

COLLECTIVE NOUNS FOR ANIMALS

They are used to refer to a group of animals. The same form may be used with singular or plural verbs since you may think of the group as a unit or as individual animals. Thus, as an example, the following sentences are both correct.

- a) The herd of pigs **are** now being fed on the farm.
- b) The herd of pig **is** now being fed on the farm.

1. **HERD:** A group of animals, travelling or feeding together, esp. pigs, cattle or wild animals.

- Pigs
- Cattle
- Wild animals

Example: a herd of pigs (*una piara de cerdos* in Spanish).

2. **FLOCK:** A group of animals, travelling or feeding together, esp. sheep, goats or poultry.

- Sheep
- Goats
- Fowls, poultry

Example: a flock of goats (*un rebaño de cabras* in Spanish).

3. **SCHOOL / SHOAL:** A group of animals, travelling or feeding together, esp. fish.

- Fish

Example: a shoal of tunas (*un banco de atunes* in Spanish).

4. **SWARM:** A group of animals, travelling or feeding together, esp. insects or bugs.

- Insects

Example: a swarm of bees (*un enjambre de abejas* in Spanish).

Practice what you have just learnt.

Use the appropriate collective noun from the list below to complete the sentences that follow.

herd, flock, shoal, swarm

1. The _____ of sardines was fed this morning.
2. You should keep a close eye on the _____ of lambs, they need care and attention.
3. The _____ of worker bees has already left the colony.
4. Tomorrow morning the vet will test the _____ of heifers.