The Animals of Aesop’s Fables
By Nancy A. Cavanaugh

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Ants
A social insect. Usually only the males have wings and fertile females. They live in colonies and have a complex social organization.

Ape
A large, tailless Old World primates that include the chimpanzee, gorilla, gibbon, and orangutan.
Ass

A hoofed mammal that looks like and is closely related to the horses but has a smaller build and longer ears.

Bat

A nighttime flying mammal with wings that extend from the forelimbs to the hind limbs, or tail, that uses echolocation to navigate and hunt for prey.
Bear

An omnivorous mammal has a shaggy coat and a short tail. They can be found all over the world.

Bee

An insect with a hairy body and stinger. They gather nectar and pollen and makes honey.
Bull
An adult male bovine mammal.

Calf
A young cow or bull.
Camel

A humped, long-necked mammal that has been domesticated in Old World desert regions to be used like a horse or mule. It is a source of wool, milk, and meat.

Cat

A small carnivorous mammal that is domesticated. It is known as a catcher of rats and mice. Many people have cats as pets. There are many distinctive breeds.
Cock
An adult male chicken; a rooster.

Crab
A marine crustacean with a broad flattened shell, short antennae, and five pairs of legs including pincer claws.
**Crane**

A large wading bird with a long neck, long legs, and a long bill.

![Crane Image]

**Crow**

A large glossy black bird with a raucous call.

![Crow Image]
Deer
A hoofed mammal. The males typically have antlers. The deer family also includes the elk, moose, caribou, and reindeer.

Doe
The female of a deer.
Dog

A domesticated carnivorous mammal related to the foxes and wolves. There are a wide variety of breeds.

![Dog Image]

Dolphin

A marine mammal, such as the bottle-nosed dolphin that is related to whales but is generally smaller and has a beaklike snout.

![Dolphin Image]
Donkey
The domesticated ass.

Dove
A bird with a small head and has a cooing call.
Eagle

A large diurnal bird of prey with a powerful hooked bill, keen vision, long broad wings, and strong soaring flight.

Elephant

A very large herbivorous mammals with thick, almost hairless skin, a long, flexible, prehensile trunk, upper incisors forming long curved tusks of ivory.
**Fawn**

A young deer, especially one less than a year old.

![Fawn](image)

**Flea**

A small, wingless, bloodsucking insect. Their legs have adapted for jumping and they live in the hair and feathers of warm-blooded animals.

![Flea](image)
Fly
A two-winged insect that includes the housefly.

Fox
A carnivorous mammal related to the dogs and wolves. They have upright ears, a pointed snout, and a long bushy tail.
Frog
A tailless, aquatic, semiaquatic, or terrestrial amphibian. They have smooth moist skin, webbed feet, and long hind legs adapted for leaping.

Gamecock
A rooster trained for cockfighting.
**Gnat**

A small, biting, two-winged fly, such as a punkie or black fly.

![Gnat Image]

**Goat**

A hollow-horned, bearded mammal. They are typically found in mountainous areas. They are raised for wool, milk, and meat.

![Goat Image]
Geese

A wild or domesticated water bird. They have a shorter neck than that of a swan and a shorter, more pointed bill than that of a duck.

Grasshopper

An insect with long, powerful hind legs adapted for jumping.
Hare
A mammal similar to rabbits but with longer ears and legs. They give birth to active, furred young.

Hart
A male deer, especially a male red deer over five years old.
**Hawk**

A bird of prey with a short hooked bill and strong claws adapted for seizing.

![Hawk Illustration]

**Hedgehog**

A small insectivorous mammal living in Europe, Africa, and Asia, having. Their backs are covered with dense spines and are known for rolling into a ball for protection.

![Hedgehog Illustration]
Heifer
A young female cow, especially one that has not yet given birth to a calf.

Hen
A female bird, especially the adult female of the domestic fowl.
Jackdaw

A Eurasian bird related to and looks like a crow that has black plumage with a gray nape and underparts.

Kid

A young goat.
Kite
A predatory bird with a long, often forked tail and long pointed wings.

Lamb
A young sheep, especially one that is not yet weaned.
Lark

A bird, especially the skylark, with a sustained, melodious song.

