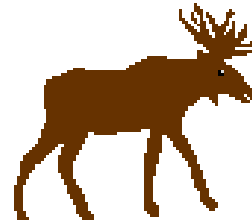


# Mammals



Mammals are a class of vertebrates that have the following characteristics:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. warmblooded                   | 5. breathe with lungs   |
| 2. have backbone                 | 6. have hair            |
| 3. produce milk                  | 7. most have four limbs |
| 4. most give birth to live young |                         |

Each type of mammal has its own habitat, or place that it prefers to live. Most mammals have four limbs. Each mammal has the kind of limbs it needs to enable it to hop, swim, fly, glide, trot, dig, or climb in its habitat.

Instead of legs, marine mammals have flippers and a tail that help them swim.



The bat has two wings as forelimbs so that it can fly.



*fruit bat*



*Brazilian free-tailed bat*

The cheetah has four long muscular limbs to allow it to run fast for long distances.



*cheetah*

Mammals are warmblooded and maintain a constant body temperature, regardless of the temperature of their environment. A lot of the food that they eat provides them with the energy they need to stay warm when it is cold and cold when it is hot.