

Animal species in this Issue

Domestic cat (*Felis catus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Mammalia & Order: Carnivora

& Family: Felidae & Genus: *Felis* & Species: *F. catus*

The domestic cat is a small, usually furry, domesticated, and carnivorous mammal. It is often called a **housecat** when kept as an indoor pet. Cats are similar in anatomy to the other felids, with strong, flexible bodies, quick reflexes, sharp retractable claws, and teeth adapted to killing small prey. Cat senses fit a crepuscular and predatory ecological niche. Cats can hear sounds too faint or too high in frequency for human ears, such as those made by mice and other small animals. They can see in near darkness. Like most other mammals, cats have poorer color vision and a better sense of smell than humans.

The cat skull is unusual among mammals in having very large eye sockets and a powerful and specialized jaw. Within the jaw, cats have teeth adapted for killing prey and tearing meat. When it overpowers its prey, a cat delivers a lethal neck bite with its two long canine teeth, inserting them between two of the prey's vertebrae and severing its spinal cord, causing irreversible paralysis and death

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

Animal species in this Issue

koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Mammalia & Infraclass: Marsupialia & Order: Diprotodontia & Suborder: Vombatiformes & Family:

Tachyglossidae & Genus: *Phascolarctos* & Species: *cinereus*

The Koala is an arboreal herbivorous marsupial native to Australia. It is the only extant representative of the family Phascolarctidae, and its closest living relatives are the wombats. The koala is found in coastal areas of the mainland's eastern and southern regions, inhabiting Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It is easily recognizable by its stout, tailless body; round, fluffy ears; and large, spoon-shaped nose.

Koalas typically inhabit open eucalypt woodlands, and the leaves of these trees make up most of their diet. Because this eucalypt diet has limited nutritional and caloric content, koalas are largely sedentary and sleep for up to 20 hours a day. They are asocial animals, and bonding exists only between mothers and dependent offspring. Males are further distinguished from females by their more curved noses. As in most marsupials, the male koala has a bifurcated penis, and the female has two lateral vaginas and two separate uteri. The female's pouch opening is tightened by a sphincter that keeps the young from falling out.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia