

# an·i·mal<sup>1</sup> S1 W1

/ˈænɪm l/

**noun** [countable]

- 1** a living creature such as a dog or cat, that is not an insect, plant, bird, fish, or person:

*furry little animals*

**wild/domestic/farm animals**

*cattle, sheep, and other domestic animals*

*The cosmetics have not been tested on animals.*

*Beth is an **animal lover** (= someone who likes animals) .*

- 2** any living creature that is not a plant or a person:

*He can't stand **cruelty to animals** of any sort.*

*the animal welfare movement in Britain*

*the enormous diversity of **the animal kingdom***

- 3** any living creature, including people:

*Man is a highly intelligent animal.*

- 4** (informal) **VIOLENT** someone who behaves in a cruel, violent, or very rude way:

*Football hooligans are just animals.*

- 5** a (very/completely/entirely) **different animal** (informal) **DIFFERENT**

something that is very different from the thing you have mentioned:

*Writing email is a very different animal from all other forms of writing.*

- 6** a **political/social etc animal** (informal) **INTERESTED**

someone who is interested in politics, in meeting other people etc:

*He is simply not a social animal.*

## THESAURUS

**animal** a living thing such as a dog, cow, or tiger, but not an insect, fish, or bird: *farm animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs* | *People are becoming more concerned about animal welfare.*

**creature** /'kri:tʃə \$ -ər/ an animal – used especially when describing a particular animal's characteristics or when referring to animals generally: *The cheetah is a magnificent creature.* | *all the living creatures in the sea*

**beast** an animal, especially a large or dangerous one: *To most people, lions are savage beasts.* | *a wild beast*

**living thing** an animal considered as one of a group of things that grow and then die, including humans and plants: *The only living things we saw were dogs and cats.*

**species** /'spi:ʃi:z/ a group of animals whose members are similar and can breed together to produce young animals: *Seven species of birds of prey have been observed.*

**mammal** an animal that drinks milk from its mother's body when it is young: *Humans, dogs, and whales are all mammals.*

**vertebrate** a living creature that has a backbone: *viruses that affect chickens, monkeys, and most other vertebrates*

**invertebrate** a living creature that does not have a backbone: *earthworms and other small invertebrates*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Latin

**Origin:** *animalis* 'having life', from *anima* 'soul'

**animal**<sup>2</sup>  
adjective

## **1 animal urges/instincts etc** BASIC

human feelings, desires etc that are connected with sex, food, and other basic needs

## **2 animal products/fats/protein etc**

things that are made or come from animals:

*a diet rich in red meat and animal fats*

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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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