

# Which Animals Does the Bible Designate as 'Edible' and 'Inedible'?

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

## EDIBLE 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 Edible 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 Inedible 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.

# INEDIBLE ANIMALS

## ANIMALS WITH INEDIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

### 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