

Classification glossary

Vertebrate: an animal with a backbone

Invertebrate: an animal without a backbone

Diet

Carnivore: Eats animal matter, flesh, eggs, blood, hair, bone, fish or insects.

Herbivore: eats plant matter, fruit, grass, seeds, leaves, roots and flowers

Omnivore: Eats both meat and plant matter

Detritivore: Eats the remains of matter that was once alive such as fallen leaves, dead skin, and faecal matter.

Period of activity

Nocturnal: Mostly active at night.

Diurnal: Mostly active during the day

Crepuscular: Mostly active at dawn or dusk

Place of habitat

Arboreal: Lives in trees

Terrestrial: Lives on the ground

Fossorial: Lives under the ground

Aquatic: Lives in or near the water

Maintaining body heat

Ectothermic: relies on external sources of heat to warm the body.

Endothermic: Can maintain body warmth using energy generated by metabolism (gaining energy from food by chemical processes).