

Animal Rights and English Usage: A Guide

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Freely adapted from a thesaurus compiled by Joan Dunayer, in Animal Equality: Language and Liberation (Derwood, MD: Ryce Publishing, 2001), pp. 187-201.

Current English	Animal Liberationist English
abattoir, meat plant, packing plant, processing plant	slaughterhouse, killing facility
“alternatives” to animal experimentation (implies vivisection ought to be considered primary, on ethical and scientific grounds)	medical research (using noninvasive means)
animals (as excluding humans, also described as “dumb,” “lower,” or “subhuman”, or beasts and brutes)	nonhuman animals, other animals, nonhumans, nonhuman beings, nonhuman persons
animal welfare, humane treatment (referring to forms of exploitation)	exploitation, abuse, less-cruel treatment
aquarium	aquaprison, aquatic-animal prison
bacon, ham, pork, etc.	pig flesh
bait	animal used as bait
beef, hamburger, steak, etc.	cow flesh
broiler, roaster	captive, exploited, or enslaved chicken
brutal or bestial	cruel, barbaric, depraved
bullfight	bull torture, bull murder
caretaker (zoos, aquaria, etc.)	captor, keeper
cashmere	goat hair
catch	caught or killed fishes
chevon	goat flesh
chicken, lamb, tuna (meaning a food)	chicken flesh, lamb flesh, tuna flesh (or remains; a corpse is not a whole bird)
circus animal	circus captive or slave
companion animal	nonhuman companion
cowboy	cattle abuser, cow abuser
cull	kill, murder, send to slaughter, sell
dairy cow, milk cow	cow enslaved/exploited for milk
dairy industry	cow- or goat-milk industry
display animal	inmate, prisoner, captive
drum stick	chicken’s, turkey’s or bird’s leg
egg farm	hen confinement or enslavement facility or operation
farm animal, food animal, agricultural animal	animal enslaved or exploited for food, enslaved nonhuman, food industry captive
farmer or animal producer	enslaver, exploiter
foie gras	goose or duck liver; bird liver

fur (trim, collar, part of pelt)	pelt portion
furbearer	furred animal, animal targeted for pelt
fur coat	pelt coat, fox-pelt coat, etc.
fur ranch or farm	fox confinement, enslavement, or killing facility
fur industry	pelt industry
furrier	pelt purveyor
fur trapper	trapper, furred-animal killer
game	targeted or sport-hunted animals
game farm or ranch (hunting)	animal-shooting operation
giblets	chicken, turkey, or bird organs
grow (a nonhuman animal)	rear for slaughter
his or her animal	his or her cat companion, etc.
hog, swine	pig
homes or habitats in zoos	cages, prisons in zoos
humane slaughter	slaughter
lacto- or lacto-ovo vegetarian (eats milk, or milk and eggs, respectively)	non-flesheater
layer, laying hen	enslaved, captive, exploited hen
leather	cow skin
livestock	enslaved, captive, exploited animals for food
meat	flesh, muscle
meat animal	animal reared for slaughter
meat-packer	slaughterer, butcher, nonhuman animal killer
mohair	goat hair
mongrel, mutt	mixed-breed dog
mutton	sheep flesh
neuter	orchietomy, ovariectomy; have testicles, ovaries, and/or uterus removed
overfishing	fishing, decimating a fish population
overhunting	hunting, decimating a population
pedigreed, purebred	inbred
pest, vermin, nuisance animal	targeted animal, persecuted animal
pest control	extermination, mass murder of nonhumans, genocide
poultry	enslaved, exploited, captive birds
predator control	killing or murdering predators
research animal, experimental animal, test animal, donor animal	vivisectioned animal, animal used in vivisection
resource (said of nonhuman animal)	exploited, targeted, subjugated animal
“shelter” (that kills healthy animals)	adoption-and-kill facility
spare ribs	pig ribs
spayed	ovariectomy, ovaries and uterus

	removed
stockyard	mammal pens, slaughterhouse pens
sweetbread	calf or lamb thymus or pancreas
thoroughbred	inbred
“treated us like animals”	treated us inhumanely
veal	calf flesh
“vegetarian” (who eats fish, nonmammals, or mollusks)	flesheater, pseudovegetarian
venison	deer flesh
water	give water to
wildlife conservation	regulated or restricted killing of nonhuman animals
wool	sheep hair
wool producer	sheep exploiter or enslaver

The Deceptive Language of Killing Animals

Hunting: bag, collect, control, cull, gather, harvest, manage, remove, secure

Slaughtering: dispatch, harvest, process

Vivisection (harmful animal experimentation): delete from experiment, depopulate (said of a room of animals), destroy, discard, dispatch, dispose of, put down, euthanasia, put to sleep, sacrifice, terminate