

Which Animals Does the Bible Designate as 'Clean' and 'Unclean'?

The following list, based on Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, identifies many of the animals God designates as clean and unclean. The list uses their common names.

CLEAN ANIMALS

Animals That Chew the Cud and Part the Hoof

Antelope
Bison (buffalo)
Caribou
Cattle (beef, veal)
Deer (venison)
Elk
Gazelle
Giraffe
Goat
Hart
Ibex
Moose
Ox
Reindeer
Sheep (lamb, mutton)

Fish With Fins and Scales

Anchovy
Barracuda
Bass
Black pomfret (or monchong)
Bluefish
Bluegill
Carp
Cod
Crappie
Drum
Flounder
Grouper
Grunt
Haddock
Hake
Halibut
Hardhead
Herring (or alewife)
Kingfish
Mackerel
Mahimahi (or dorado, dolphinfish[not to be confused with the mammal dolphin])
Minnow
Mullet
Perch (or bream)
Pike (or pickerel or jack)
Pollack (or pollock or Boston bluefish)
Rockfish
Salmon
Sardine (or pilchard)
Shad
Silver hake (or whiting)
Smelt (or frost fish or ice fish)
Snapper (or ebu, jobfish, lehi, onaga, opakapaka or uku)
Sole
Steelhead
Sucker
Sunfish
Tarpon
Trout (or weakfish)
Tuna (or ahi, aku, albacore, bonito or tombo)
Whitefish

Birds With Clean Characteristics

Chicken
Dove
Duck
Goose
Grouse
Guinea fowl
Partridge
Peafowl
Pheasant
Pigeon
Prairie chicken
Ptarmigan
Quail
Sagehen
Sparrow (and other songbirds)
Swan*
Teal
Turkey

Insects

Types of locusts that may include crickets and grasshoppers

* In the King James Version, Leviticus 11:18 and Deuteronomy 14:16 list "swan" among unclean birds. However, this seems to be a mistranslation. The original word apparently refers to a kind of owl and is so translated in most modern Bible versions.

UNCLEAN ANIMALS

Animals That Do Not Chew the Cud and/or Part the Hoof

Swine

Boar
Peccary
Pig (hog, bacon, ham, lard, pork, most sausage and pepperoni)

Canines

Coyote
Dog
Fox
Hyena
Jackal
Wolf

Felines

Cat
Cheetah
Leopard
Lion
Panther
Tiger

Equines

Ass
Donkey
Horse
Mule
Onager
Zebra (quagga)

Other

Armadillo
Badger
Bear
Beaver
Camel
Elephant
Gorilla
Groundhog
Hare
Hippopotamus
Kangaroo
Llama (alpaca, vicuña)
Mole
Monkey
Mouse
Muskrat
Opossum
Porcupine
Rabbit
Raccoon
Rat
Rhinoceros
Skunk
Slug

Snail (escargot)
Squirrel
Wallaby
Weasel
Wolverine
Worm

All insects except some in the locust family

MARINE ANIMALS WITHOUT FINS AND SCALES

Fish

Bullhead
Catfish
Eel
European Turbot
Marlin
Paddlefish
Sculpin
Shark
Stickleback
Squid
Sturgeon (includes most caviar)
Swordfish

Shellfish

Abalone
Clam
Crab
Crayfish
Lobster
Mussel
Prawn
Oyster
Scallop
Shrimp

Invertebrates

Cuttlefish
Jellyfish
Limpet
Octopus
Squid (calamari)

Sea mammals

Dolphin
Otter
Porpoise
Seal
Walrus
Whale

BIRDS OF PREY, SCAVENGERS AND

OTHERS

Birds

Albatross
Bat
Bittern
Buzzard
Condor
Coot
Cormorant
Crane
Crow
Cuckoo
Eagle
Flamingo
Grebe
Grosbeak
Gull
Hawk
Heron
Kite
Lapwing
Loon
Magpie
Osprey
Ostrich
Owl
Parrot
Pelican
Penguin
Plover
Rail
Raven
Roadrunner
Sandpiper
Seagull
Stork
Swallow
Swift
Vulture
Water hen
Woodpecker

Reptiles

Alligator
Caiman
Crocodile
Lizard
Snake
Turtle

Amphibians

Blindworm
Frog
Newt
Salamander
Toad

NO ROADKILL