

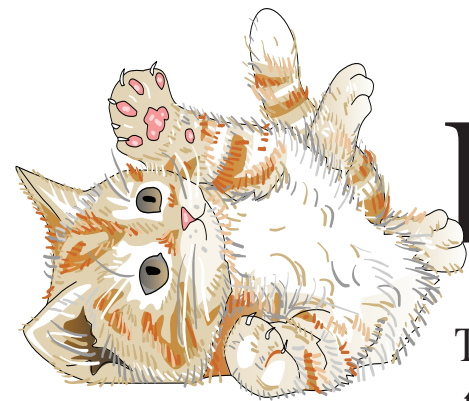
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# WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology  
By Laurie Triefeldt

## BABY ANIMALS

Almost all baby animals appear adorably cute to humans. Their big, innocent eyes and small, plump bodies make even the wildest of animals seem less aggressive. Scientists have theorized that babies of all kinds pull at our heartstrings because we are instinctively programmed to protect human babies and that we empathize with infants of other species.



Domestic cat babies are called **kittens**. Kittens are born with their eyes closed. The eyes usually open about a week after birth. At first, all kittens' eyes are blue; their true eye color will develop by about 3 months old.

Baby lions, leopards and tigers are called **cubs**. Lion cubs are vulnerable to predators such as hyenas and leopards, but other lions are the most dangerous of all.

Baby gorillas and other apes are called **infants**. Infant gorillas weigh about 4 lbs. (1.8 kg) at birth.



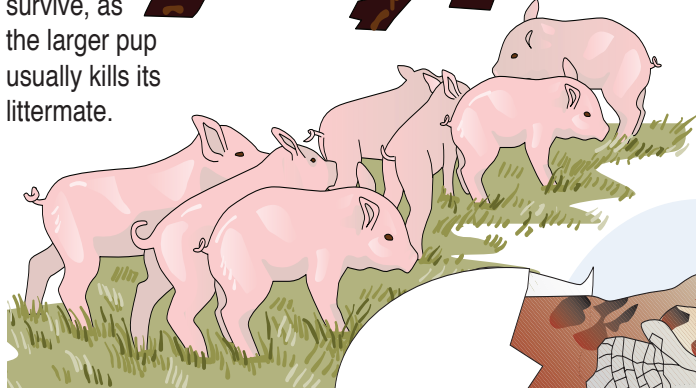
Baby meerkats are called **pups**. They are born blind, deaf and almost hairless. These very tiny pups weigh about 0.9 to 1.3 ounces (25 to 36 grams) at birth.



It is rare for two **hyena pups** to survive, as the larger pup usually kills its littermate.

Baby chickens are called **chicks**. A young hen (female) is called a **pullet**; a young rooster (male) is called a **cockerel**.

A baby swan is called a **cygnet**.

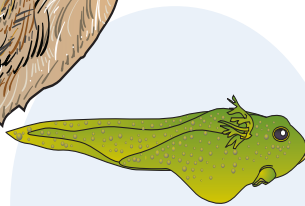


Baby pigs are called **piglets** or **shoats**.

A newly hatched alligator is called a **hatchling**.

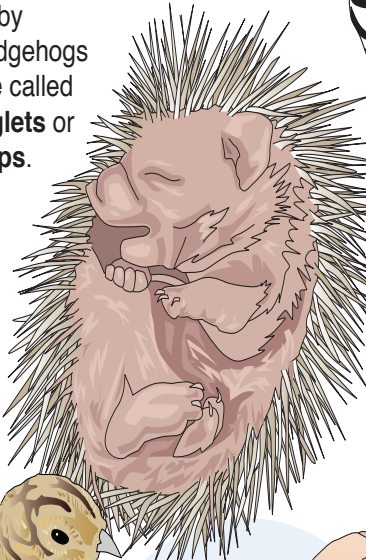
SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://www.livescience.com>; <http://www.enchantedlearning.com>; <http://www.bearlife.org>; <http://birdsflight.com>; <http://www.animalfactsencyclopedia.com>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Baby peacocks are called **peachicks**. At just 1 day old, peachicks can walk, eat and drink on their own.

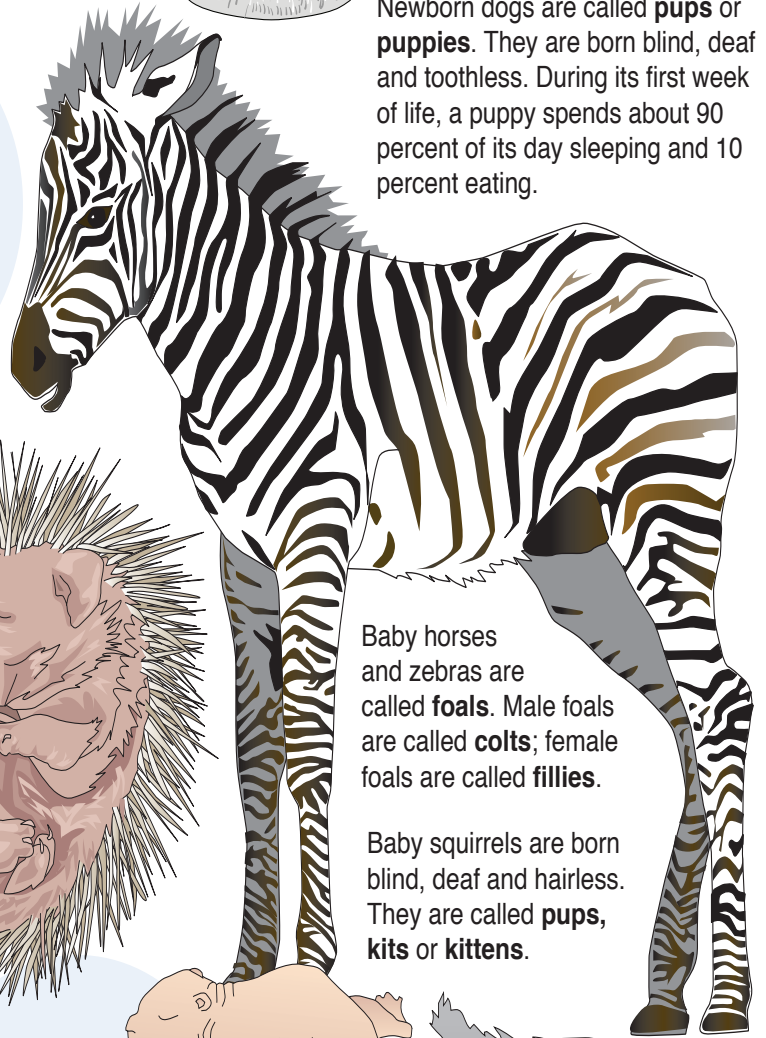


Baby frogs and toads are called **tadpoles** or **pollywogs**.

Baby hedgehogs are called **piglets** or **pups**.



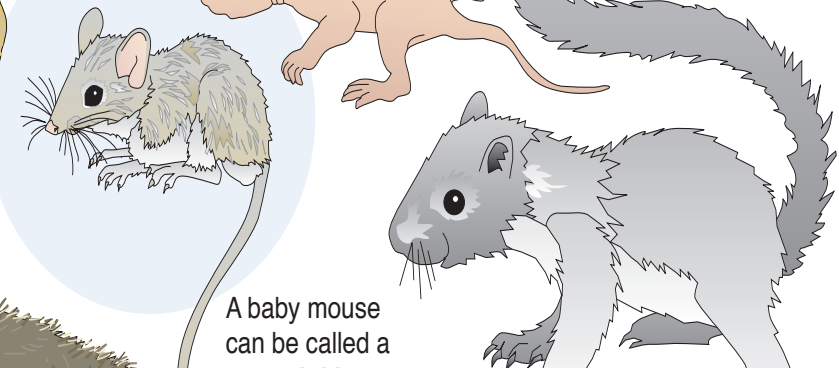
Newborn dogs are called **pups** or **puppies**. They are born blind, deaf and toothless. During its first week of life, a puppy spends about 90 percent of its day sleeping and 10 percent eating.



Baby horses and zebras are called **foals**. Male foals are called **colts**; female foals are called **fillies**.

Baby squirrels are born blind, deaf and hairless. They are called **pups**, **kits** or **kittens**.

A baby mouse can be called a **pup**, **pinkie** or **kitten**.



A baby owl is called an **owlet**.



A baby sheep is called a **lamb**, **lambkin** or **cosset**.



Baby spiders are called a **spiderlings**.

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