Leech

An aquatic bloodsucking or carnivorous worm. They were formerly used by physicians to bleed patients and are now sometimes used as a temporary aid to circulation during some surgeries.
Leopard

A large, ferocious cat living in Africa and southern Asia. It has either tawny fur with dark rosette-like markings or black fur.

Lion

A large carnivorous feline mammal living in Africa and northwest India. It has a short tawny coat, a tufted tail. The males have a heavy mane around the neck and shoulders.
Locusts
A type of grasshopper that migrates in immense swarms that devour vegetation and crops.

Mole
A small insectivorous mammal that usually lives underground. They have thickset bodies with light brown to dark gray silky fur, rudimentary eyes, tough muzzles, and strong forefeet for burrowing.
**Monkey**

A long-tailed, medium-sized member of primate. They include baboons and tamarins.

![Monkey Image]

**Mouse**

A small rodent, such as the common house mouse. They have a pointed snout, small rounded ears, and a long, almost hairless tail.

![Mouse Image]
Mule

The sterile offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. They have long ears and a short mane.

Nightingale

An European songbird with reddish-brown plumage. They are known for the melodious song of the male at night during the breeding season.
Owl

A nighttime bird of prey. They have hooked and feathered talons, large heads with short hooked beaks, large eyes set forward, and fluffy plumage that allows for almost noiseless flight.

Oxen

An adult castrated bull of used mainly as a draft animal.
Oyster

An edible mollusks of that lives mainly in shallow marine waters. They have a rough, irregularly shaped shell.

Panther

A large spotted feline of tropical America similar to the leopard.
Partridge

A plump-bodied game birds, related to the pheasants and grouse.

Peacock

A male peafowl, distinguished by its crested head, brilliant blue or green plumage, and long modified back feathers.
Pigeon
A birds with plump bodies, small heads, and short legs, especially the rock dove.

Piglet
A young pig.
Raven

A large bird with black plumage and a croaking cry.

Scorpion

An arachnid that lives in warm dry regions. They have a segmented body and a tail tipped with a venomous sting.
Seagull
A mostly white aquatic bird having long pointed wings and short legs.

Serpent
A type of snake.
Sheep

A horned mammal. They are raised in many breeds for wool, edible flesh, or skin.

Snake

A scaly, legless, sometimes venomous reptile. They have a long, tapering body and are found in most tropical and temperate regions.
**Sprat**

A small marine food of northeast Atlantic waters that is eaten fresh or smoked and is often canned in oil as a sardine. Also called brisling.

**Stag**

The adult male of various deer, especially the red deer.
Stork

A large wading bird found mainly in the Eastern Hemisphere. They have long legs and a long straight bill.

Swallow

A small graceful swift-flying birds. They have long pointed wings, a usually notched or forked tail, and a large mouth for catching flying insects.
**Swan**

A large aquatic birds. They have webbed feet, a long slender neck, and white plumage.

![Swan](image1)

**Thrush**

A migratory songbird. They usually have brownish upper plumage and a spotted breast. They are known for their clear melodious song.

![Thrush](image2)

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Tortoise
A land turtle. They have thick clublike hind limbs and a high, rounded shell.

Viper
A venomous snake. They have a single pair of long, hollow fangs and a thick, heavy body. Also called adder.
**Vulture**

A large bird of prey with dark plumage and a featherless head and neck and generally feeding on carrion.

![Vulture](image)

**Wasp**

An insect with a slender body, two pairs wings, and mouths adapted for biting or sucking. Females have a stinger.

![Wasp](image)
Weasel

A carnivorous mammal. They have a long slender body, a long tail, short legs, and brownish fur. In many species the fur turns white in winter.

Whale

A marine mammal. They have the general shape of a fish with forelimbs modified to form flippers, and a tail with horizontal flukes.
Wild Boar
A wild pig found in Eurasia and northern Africa. They have dark dense bristles. It is the ancestor of the domestic hog.

Wild Sow
A wild adult female hog.
Wolf

A carnivorous mammal. They typically live and hunt in packs and prey on livestock and game animals.
About This eBook

The Animals of Aesop's Fables is an original eBook written and edited by Keene, NH resident Nancy A. Cavanaugh.

The Animals of Aesop's Fables was written to accompany Aesop’s Fables so that children can find out a bit more about the animals Aesop used in his fables, especially the lesser known ones. The bright and colorful illustrations to introduce children to a variety of art styles.