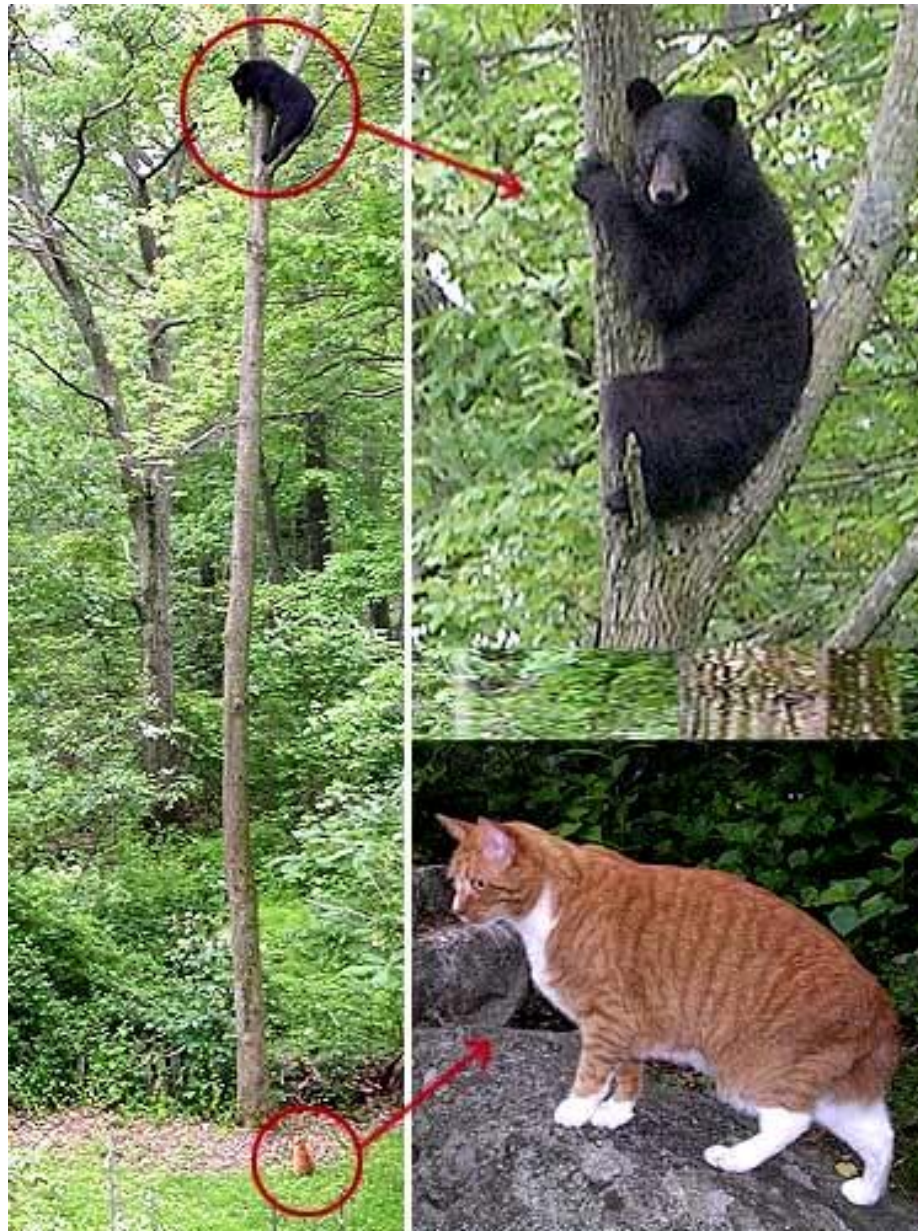


Why is normal birth regarded as abnormal ?

Debby Gould

Chair Royal College Midwives
Council

17th November 2010



Why is normal birth regarded as abnormal ?

‘Normal’

Usual

Standard

Regular

Ordinary

Typical

Customary

Common

Upright

Perpendicular



‘Abnormal’

Irregular

Uncharacteristic

Non standard

Strange

Odd

Out of the ordinary



Environment?

1987



2010



More questions than answers

- Does the answer 'lie' in the language?
- What is normal anyway?
- Is normal culturally determined?
- Can and 'should' birth ever be normal?
- Some might say does it matter anyway?