

# Nutrition in Animals

Chapter 9: Life Processes in Animals · Topic 1

---

## Key Concept

Herbivores typically have longer digestive systems to break down tough plant material like cellulose, while carnivores have shorter digestive tracts suited to digesting meat more quickly, along with sharp teeth for tearing flesh. Some animals show more specialised diets — for instance, a panda almost exclusively eats bamboo despite technically being classified within a carnivore-related group, showing that classification is based on general patterns rather than absolute rules.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Herbivores eat only plants (e.g., cow, deer); carnivores eat only animals (e.g., lion, tiger).
- Omnivores eat both plants and animals (e.g., humans, bears).
- Herbivores have longer digestive systems; carnivores have shorter tracts and sharp teeth.
- Some animals, like pandas, show highly specialised diets despite their broader classification.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Classify a goat, a tiger, and a bear based on their diet.
- 2 Explain why herbivores have longer digestive systems than carnivores.
- 3 Why is the panda considered an exception in its dietary classification?