accolade, Best of the Best, in the **Museums + Heritage Awards**.

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