

Russia's New Olympic Team Mascots Deftly Dodge Doping, Sanctions

April 19, 2019



artlebedev.ru

A *matryoshka* bear that always bounces back and an ushanka cat with ear flaps will symbolize the Russian Olympic team, web designer Artemy Lebedev's studio has revealed.

One of the many visualizations of the mascots in action shows the blue bear [leaning](#) — then righting itself — as the words “doping,” “sanctions” and “scandals” whiz by.

Embed:

Он медведь, матрешка и неваляшка. Как его назовем? Пишите свои варианты с хэштегом [#teamrussiamascots](#) или в ответ на это сообщение pic.twitter.com/Mv6NagF655

— Талисманы Команды России (@TeamRusMascots) [18 апреля 2019 г.](#)

“The bear isn’t just a bear, but also a matryoshka and a roly-poly toy. It never kneels because it simply doesn’t have any knees,” the studio [said](#) on Thursday.

“The cat resembles all Russian cats at once: the [manul](#), the Siberian lynx and the snow leopard. It's also an ushanka,” it adds.

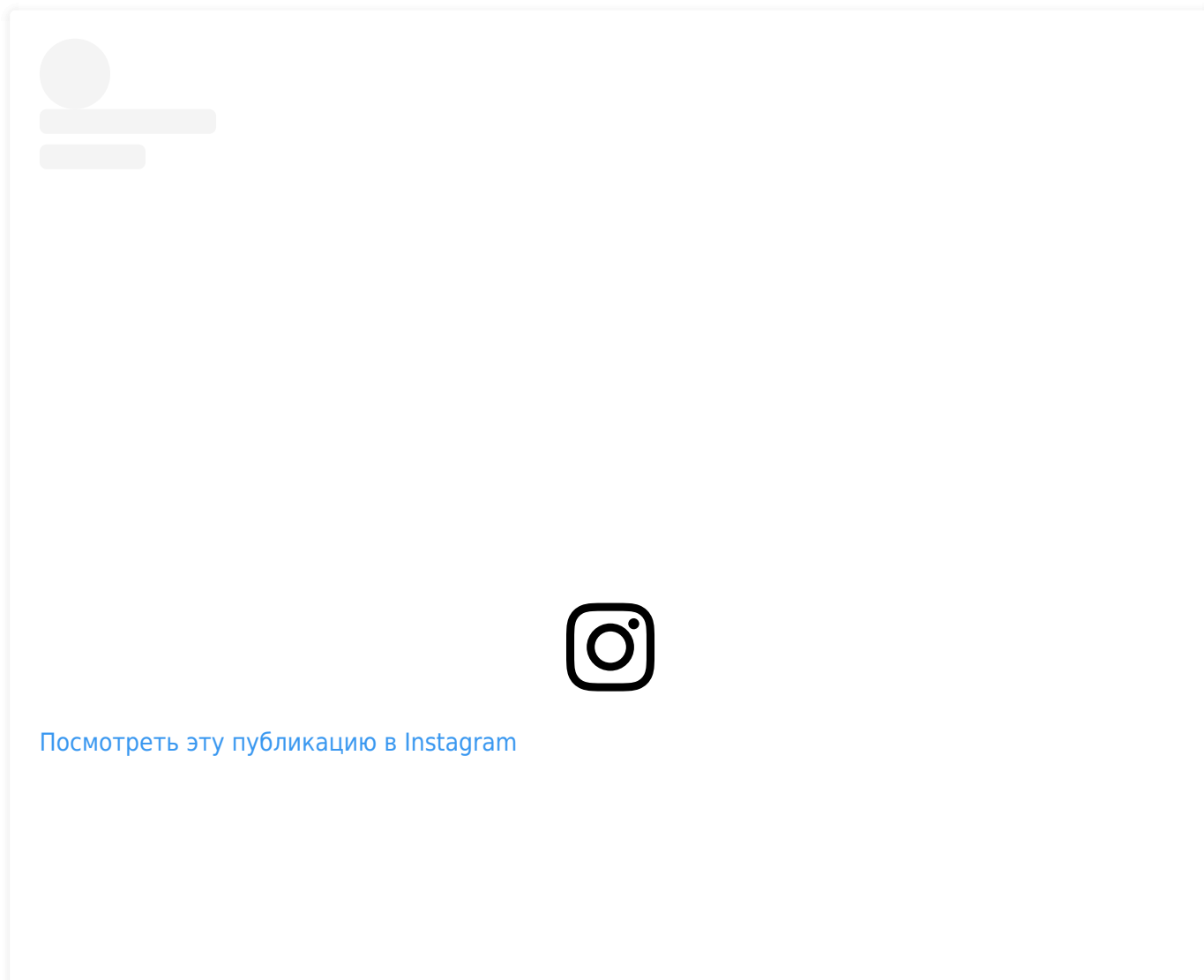
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Он кот и ушанка. Как его назовем? Пишите свои варианты с хэштегом [#teamrussiamascots](#) или в ответ на это сообщение pic.twitter.com/jCAAhEaQqB

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“If this bear doesn’t save Russia, then who will?” Russia’s [championat.com](#) sports news outlet [observed](#). “Did you notice how deftly he dodges enemy sanctions? As you can see, the only reliable way to dodge enemy tricks is to chop off both its legs.”

Embed:



Публикация от Талисманы Команды России (@teamrussiamascots) 18 Апр 2019 в 10:00 PDT

The pair, which Lebedev's studio boasted was created in only 50 days, [appeared](#) on Russian sports television Thursday.

Online users are expected to vote on the names for the two creatures this week.

Embed:

Ростовая кукла нового талисмана олимпийской сборной России
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