

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

Animals of this issue

Goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Mammalia & Order: Artiodactyla & Family: Bovidae & Subfamily: Caprinae & Genus: *Capra* & Species: *C. aegagrus* & Subspecies: *C.a. hircus*

Most goats naturally have two horns, of various shapes and sizes depending on the breed. Goats have horns unless they are "polled" (meaning, genetically hornless) or the horns have been removed, typically soon after birth. There have been incidents of polycerate goats (having as many as eight horns), although this is a genetic rarity thought to be inherited. Their horns are made of living bone surrounded by keratin and other proteins, and are used for defense, dominance, and territoriality.

Goats are ruminants. They have a four-chambered stomach consisting of the rumen, the reticulum, the omasum, and the abomasum. As with other mammal ruminants, they are even-toed ungulates. The females have an udder consisting of two teats, in contrast to cattle, which have four teats

Goats have horizontal, slit-shaped pupils. Because goats' irises are usually pale, their contrasting pupils are much more noticeable than in animals such as cattle, deer, most horses and many sheep, whose similarly horizontal pupils blend into a dark iris and sclera. This adaptation allows goats to see at least 320 degrees around their heads with no blind spot in front of them.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia