

Lesson 2.1 Glossary

A

Adaptation – A measure of physiological fitness of the organism to one or several conditions of its environment.

B

Bovine – An animal of the family Bovidae; a cow, bull, steer, calf or ox.

C

Canine – A member of the dog family; includes dogs, wolves, foxes, jackals, etc.

Civilization – The act or process of civilizing or of reaching a civilized state.

D

Diet – The type and amount of food and drink habitually ingested by a person or an animal.

Domesticate – To bring wild animals under the control of humans over a long period of time for the purpose of providing useful products and services; the process involves careful handling, breeding, and care.

E

Equine – Pertaining to, or resembling, a horse or other member of the family Equidae. Horses, mules, and asses are referred to as equines or equine animals.

Evolution – Gradual change in succeeding generations of plants and animals brought about by variations in reproductive habits, mutations, recombination, crossbreeding, selection, migrations, and genetic drift.

F

Feline – Of or belonging to the family Felidae, including lions, tigers, jaguars, and wild and domestic cats.

Feral – An animal living in the wild but descending from domesticated individuals.

Flight zone – The area surrounding an animal that will cause alarm and escape behavior when encroached upon.

L

Livestock – Farm animals raised to produce milk, meat, work, and wool; includes beef and dairy cattle, swine, sheep, horses, and goats. May also include poultry.

O

Ovine – An animal of the subfamily Ovidae; sheep, goats, etc.

P

Porcine – Refers to swine.

S

Selective breeding – The breeding of selected plants or animals chosen because of certain desirable qualities or fitness, as contrasted to random or chance breeding.

Swine – Any mammal of the family Suidae. Domesticated species are grown for their edible flesh and fat, for their hides, and for their bristles.

T

Tame – Designating an animal that has been made docile or tractable.

Trophic level – Any class of organisms that occupy the same position in a food chain, as primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers.