



Mammals of IITGN



Human
Homo sapiens

We are abundant on the campus. You may find the youngest of all humans in the housing blocks.



Nilgai
Boselaphus tragocamelus

We are the largest antelope in Asia, weighing around 110-280 kgs. The suffix in our name, "gai", means "cow". We are not cows. However, this misnomer is to our benefit as people consider us sacred. We can run up to 48km/h, and you must have seen us freely running on your beautiful campus.



Wild boar
Sus scrofa

Do you know we are considered a cosmopolitan species because you can find us globally in most habitats? We live in groups called "sounders". Our elongated snout is used to dig out roots and bulbs. It is not unusual for us to sleep up to 12 hours a day. Earlier, hair extracted from our necks was used to make brushes in China and other parts of Asia, which are now replaced by synthetic materials.



Indian crested porcupine
Hystrix indica

We are nocturnal animals. Our bodies are covered with needle-like quills. It helps to protect ourselves from predators and sometimes to scare them away.



Hanuman langur
Semnopithecus entellus

We are social in nature, and you will find us always in groups. We use 19 different kinds of calls to communicate with each other. We follow the dominance hierarchy in trees. The highest ranking males sleep on the highest branch, the middle branches are occupied by mothers and offspring, and the lower branches by young females and adolescent males.



Feral cat
Felis catus

Except for Antarctica, we can be found on every continent. We have about 244 bones, of which almost 30 are vertebrae. Because of this, we are one of the most flexible animals on earth and can rotate our bodies up to 180 degrees. You will be surprised to know that we don't have collar bones like you humans. This gives us the advantage of fitting into any nook.



IITGN campus is home to a variety of mammals. From nilgais to porcupines, the daily life of the campus residents intersects with a variety of mammals. The sight of wild boars roaming around with their piglets and langurs moving from tree to tree, holding their infants, is pleasing to the eyes. IITGN has always been mindful of our mammal friends and has taken care to respect their spaces. This pamphlet serves as a handy guide to learning a bit more about various mammals on campus. We hope IITGN students, faculty and staff, including the visitors, could take out time to explore our campus and get familiar with the 'non-human' mammal residents.

Dog

Canis familiaris

We love this campus as we love you all. Some of our members are adopted by faculty members and students. We are given names: Brownny, Rajjie, Cream, Roxy and many more. We are most friendly; however, some of us may appear aggressive at times. But always remember that we are your friends.



Indian grey mongoose

Herpestes edwardsii

We are known to be the greatest rivals of snakes. Do you know we can almost close our outer ears so that dirt and water stay out? Our fur was used to make high-quality paintbrushes that could have made us extinct. Thanks to the Wildlife Protection Act that saved our species. We can now roam around fearlessly. Have you seen us around your campus?



Indian palm squirrel

Funambulus palmarum

We belong to the family of rodents and can be easily identified by the three white strips on our backs. We are native to southern India and Sri Lanka. Interestingly, we can recognize the humans who feed us even once.



House shrew

Suncus murinus

We are generally mistaken for mice or rats, but we are very different. We have a thick tail and a relatively long snout. We enjoy a solitary life and only come together to mate and raise the newborn.



Domestic water buffalo

Bubalus bubalis

Our weight ranges from 65 kg to 500 kg, and we can spend the maximum amount of time grazing. We occasionally enter the campus for grazing from nearby villages. We contribute to the village economy by producing 10-25 litres of milk per day which is rich in proteins and fat.



Greater shortnosed fruit bat

Cynopterus sphinx

We don't have sharp and colourful vision like you humans, but we have small eyes with very sensitive vision. This helps us to see in pitch dark, along with the ability to use strong waves for navigation.



Golden jackal

Canis aureus

It is easier to hear our howls than see us. We use various vocalizations to communicate with other members of our family. Do you know we are omnivorous? We have different fur colours depending on the season and the region; it can be yellow to pale gold with a brown tip.



Indian hare

Lepus nigricollis

You may have seen us hopping around bushes at night. If you are lucky, you can see us boxing each other while standing on our hind limbs. While there may be abundant food, we enjoy munching on our own faeces. Scientists call this behaviour coprophagy. We do that because fibre and cellulose-rich grass diet isn't the easiest to digest and needs a second round of digestion.

