



Image from: [Boys first After a successful kill by the... in *Animals: A Visual Encyclopedia*](#)

Summary Article: **carnivore**
From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(kär'nĕvô´r), term commonly applied to any animal whose diet consists wholly or largely of animal matter. In animal systematics it refers to members of the mammalian order Carnivora (see Chordata). This large order is divided into two suborders, the Fissipedia, or land carnivores, and the Pinnipedia, or fin-footed carnivores. The Fissipedia encompasses two superfamilies: one (Canoidea) includes the dog, bear, raccoon, and weasel families and the other (Feloidea) includes the cat, civet, and hyena families. The Pinnipedia, often classified as a separate order, includes the seal, sea lion, and walrus families. The term *herbivore* refers to animals whose diets consist wholly or largely of plant matter; *omnivore* refers to animals that eat both animal and plant matter. Unlike the term *carnivore*, these terms do not refer to any one group in animal systematics.

See Ewer, R. F. , *The Carnivores* (1986);
Gittleman, J. L. , *Carnivore Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution* (1989).

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Carnivore. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/carnivores>



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