

## Mammals

Mammals live on land, at sea, in the air, and under the ground. Mammals share some common characteristics.

- Females produce milk in mammary glands. This is where the name mammal comes from.
- Mammals have hair (although in some mammals, like whales, you cannot see the hair very easily. Baby whales and dolphins are born with a mustache!).
- Mammals have three bones in their middle ear.
- In mammals the main artery leaving the heart curves to the left becoming the aortic arch, in birds it curves to the right and in all other vertebrates there is more than one main artery leaving the heart.
- The lower jaw in mammals is a single bone on either side. In all other vertebrates there is more than one bone on each side of the jaw.
- Finally mammals have a diaphragm. A sheet of muscle and tendon separates the body cavity into two sections; heart and lungs before/above; liver, kidneys, stomach, intestines, etc, behind/below. No other animal has a diaphragm.
- Mammals have only two sets of teeth during their lifetime. Reptiles and fish have many sets and can replace lost teeth with new ones all their lives.
- Mammals have four limbs (arms and legs, flippers and fins)

A number of other characteristics can be found in mammals, but they are found in other animal groups also.

Mammals are vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Fish, reptiles, and amphibians have backbones, but they don't share other mammal characteristics.

- Most mammals give birth to live young, unlike birds and many reptiles. A small group of mammals do lay eggs, like the duck-billed platypus and echidna of Australia. These egg-laying mammals (called monotremes) are thought to be the most primitive kinds of mammals. Other groups probably evolved from these kinds of mammals many millions of years ago.
- Mammals are warm-blooded. Birds are warm-blooded also.

Marsupials are a group of mammals whose babies are extremely undeveloped when born. The babies of the Virginia opossum, North America's only marsupial, are about the size of a bee when they are born. They crawl up into a fur-lined pouch on their

mother's abdomen and attach themselves to her nipples.

Another group of mammals, called placental mammals, are born at a relatively advanced stage. A structure called the placenta attaches the growing embryo to the mother's womb. The placenta acts as a pipeline to carry nutrients to the embryo and waste products from the embryo back to the mother. During the birth process the placenta is cut, freeing the newborn animal from its mother.

Apart from the Virginia opossum, all mammals in Blue Sky are placental mammals.

# Blue Sky Ecological Reserve Mammals List

## Class MAMMALIA

## Mammals

### Order Chiroptera

### Bats

#### Family VESPERIO

Pallid Bat  
Hoary Bat  
Red Bat  
Western Pipistrelle  
Big Brown Bat  
Yuma Myotis  
Long-eared Myotis  
Fringed Myotis  
California Myotis  
Long-legged Myotis  
Western Small-footed Myotis  
Townsend's Big-eared Bat

#### Evening Bats

*Antrozous pallidus*  
*Lasiurus cinereus*  
*Lasiurus blossevillii*  
*Pipistrellus Hesperus*  
*Eptesicus fuscus*  
*Myotis yumanensis*  
*Myotis evotis*  
*Myotis thysanodes*  
*Myotis californicus*  
*Myotis volans*  
*Myotis ciliolabrum*  
*Corynorhinus townsendii*

#### Family MOLOSSIDAE

Mexican Free-tailed Bat  
Pocketed Free-tailed Bat  
Big Free-tailed Bat  
Western Mastiff Bat

#### Free-tailed Bats

*Tadarida brasiliensis*  
*Tadarida femorosacca*  
*Tadarida macrotis*  
*Eumops perotis*

### Order DIDELPHIMORPHI

### Marsupials

#### Family DIDELPHIDAE

Virginia Opossum

#### Opossums

*Didelphis virginiana*\*

### Order INSECTIVORA

### Insectivores

#### Family TALPIDAE

Broad-footed Mole

#### Moles

*Scapanus latimanus*

### Order LAGOMORPHA

### Rabbits & Hares

#### Family LEPORIDAE

Brush Rabbit  
Desert Cottontail  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit

*Sylvilagus bachmani*  
*Sylvilagus audubonii*  
*Lepus californicus*

### Order RODENTIA

### Rodents

#### Family SCIURIDAE

California Ground Squirrel  
Western Gray Squirrel

#### Squirrels

*Spermophilus beecheyi*  
*Sciurus griseus*

**Family GEOMYIDAE**

Botta's Pocket Gopher

**Pocket Gophers***Thomomys bottae***Family HETEROMYIDAE**

San Diego Pocket Mouse

California Pocket Mouse

Pacific Kangaroo Rat

**Pocket Mice, Kangaroo Rats***Chaetodipus fallax**Chaetodipus californicus**Dipodomys agilis***Family MURIDAE**

Deer Mouse

California Mouse

House Mouse

Cactus Mouse

Southern Grasshopper Mouse

Western Harvest Mouse

California Vole

Black Rat

Desert Woodrat

Dusky-footed Woodrat

Bushy-tailed Woodrat

**Mice, Rats***Peromyscus maniculatus**Peromyscus californicus**Mus musculus* \**Peromyscus eremicus**Onychomys torridus**Reithrodontomys megalotis**Microtus californicus**Rattus rattus* \**Neotoma lepida**Neotoma fuscipes**Neotoma cinerea***Order CARNIVORA****Family CANIDAE**

Gray Fox

Coyote

**Carnivores****Foxes, Coyotes***Urocyon cinereoargenteus**Canis latrans***Family PROCYONIDAE**

Ringtail

Raccoon

**Raccoons***Bassariscus astutus**Procyon lotor***Family MUSTELIDAE**

Long-tailed Weasel

**Weasels***Mustela frenata***Family MEPHITIDAE**

Western Spotted Skunk

Striped Skunk

**Skunks***Spilogale gracilis**Mephitis mephitis***Family FELIDAE**

Mountain Lion

Bobcat

**Cats***Puma concolor**Lynx rufus***Family CERVIDAE**

Southern Mule Deer

**Deer***Odocoileus hemionus*

\* Introduced