



## THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF ANIMAL LIFE

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### ABSTRACT

*This article describes the main characteristics of animals.*

Animals, like fungi and most bacteria, are heterotrophic organisms that feed on ready-made organic matter. Most animals lead active lives; can move from one place to another and perform various actions. Metabolism is also active in their body. Therefore, in the process of evolution, various organ systems were formed in the animal body. Multicellular highly structured animals have developed digestive, digestive, respiratory, circulatory, locomotor, sexual and nervous systems. Differences between animals and other living things are more apparent among more complex structured forms. Among simple organisms, the above-mentioned differences are not obvious. In particular, among single-celled animals (chivchins), there are also several autotrophic species that carry out plant-like photosynthesis. Also, there are active species among unicellular plants (green algae).

Metabolism. Nutrients, water and oxygen pass to the body through nutrition. As a result of assimilation of these substances, new substances necessary for animal life are formed. In the process of dissimilation, organic substances (fats, carbohydrates) in the animal body are broken down, energy is released, and unnecessary substances for the body (carbon dioxide gas, nitrogenous products) are formed.

Nutrients, water and oxygen are delivered to different parts of the body, and waste products are removed from the body. In most living organisms, the products of assimilation and dissimilation, dissolved in water, pass through the cell membrane and are excreted. This movement of substances through the body is called diffusion. Diffusion plays a key role in metabolic processes in the body of unicellular and multicellular animals.

Breathing. In most organisms, including animals, there is a continuous gas exchange between the organism and the external environment. In bujarayan, oxygen passes from the external environment to the body, and carbon dioxide gas, a product of decomposition, is released from the body. In benthic invertebrates with a microscopic structure, gas exchange occurs through the entire body surface.



Nutrition. Animals, like all heterotrophic organisms, feed on proteins, fats, carbohydrates and carbohydrates. Animals get this substance from the environment. But because their molecules are too large, they do not dissolve in water and cannot pass through the cell membrane. Therefore, these substances are broken down into simpler substances (amino acids, glycerol, fatty acids, monosaccharides) under the action of enzymes in the animal body.

This process is called digestion. Absorbed organic substances go to different parts of the body and are involved in the assimilation process. In the cells, new substances unique to animals are synthesized from them.

Movement. Most animals have developed special locomotor organs. In single-celled cells, this task is performed by cilia or cilia formed from cytoplasmic cells. There are no special movement organs in the bottom multicellular. They move by flexing or contracting their bodies. In multicellular organisms, special movement organs first appeared in ringworms and consisted of a large number of two-horned pairs of body cells with a somewhat simple structure.

In the process of evolutionary development, the organs of movement are also improving, and a special locomotor system is formed. When the animal moves to live on land, a new type of locomotor system appears. Now this system, along with movement, also acts as a support organ that keeps the body above the ground.

The movement of the animal is related to the growth of muscle tissue with special contractile properties. Cells or cilia of unicellular cells are connected by contractile muscle fibers. Nervous system and sense organs. Most animals actively move to find their food and protect themselves from their enemies. The nervous system allows the animal to adapt to the changing external environment and thus survive. Therefore, all multicellular animals have developed nerve cells and sensory organs. In basal multicellular (gastrophytes), nerve cells are scattered throughout the body, that is, they are not centralized.

The nervous system of multicellular organisms, which has a rather simple structure, consists of nerve nodes located in the front part of the body and nerve trunks that go back and forth through the body. The central nervous system of ringworms, whose body is divided into joints and developed walking legs, and the central nervous system of jointed muscles, forms the ganglia of the larynx and the ventral nerve chain. The central nervous system of vertebrates consists of a brain and a spinal cord.

The response of the nervous system to an effect is called a reflex. Reflexes can be unconditioned (congenital) and conditioned (formed during life). In simple animals, only simple unconditioned reflexes are formed.

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