

Mammals

Mammals are a class of animals that share certain characteristics. These include:

- All mammals have glands that give milk to feed their babies
- All mammals are warm-blooded
- All mammals have fur or hair.
- Most (but not all) mammals have teeth.

Human beings are mammals. So are dogs, cats, horses, and elephants. Even whales are mammals! Not surprisingly, given how diverse mammals are, they can be found in all kinds of environments, both on the land and in the water.

Mammals can be divided into three basic groups. Placental mammals are mammals that give birth to live young (rather than laying eggs). Marsupials are mammals that carry their young in a pouch. Kangaroos, koalas, and opossums are all marsupials. Finally, there are a few egg-laying mammals, called monotremes. The platypus and the long-nosed spiny anteater are both monotremes.

1. What three things do all mammals have in common?

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Match each mammal group to its name.

- _____ 2. monotremes A carry their young in pouch
- _____ 3. placental B egg-laying mammals
- _____ 4. marsupial C give birth to live young