

# **Mammals**

There are 4 000 types of mammals found around the world. Mammals have many special characteristics. Their young are born alive and drink their mother's milk. A mammal is covered with fur or hair. Some mammals have hair on their bodies in the early stages of life, but most of it is lost by the time they are adults (for example, elephants). All mammals have backbones and breathe with lungs. Almost all mammals have teeth. The size and shape of their teeth depends on what they eat. Mammals are warm blooded (their body temperature stays the same). Being warm blooded helps to make mammals more active and energetic than reptiles or amphibians. Mammals are usually active, but they do need time to rest or sleep. Animals that are active during the day are called diurnal. Those that are active at night and sleep during the day are nocturnal.