

CLASSIFICATION OF MAMMALS

The scientists have also classified the mammals on a general basis which makes it easy to learn about the mammals and their distinguishing characteristics.

Classification	Examples
Animals	Lion, Tiger, Dog
Marsupials	Kangaroo, Koala, Womba
Primates	Chimpanzee, Gorilla, Monkey
Rodents	Squirrel, Mouse, Porcupine
Cetaceans	Dolphins, Whales
Other mammals	Seal, Walrus, Sea-lion

How are the mammals classified?

Mammals are classified as eutheria, prototheria, metatheria.

PROTOTHERIANS

Prototherians are the mammals which lay eggs. They have mammary glands sparsed in the fur to feed their youngones.

Protherians are also called as monotremes. they have a common opening for excretion and reproduction. they have their legs on either side of the body and not underneath the body. Some of the examples of protherians include duck-billed platypus, echidna etc

EUTHERIS

Eutherians are distinguished from noneutherians by various [phenotypic traits](#) of the feet, ankles, jaws and teeth. All extant eutherians lack [epipubic bones](#), which are present in all other living mammals ([marsupials](#) and [monotremes](#)). This allows for expansion of the abdomen during pregnancy.^[2]

Characteristics

Distinguishing features are:

1. an enlarged [malleolus](#) ("little hammer") at the bottom of the [tibia](#), the larger of the two shin bones^[5]

2. the [joint](#) between the first [metatarsal bone](#) and the entocuneiform bone (the outermost of the three [cuneiform bones](#)) in the foot is offset farther back than the joint between the second metatarsal and middle cuneiform bones—in metatherians these joints are level with each other^[5]
3. various features of jaws and teeth^[5]

METATHERIA

The characteristics of Metatheria are given below:

1. Marsupium is preseent in females.
2. Mammary glands are developed. Marsypial bone is present.
3. Corcoid and Interelative are absent.
4. Epiphyses on vertebrae present.
5. Corapus callosum is poorly developed.
6. Vagina and uterus are double.
7. Placenta is absent.
8. Viviparous.
9. Marsypial bone is present