

Nutrition in Animals

Chapter 10: Nutrition in Animals · Topic 1

Key Concept

Herbivores eat only plants, carnivores eat only meat, and omnivores eat both, each requiring different digestive adaptations.

Herbivores often have longer digestive tracts to break down tough plant material, sometimes with specialised stomachs like in cows (ruminants).

Carnivores typically have shorter digestive tracts and sharp teeth adapted for tearing meat, since meat is easier to digest than plant material.

Understanding nutrition in animals helps us appreciate the diversity of feeding strategies and digestive adaptations across the animal kingdom.

Quick Revision Notes

- Herbivores eat only plants.
- Carnivores eat only meat.
- Omnivores eat both plants and meat.
- Herbivores have longer digestive tracts.
- Cows (ruminants) have specialised stomachs.
- Carnivores have shorter digestive tracts.
- Carnivores have sharp teeth for tearing meat.
- Meat is easier to digest than plant material.

Practice Questions

- 1 Classify five animals as herbivore, carnivore or omnivore.
- 2 Discuss why cows have specialised stomachs.
- 3 Explain why carnivores have shorter digestive tracts.
- 4 Research an animal's specific dietary adaptation.
- 5 Compare herbivore and carnivore teeth.
- 6 Discuss what an omnivore's diet includes.